

**UMRA Board of Directors**  
**Minutes Meeting of Tuesday, 25 April 2017**  
**Unofficial pending Board approval**

*Members present:* Carl Adams, Steve Benson, Roger Clemence, Martha Feda, Judy Leahy Grimes, Cherie Hamilton, Jean Kinsey, Jean Markell, Dave Naumann, Kathy O'Brien, Chip Peterson, Donna Peterson, Jerry Rinehart, Gloria Williams

*Members absent:* Shirley Barber, John Howe, Sheri Goldsmith May,

*Other Participants:* John Anderson, Ginny Hanson, Ted Litman, Dale Swanson, Ben Zimmerman

D. Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**1. Welcome**

**2. Approve agenda**

Approved as proposed.

**3. Approve March minutes**

Approved, with three corrections:

Under #3, item 3, agenda #15 is Membership Committee and not URVC.

In #11, Naumann was misspelled, and Kathy should be Cathy Lee Gierke.

**4. Treasurer's Report (Carl Adams)**

Adams distributed a one-page report of UMRA financial activity and ending balances from 3/25/17 – 4/25/17. The report was approved as presented.

**5. MOU update and data practices (Donna Peterson)**

The MOU has been signed by our president Donna Peterson and the Provost Karen Hansen. This is greeted with relief. Thanks and praise to Jean Kinsey for initiating it over a year ago. This MOU legitimizes UMRA's position within the University and gives UMRA a home and champion within the U of M administration. We are still working on how to obtain the names of U of M retirees from either data services or Human Resources. This MOU will require a change in our bylaws and the name of the official contact in the Provost's office will need to be added to our listserve.

**6. Communications Task Force (Jean Kinsey)**

The task force is a follow-up to the summer retreat. Kinsey chairs the task force; other members are John Anderson, Cathy Lee Gierke, Ginny Hanson, Scott Elton, and Dave Naumann. There is another meeting of this task force scheduled for May 5. The focus will be on the transition from our current newsletter format and editor to a new electronic newsletter format with appropriate volunteers to produce the content and someone to put the content on the web and create the emailed newsletter with links to the website and produce a printable version that can be mailed to those members who need a hardcopy newsletter. Ginny Hanson and Dave Naumann and Jean Kinsey are working on this; they were asked to identify finite tasks that need to be done so that appropriate volunteers might be solicited and a structure for

this production can be adopted for the future. The task force will direct a strategy for this transition period and develop a proposal for UMRA's ongoing communications. It will report to the board after 8 months of transition.

An article was submitted to the *BRIEF* that will appear in the *BRIEF* this week highlighting the Professional Development Grant speakers Kathy O'Brien and Katherine Fennely as well a link to the new grant awardees.

## **7. Nominations Committee – Jean Kinsey**

The ballot for the officers and board members is complete for the May newsletter and the election at the May annual meeting. One problem arose when it was discovered that there was one extra board member on the ballot. The solution was to ask the last person recruited to delay their nomination for one year and be on the ballot next spring. (Note: This person agreed.)

The ballot is

### **For Officers:**

President: Chip Peterson (will automatically move from his current position as President-elect to President)

President-elect: Gerald Rinehart

Secretary: Judy Garrard

Treasurer: Carl Adams ( Continuing service)

### **For Board of Directors:**

Jeanne Markell (for second three-year term)

Vernon Cardwell

Cathy Gierke

Claudia Parliament

Richard Poppele

### Board members who are continuing to serve terms:

Steve Benson

Martha Feda

Judy Leahy Grimes

Cherie Hamilton

John Howe

Kathleen O'Brien

Donna Peterson (as past president)

Gloria Williams

### Board members who are completing their terms in May are:

Past President: Jean Kinsey

Secretary: Sheri Goldsmith May  
and board members:

Shirley Barber

Roger Clemence

Dave Naumann

## **8. Year end awards: (Donna Peterson)**

The executive committee announced that three UMRA Service Awards would be given at the May Annual Meeting. They will be given to Virginia Hanson, editor of the newsletter, David Naumann, UMRA web master, and Janice Hogan-Schiltgen for her leadership with the Professional Development Grants. All three of these people are stepping down from several years of service in their respective positions.

## **9. Benefits Committee Report ( Dale Swanson) No report**

## **10. Web page upate (Dave Naumann)**

Dave and Ginny will be working on identifying the set of tasks needed to produce the new newsletter and sharing it with the Communication task force.

**11. Cares Committee (Earl Nolting)** No report.

**12. Campus Club (Kathy O'Brien)**

The Campus Club has 10 more members this year than last year.

May 16 at 4 pm is the annual meeting for members. We are encouraged to attend.

**13. Program Committee (Chip Peterson)**

Speakers are scheduled for next Sept. Oct. and February. They continue to work on procuring a few high profile speakers from the community. The workshop subcommittee met and presented several ideas for workshops next year. The task is to select from among the several ideas.

**14. Membership Committee (John Anderson)**

After receiving 782 names and email addresses of people who had separated from the U of M since last November the membership committee (Virgil Larson) designed an email invitation to send out to these potential new members. Due to being unable to tell if someone truly retired or was fired or graduated or just moved, the committee decided to send an invitation to the 182 names who had been hired more than 10 years ago. They are awaiting results.

Kathy O'Brien expressed concern about the 10-year cutoff indicating that many people go in and out of the U over a lifetime. People who truly retired in the last 10 years could be missed by this selection method.

Virgil Larson sent the numbers and graphs of membership before the meeting. We have 573 members compared to 606 one year ago.

**15. URVC (John Anderson)**

The URVC worked with a software company to provide them a new software program that would help manage volunteers with better databases. The potential provider withdrew because there were too many U of M regulations and agencies to work with.

**16. Communications/Newsletter (Ginny Hanson & Julie Medbery)**

The May newsletter is nearing its final preparation. Some clarifications about content was discussed. Ginny is working with Dave N. and the Communications Task Force on defining the tasks for the next editor.

**17. Research Grants (Jan Hogan and Richard Poppele)** No report, the grants are done for this year.

**18. Social Committee (Kay Thomas and Cherie Hamilton)**

Cherie questioned how we could determine what activities members would like to participate in. If they are to do a survey it was suggested that the team up with the Cares Committee who is planning a survey next fall. It was also suggested that the committee

select 2-3 U events over the next year that would have an opportunity for UMRA to participate in with a special table or group attendance, perhaps followed by a gathering and a discussion, announce it and see if people actually participate.

**19. History/Archive (Gloria Williams)**

In May through August 31 officers and committee chairs should send their summary of 2016-2017 activities to Gloria – in hard copy – so she can deposit them in the U archives.

**20. Luncheon Committee ( Ben Zimmerman)**

Ben has arranged with the Campus Club for the May banquet menu which includes 4 optional entrees. This information has been submitted to the newsletter. The 24 prepaid lunch people will still need to reserve the type of entrée they want in May by calling or emailing Judy Leahy Grimes.

**21. Representative to the Board of Regents (John Adams) No report**

**22. Representative to SCFA (Ted Litman) No Report**

**And Representatives to Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans (Jerry Rinehart)**

There have been some adjustments to the MN Statement Retirement System (MSRA), which covers the civil service employees at the U of M. The adjustments are needed because members are living 2 years longer on average and fiscal investments are yielding lower returns than expected. To avoid default, the proposal will a.) lower the cost-of-living adjustments from 2% to 1.5%. b.) Increase employer contributions from 7% to 8% and c.) Increase employee contributions from 5% to 6% and d.) Lower the rate of return estimates from 8.5% to 7/5%.

A general discussion about phased retirement for P&A employees along with other business was reported.

**23. Representative to UM Alumni Association: (Jeanne Markell)**

Jeanne has been in contact with members of the Alumni Association about participating in some coffee's for legislators this next season. We might also find a way to participate win a Homecoming event.

**24. Representative to P&A Senate: (Kay Thomas)**

**25. Representative to Civil Service Senate: (Nancy Fulton)**

No reports.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Kinsey (substituting for Sheri Goldsmith May)