

Minutes of the UMRA Board of Directors
Campus Club, Nov 28, 2017
Judith Garrard, Secretary

Members present: Carl Adams, Vern Cardwell, Will Craig, Judy Garrard, Cathy Lee Gierke, Judy Leahy Grimes, Cherie Hamilton, Ginny Henson, Jeanne Markell, Kathy O'Brien, Claudia Parliament, Chip Peterson, Donna Peterson, Dick Poppele, Jerry Rinehart, Gloria Williams

Member absent: John Howe

Guests present: Ginny Hanson (Newsletter Coordinator, Ed), Jean Kinsey (co-chair Council of Past Presidents), Ben Zimmerman (Rep to Campus Club), Terry Roe (Rep to Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs -- SCFA)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Adopt or Modify Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. October Board Minutes Minutes adopted by Board.

3. (Re)introductions and Introduction

All present introduced themselves. Will Craig was introduced at this, his first meeting.

4. Report from P&A Senate Committee Representative. Peterson drew the Board's attention to Lynn Anderson's written report, previously distributed. There was no discussion.

5. Proposed expenditures

Cathy Lee Gierke briefly reviewed her two written proposals, previously distributed. Peterson noted that the Executive Committee had endorsed both.

- a. Roster updating. The Board approved the proposal to authorize expenditures of approximately \$500 to \$750 to create a single, comprehensive searchable database consisting of all active and inactive UMRA members, 1997 to the present. The funds would cover data entry, or possibly uploading of information via optical character recognition (which would be less expensive if it proves feasible). The Project Committee will consist of Gierke, Virgil Larson, Cathy O'Brien, Earl Nolting, one other Board member, and a Membership Committee member.
- b. The Board also approved an expenditure of \$1,000 for a stipend (plus a minor amount for a plaque) to recognize the extraordinary amount of volunteer work that former student Max Fierke had put into revamping of the UMRA website.

6. Activities Committee

- a. Committee update—Cherie Hamilton
Two more volunteers have been added to the Activities Committee, together with Claudia Parliament: Fred Bertschinger and Lynn Anderson. Hamilton will schedule a committee meeting soon. The committee has endorsed Ron Anderson's proposal a St. Paul skyway tour Jan. 21 or Jan 28 (the latter date was subsequently chosen). An article will describe this opportunity in the UMRA newsletter, and Cherie will handle the signups.
- b. Process for approving activities—Chip Peterson
Chip drew the Board's attention to his previously-distributed memo proposing a three-tier system for approving new proposed activities: Board approval required for proposals that would require UMRA expenditures, UMRA-arranged transportation, or overnight travel; Executive Committee approval for other activities organized by UMRA; and no approval for committee-sponsored piggybacking arrangements with activities offered by another organization for a wider audience. The Board approved the policy, with the understanding that the last of the three categories must involve some sort of interaction among UMRA members participating (examples include some recent Campus Club events where UMRA had assigned tables).
- c-d. Additional sample activities—Cherie Hamilton and Chip Peterson

The Board expressed support for the sorts of activities described in two additional attachments, one for the skyway tour and the other a possible initiative to publicize selected Humphrey School events after which UMRA attendees would hold discussions over lunch.

7. Progress on key organizational issues

The Board briefly discussed two written reports, previously distributed, on recent meetings.

- a. U of M Foundation (report written by Jean Kinsey). John Adams and Jean Kinsey met Nov. 11 with UMF's Robert Burgett, Tracy Ketchem, Lynn Praska. The Foundation can work with UMRA to mobilize meaningful retiree participation in the U's capital campaign. The Foundation is also willing to assist fundraising initiatives that UMRA might undertake and could likely serve as a fiscal agent for grants received, given that UMRA is not a 501(c)3 organization.
- b. Provost's office (report written by Chip Peterson). Jean Kinsey, Chip Peterson, and Jerry Rinehart met Nov. 13 with Deb Cran and Ole Gram. The outlook for continuation of funding for retiree professional development grants is very positive. The Provost's office will lend what support it can to UMRA's efforts to get access to retiree lists and to get internal rates for rental of on-campus venues. (Update: Subsequent to the meeting the Provost's office agreed to allow UMRA to use one of its accounts for purposes of invoicing and payment for rented space and associated services.) Rinehart proposed creation of a task force (to include representative at least of the Executive Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Luncheon Committee) to look into luncheon venues and possibly funding initiatives to help subsidize lunches.

8. Follow-up on UMRA "town hall"

The Board engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of Jerry Rinehart's previously-distributed tabulation of suggestions made at the table discussion during the town hall—several of which, it was noted, are well on the way to implementation. Time did not allow the Board to reach any firm decisions. The Executive Committee will use its scheduled meeting of Dec. 11 develop some recommendations concerning priorities. The subject will be included again on the Board's January agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.