

UMRA Board Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2018
9:00-10:30, Room 411 West Wing

Members Attended: Carl Adams, Lynn C. Anderson, Vern Cardwell, Will Craig, Bill Donohue, Cathy Gierke, Judy Grimes, Cherie Hamilton, Claudia Parliament, Dick Poppele, Jerry Rinehart, Gloria Williams **Members Absent:** Frank Cerra, Jean Markell, Kathy O'Brien, Chip Peterson, KM Terry, **Committee Chairs:** Kris Mortensen

1. Introductions
2. Review/Approve October Minutes (Attachment 2). The minutes were approved.
3. Op-Ed reactions & Presidential Search Update. The Op-Ed piece that Donohue and Cerra wrote was published November 16, 2018 in the Star Tribune. Positive reactions were received from many quarters including from Regents Omari and McMillan. Everyone thought the UMRA meeting with Regent Omari went well. Donohue has asked if we can meet with the candidates for President, not sure yet if that will happen or not. Donohue also asked if the new President could speak at either our May or September meeting. September is looking more likely at this point.
4. Committee/Liaison reports and updates
 - a. Executive Committee – Rinehart. Rinehart shared several updates and ideas from the Executive Committee. Terry Roe has agreed to be our liaison to the Board of Regents. Rinehart sent a letter of introduction about Roe to the Regents. Should an informal or formal satisfaction survey be conducted for each of our committees and activities (book club, photo club, etc.) or might chairs be responsible for talking with attendees about whether or not they are satisfied with how things are going or wish/can suggest changes /improvements? Should we ask people to wear a nametag at each of our events to increase the ease of members getting to know each other/remember each other's names?
 - i. Nominating Committee: Starting in January 3 members of the board are up for renewal. O'Brien is finishing her 2nd term. We need to select a President-elect. Donohue has volunteered to chair the nominating committee. We also need 3 people not on the board to serve on the nominating committee. Currently the president does not get to serve a full 6-year term. It would be good to retain past presidents' knowledge and expertise. The past president (in his/her second year of being past president) could be an Ex Officio member on the Executive Committee. More discussion is needed on this topic. Another option might be to reexamine the role of the Presidents' Council and see if this group can identify other ways for UMRA and its members to be connected to the University.
 - ii. UMRA Volunteer Activity Survey proposal
 1. Background (Attachment 3): According to Eric Hockert, head of UVRC, about 70% of UVRC volunteers are not UMRA members. We know the financial contributions that UMRA members make to the University. We do not know the volunteer hours that UMRA members contribute to the University and to their communities. We would need to time this survey so as not

to overlap with other UMRA surveys. It is important to discuss the value and purpose of the survey. Just as our financial contributions, it may give us greater leverage or an enhanced ability to advocate. Our volunteer contributions are squarely in line with the University's commitment to teaching, research, and service. The survey might give UMRA members ideas about how they could be involved and volunteering. SUNY's survey does not ask why members are not involved, we would want to include that topic. Based on what we find about volunteer involvement we may need to revisit our mission statement. Will Craig has volunteered to talk with the other Big Ten (14) retiree organizations. He has already been in touch with 3 and reported on them (see Attachment).

2. SUNY Survey Instrument (Attachment 4)*
- iii. Podcasting Pilot Program –Claudia Parliament, Kris Mortensen (Attachment 5). Parliament noted that Mortensen took a class on podcasting at Walter Library. Walter has the facilities and equipment to assist with podcasts. We decided last week not to approach today's speaker about piloting the podcast with her presentation. The AV set up for our programs costs \$75 per session. The podcasting would cost an additional \$180 until/unless we figure out another approach. The suggestion was made that we approach the January through May speakers to see who would be amenable to allowing us to try podcasting. Mortensen, Gierke, Joel (Campus Club tech), Randy Crocky (sp?), and Ron Matross will get together to decide next steps. Gierke mentioned that "Google Hangout" offers the same audio options as a podcast but also includes screen captures. This might be more useful for us since many of our speakers include slides in their presentations. We will need to determine what our audience wants—just audio, audio and slides, etc.
- b. Social Activities Committee -- Cherie Hamilton --Attachment 6)
 - i. Survey Results: Hamilton went over the results of the survey on Attachment 6. Carl Adams noted the importance of social time before and after an activity and the importance of promoting this social time in our advertising. Social time is also built into some activities. Hamilton shared a handout that lists upcoming Social Activities programs and past Social Activities programs with attendance.
 - ii. Geographical/neighborhood gatherings: Lynn Anderson shared that Ron Matross provided the Social Activities Committee (SAC) with the number of UMRA members by zipcode. Anderson suggested that perhaps each zipcode group could receive an email with suggestions on how to take next steps (decide on a location, meeting date/day/time, see who might need assistance with transportation, etc. SAC will work with the Cares Committee to determine next steps.
- c. Program Committee –Donohue: See Attachments.
 1. Care Committee & Workshop/Program Committee structure (Attachment 7—see italicized section on "Workshops")

2. Future Speakers (Attachment 8): McMillan might be a good speaker for May.
- d. Senate Subcommittee on Retirement – Bill Donohue (Attachment 9): Ken Horstman has agreed to give a presentation once the change from Securian to Fidelity has been announced. Horstman may do a special session/workshop or we may bump the January or February workshops.
- e. Big 10 Connections to Alumni Associations --Will Craig (Attachment 10): See 4aii1 above. The question was raised as to what the Alumni Association could do for us. Jean Markell is our representative to the Alumni Association.
- f. Other reports/updates/announcements: Virgil Larson provided us with an update on UMRA membership from January 2014 to November 2018. Gierke has hired a student to add all past (since 1991) UMRA members to the database that she maintains so that we can be in touch with these people, note deaths, etc.. Gierke and Matross are working on the online “Salon.” Adams would like to spend \$100 to hire someone to file taxes for us for anyone UMRA pays more than \$600 per year.

* SUNY Full Survey Analysis available at:

<https://www.suny.edu/.../suny/.../retirees/SUNY-Retirees-Volunteer-Survey-Report.pdf>