

**UMRA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**January 22, 2019**

**Board Members Present:** C. Adams, F. Cerra, W. Craig, W. Donohue, C. Gierke, J. Grimes, C. Hamilton, J. Markell, K. O'Brien, C. Parliament, C. Peterson, R. Poppele, G. Rinehart, KM Terry,

**Additional Attendees:** J. Anderson, E. Hockert, R. Matross, K. Mortensen

**Board members absent:** L. Anderson, G. Williams

**1. Review/approve minutes from November 2018**

Approved unanimously

**2. Communications Committee Report**

Claudia: Commend both Cathy and Kris for finding options for recording and posting of luncheon presentation. As discussed below, the "Hangout" option and a podcast format are being pursued and a decision will be made to allow posting of the February luncheon.

a. Cathy Gierke provided an update on the membership database project – a unique member list has been constructed electronically in Excel Cathy has yet to upload these member records into the online member database. She is currently working on UMRA Forum (and some other non-UMRA projects). The upload is also awaiting completion of some work being done by Max. He is currently making modifications that will allow member records to have **no** email address (an important change, as many older members have no email). When complete, all past UMRA members will be in our online database.

Masters student in mathematical finance, Jai Ling, did the inputting work, and she will be recognized at today's luncheon. An additional change is being worked on by Max that will allow a greatly simplified transaction page for Virgil (membership database manager) to use for entering membership and luncheon payments and luncheon reservations.

b. Update on the UMRA "Salon"--- Ron Matross is helping with Salon, which is a web-based tool for sharing ideas, thoughts, requests, experiences with others in UMRA. It is also a place to make requests. E.g., "Need a ride? Need help shoveling?" A place to organically grow groups. Functions somewhat like the app "Next Door." Includes a section for UMRA news. Current test site seems to be working; discussion of how to roll it out--Requires x-500 password. Do some "cloud seeding" to motivate people to look at it. Communications Committee will provide advice.

c. Capturing luncheon presentations (cont.) Podcast would provide audio of presentation; Hang Out captures what is on the computer screen itself and the audio of the presenter. Whichever option is chosen we see this as a service for members. Sessions would be posted and available based on access restrictions the Communications Committee recommends (e.g., open to anyone or password protected behind the UMRA website). We need to be asking if presenters are willing to have their material posted. Eventually, the plan includes doing workshops and main presentations.

### **3. Membership Update– John Anderson**

- 207 UMRA letters of invitation were sent to retirees in 2018.
- 88 new members obtained from this cohort.
- University sponsored Pre-retirement Seminars coming up Thurs, March 7 @1:00, and Tues, March 12 @ 10:00. Due to John's calendar conflict, Rinehart will do the group session, and John Sullivan and Nancy Helmich will host the UMRA table; Judy Cox will be at the URVC table.

### **4. Nominating Committee for 2019 – Chip Peterson**

In May the Association will elect a President-Elect, at least four Board members (five if the President-Elect comes from the current Board and thus creates an extra vacancy), Carl Adams and Lynn Anderson have indicated their willingness to continue as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

- Please think about and forward to Chip the names of people you think would make good Nominating Committee members and for Board positions
- Please identify people you to recommend to the nominating committee, once constituted for officer or board positions. Self-nominations are welcome
- Chip will collect names, review and then come to the board for finalization of the nominating committee.

### **5. Program Committee updates – Bill Donohue**

Upcoming speakers:

- February 26, 2019 – Mark Coyle, U of M Athletic Director.  
Overview of athletics at the U.  
Workshop: OHR: Changes in faculty retirement plan
- March 26, 2019 – Lorie Gildea, Chief Justice Minnesota Supreme Court  
Workshop: *Sleep & sleep disorders in later life*,
- April 23, 2019 –Steve Schondelmeyer, Professor,U of M  
Expert on drug pricing and cost. Will comment on drug pricing in US. Workshop  
*Meaning of Story Telling in Later Life*, Madelon Sprengnether
- May 21, 2019 – Invitation to Board of Regents Chair awaiting response-Dave MacMillan  
No Workshop
- Sept. 24, 2019 – Tentative commitment on behalf of new U of M President Joan Gabel
  - Workshop TBD
- Oct. 22, 2019 – Research Presentations
  - Workshop—OHR Benefits?

- Nov. 19, 2019 – Professor Doug Yee, Director Masonic Cancer Center. Current developments in cancer research.
  - Workshop TBD
- Jan. 28, 2020 – John Suzukida. VP of Global Marketing and Strategy for Trane Company. John will comment on internment in American concentration camps during WW II.
  - Workshop TBD

Program Committee is considering breakfast gatherings with a topic-specific discussion leader; venue may be something like “The Egg and I.” Also considering adding a meeting in December. Lighter—holiday celebration rather than a serious speaker.

## **6. Update and Conversation with Provost’s Office: Deb Cran, Ole Gram**

a. President Gabel starts July 1. Until then she is fulfilling current work and family commitments in SC. Will visit Twin Cities on a quite limited basis, and will not begin serious work discussions until July. Board of Regents office will hire a staffer to manage transition. A memo is coming out today (Deb provided the *excerpt copied below*). The transition team is co-chaired by Matt Kramer, and Regent Beeson, and will include the FCC chair, and UMD representative.

b. Review of the Presidential search process: People are excited about having our first female President; some were disappointed only one candidate was named and brought to campus., but many found her style quite effective. This is the first time a Presidential candidate was brought to all five UM campus locations.

c. Provost search likely to commence in the fall after President Gabel has gotten a feel for the issues confronting the campus. Provost Karen Hanson is on leave until March and has committed to stay until a new provost is named. While on leave Provost Hanson is continuing work with the transition team, the Academic Health Center, and policy and other developments dealing with the campus Child Care.

d. Bob McMaster is acting Provost until the end of March. Provost Hanson plans on taking a phased retirement; she is interested in focusing on interdisciplinary work, such as the work of the Institute for Advanced Studies. Donohue inquired regarding an appropriate time to honor Provost Hanson? Deb Cran indicates she is planning to remain with the Provost’s office for the foreseeable future.

e. Regent Chair MacMillen has tentatively committed the new President to speak with UMRA in late September.

f. Brief discussion of UMRA’s desire to improve its relationship with administration (as indicated in its activity associated with the Presidential search and Regent’s selection processes). Regarding the Provost’s search process, although the position is internal facing, UMRA hopes to have role.

g. Cran referenced continual budget cuts, which have seriously diminished any unit discretionary funds. Reference was made to a Chronicle of Higher Education article predicting that legislatures will increase higher ed allocations by 4%. We should be so lucky!

h. Mention was made of the importance of President Gable meeting with and establishing an early and effective relationship with Governor Walz.

## **7. Social Committee updates – Cherie Hamilton**

First “Armchair Traveler” event was successful. While 15 signed up, 35 attended (including the 3 presenters). Cherie distributed guidelines the committee developed to assist in planning special events. Some discussion ensued regarding the extent that sessions should have a common structure versus following the particular interests of the presenters. The goal is to provide the level of structure needed to ensure a successful event, but not to stifle innovation or creativity.

## **8. & 9. UMRA/Campus Club discussion regarding West Wing luncheon meetings & Regents selection process**

Brief reference to these two documents to allow time to discuss item #10

## **10. Survey to assess UMRA volunteer activities and impacts—Ron Matross, Will Craig**

Craig reported on his survey of our Big 10 peers—none have attempted a survey of this nature, but many are interested in seeing what we come up with. The SUNY system survey is more complex and broad than what we are thinking. UMRA’s primary objectives would be:

1. to identify the nature and degree of UMRA members’ involvement in voluntary service (e.g. on campus, in the community, religious, political etc);
2. to indicate the social and economic contributions of UMRA members’ volunteerism;
3. to seek suggestions for promoting greater involvement of retirees in voluntary service
4. to obtain recommendations for what UMRA and the University do to make the retirement experience more meaningful for its retirees.

Craig and Matross will take these ideas and formulate a plan for the Board to consider next month regarding how to move forward.

## **11. Treasurer’s Report—Carl Adams**

Some unanticipated expenses were incurred (e.g. accumulated reimbursements for recruitment and membership activities, advance payment for conference travel to reduce costs). Carl will send out the detailed report.

Excerpt from January 22, 2019 memo to “Managers and Supervisors” from Matt Kramer, VP for University Relations:

### **“Things to know:**

- **President Kaler will continue to advance the initiatives he has prioritized through June 30.** Planning is under way to provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to celebrate President and Mrs. Kaler’s contributions to the University and to Minnesota.
- **President-designate Gabel will assume her new role July 1.** Initially, she will spend time touring the campuses, meeting with faculty and staff, visiting with key U of M stakeholders, and learning more about Minnesota and the communities we serve.

- **As with each presidential transition, a senior-level team has been assembled to assist the incoming president.** They develop her transition strategy and assist in setting her leadership priorities.
- **Learn more about the transition phase of welcoming the next U of M president: [president-transition.umn.edu](http://president-transition.umn.edu).**