

## UMRA Board of Directors Minutes

March 26, 2019

Campus Club Room 411

9:00-10:30 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** C. Adams, L. Anderson, V. Cardwell, W. Craig, W. Donohue, C. Gierke, J. Grimes, C. Hamilton, J. Markell, K. O'Brien, C. Parliament, R. Poppele, G. Rinehart, G. Williams

**Additional Attendees:** R. Matross, K. Mortensen, T. Roe

**Board Members Absent:** F. Cerra, C. Peterson, KM Terry

1. Introductions: Introductions were made. Rinehart said that both David Nauman and Chip Peterson were ill. O'Brien said that cards will be sent. Rinehart will ask Nauman for archival information for Gloria Williams.
2. Approved Minutes of February 26, 2019 (*Attachment 2*) meeting with one edit by Gierke.
3. Committee and Liaison Reports
  - a. Nominating (*Attachment 3*): Rinehart went over nominations slate provided by C. Peterson.
  - b. Communications
    - i. Fact Sheet (*Attachment 4*): Mortensen was thanked for all of her work on the fact sheet. Suggestion was made to note that the services are available all campuses. Suggestion was made to add volunteer hours/activities when that information is available.
    - ii. Signage, business cards: Mortensen mentioned importance of us having, and using, a logo as well as U of M colors and font. We agreed that it would be good to have a table covering, pull up banner, business cards, and letterhead that we could use for events and to encourage retirees to join UMRA. Letterhead could be online and downloadable.
    - iii. Update on Salon: Policy on moderation of the website agreed upon. Matross and Rinehart are moderators. Gierke working out a few bugs and could add logo.
  - c. Social
    - i. Activities update: Twins game in May
    - ii. Road Scholar (*Attachment 5*): Hamilton will look at survey again to determine interest and possible locations. We agreed it would be important to talk with the Alumni Association about their options and be aware of competition. Discussion of how to position this so it might be of interest to UMRA members—emphasize only U of M colleagues and option for social and community engagement. This would then not only be a source of income for UMRA but also a service to members. Funds would go back to UMRA overall, not designated to any one committee. Hamilton will provide us with a proposal for discussion at our April meeting.
  - d. Program: The committee did not meet this month. No changes to the program line-up. Donohue will invite Lynn Praska to our next meeting and thank her for her assistance and support.
  - e. Professional Development Grant Program: Poppele said that the committee received 6 applications from a variety of departments/units. Five proposals were approved; the 6<sup>th</sup> may be resubmitted. So there is \$15,000 that will be

carried over for next year. The on-line system for submitting grant proposals is used across the U of M system but it is not simple. Poppele is talking with the Provost's office about going back to the past system. It was suggested that we get information about the grants in the pre-retirement letters. Jack Zipes will be one of the presenters in November.

- f. Membership: Currently we have 593 members and anticipate that going up in the next few months.

#### 4. Luncheons

- a. Formats for April (family-style appetizers) and May: Rinehart will describe the new format for April and May at today's luncheon.
- b. Price for 2019-2020 luncheons --see Feb minutes (above) and *Attachment 6*: After a review of Rinehart's memo and a good discussion about the pros and cons of raising the price to \$22 or \$23, Donohue moved that we raise the fee to \$23, Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Partnership issues

- a. UMAA: J. Markell reported that she, Rinehart, Donohue, Craig, and Hamilton will meet with the UMAA this afternoon to discuss roles, connections, overlaps, advocacy, and differences. Craig noted that at some universities, the Alumni and Retiree Associations are distinct, at others they collaborate and cross advertise. At some universities, the AAs provide administrative support to the retiree associations. We are looking to address long-term administrative and maintenance issues. Donohue noted the importance of determining how we could partner without losing our uniqueness, autonomy, and independence. However, strength also results from collaboration. Mortensen noted that a percentage of the Twins ticket sales (for the May event) goes to support scholarships and UMAA. We can advocate now without constraint since we are not a U of M organization. We wondered how many UMRA members are also UMAA members. Mary Ford will be taking over the role from Judy Grimes and responsible for the luncheon registrations and nametags and parking reservations going forward. Our on-line system allows for payment for dues and meals.
- b. Pillars (*Attachment 7*): Pillars has a full-page ad in the MN Alumni magazine. Ohio State has "advertising" in their newsletter that their attorney says is okay as a "sponsorship." Ohio's Retire Association is more like our AA so this has tax implications. Pillars offers interesting programming. Our membership has interest in senior housing—how do we facilitate? We could offer time in May for them to hold an information session—not endorsed by us but advertised by us. We will want to develop criteria for allowing outside organizations to offer information sessions. We could also allow them to buy sponsorship in the newsletter. We will need a subset of UMRA board members to discuss both ideas further.

- 6. Draft Survey of UMRA Volunteer Activity—Ron Matross, Will Craig (*Attachment 8*): Matross said that the survey, with a cover memo, will be sent to all members of UMRA and UMAA. He asked that feedback on the survey be sent to him. He is working with Eric Hockert on this. We are eager to get a full picture of retiree contributions to the U and the community. We would like to encourage departments to make better use of retirees and to share best practices across departments and units.