

**UMRA Board of Directors Minutes  
University of Minnesota Retiree Association**

**August 28, 2019, 1-3 p.m.**

**Office of General Counsel**

**Board Members Present:** C. Adams, L. Anderson, V. Cardwell, F. Cerra, W. Donohue, C. Hamilton, E. Hockert, V. Larson, J. Markell, B. Moe, J. Morlock, C. Peterson, D. Peterson, G. Rinehart, T. Roe, G. Williams  
**Additional Attendees:** J. Anderson, J. Kinsey, K. Mortensen  
**Board Members Absent:** W. Craig, C. Gierke, K. O'Brien, C. Parliament, R. Poppele, KM Terry

**I. Introductions** Members gave their names, U of M affiliation, and an interesting fact about themselves.

**2. Minutes from May 2019 Board meeting and Annual meeting** approved

**3A. Financial Report Carl Adams:** Adams will submit a written report to us. As of the end of July, we have a \$7,100 balance. Our revenue for 18-19 was \$39,000 and our expenses were \$41,000 but some expenses were moved around. We have a \$10,000 11-month certificate earning 2%. The \$23 lunch fee seems right.

**3B.** D. Peterson shared information about Earl Nolting and Judy Leahy Grimes, two UMRA members who have had a reoccurrence of cancer and are in treatment. She brought along cards that were circulated and signed.

**4. Status of our program for 2019-20**

**Forums:** Donohue reviewed the document that lists our Forums and Workshops for 2019-2020. He will re-do the consent form in hopes of getting more presenters to agree to be recorded and allow us to publish their presentations.

**Workshops:** The Benefits workshop will be 2 hours long and include all 3 vendors. C. Peterson suggested offering a workshop on the change from Securian to Thrivent as record holders. Donohue said that HR will offer info sessions in the Fall and that the change is to occur in the spring. Hamilton would like to offer a travel workshop in spring regarding

the proposed Portugal trip. She will talk with R. Matross to schedule. C. Peterson will send the checklist document for programs to Rinehart, Donohue, and Mortensen.

**Appointments to Committees:** Donohue said his intent is to reappoint all chairs to lead their committees. He will ask Committee Chairs to check with their members to see if everyone wishes to continue to serve on the committees. Chairs are to inform Donohue of any changes in committee membership. Rinehart noted that all information about the committees is on the website and that Mortensen and Gierke can update as needed.

## **5. Ideas for 2019-20**

**--Holiday Party in December—Should we do it? Where? Format? Cost? Volunteers or Program committee?** Cerra will chair this committee and Rinehart will assist with finding musicians. It was discussed, moved (Adams), and seconded (Morlock) that UMRA would pay \$450 for room rental (likely the West Wing of the Campus Club) and members would pay a fee (TBD, perhaps \$15) to attend. We agreed that the event would be on a weekday. Ideas about possible fun content (music, raffle, door prizes) were shared.

**--Coffee Meetings with 4 new regents. Format? Topics?** Donohue wants UMRA to be better and more broadly recognized and to enhance connections to the U. He has reserved the Foundation Room to have coffee with each of the new Regents. The proposed dates/times are September 11, 12:30-2; October 9, 3-4:30; November 12, 9-10:30; December 11, 9-10:30. Adams hopes this will be a chance for us to get to know the Regents better and be able to advocate. Hockert and Adams have been talking with department heads at the U about the role that UMRA members do and could play. We can assist with grassroots efforts and can advocate. Cerra worries about us advocating for specific departmental interests and instead sees us as able to de-politicise some of the interactions. D. Peterson would like to stay focused on the Regents and have them see us as resources, understand our role within the system. D. Peterson sees us staying informed about University projects and resources and writing letters to the editors. Adams would like us to avoid advocating for any particular project or person but rather provide background and context and help raise the

visibility of UMRA. Mortensen suggested that at the meetings with the Regents everyone introduce themselves to underscore the human capital and wisdom that UMRA offers. D. Peterson emphasized that we need to develop our talking points for the meeting to help educate the new Regents. Roe urged that we share a non-controversial write-up about UMRA with the new Regents, provide them with the questions we will ask in advance, and know that they will ask us questions, too. D. Peterson and Donohue will work on preparing for the meetings with the Regents. Donohue welcomes us to send him the questions we would like to ask the new Regents in advance of the meetings. He suggested that we could meet with the other Regents if these 4 meetings go well. The leadership of the Regents is aware that we are scheduling these 4 meetings with the new Regents. Mortensen said that the email regarding the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting needs to go out ASAP.

**--Should we propose any change in our relationship to the U with a new president? Administrative support? Scheduled meeting with provost and liaison? Redo our memorandum? What changes? Regent Policy on Retirees?** Hockert wondered if other retiree organizations have similar MOUs with their universities. Kinsey thought it best not to attempt to change the MOU at this time—"don't break it"—and that it would be better to wait and see the implications with a new President and 4 new Regents. Markell suggested we wait to consider any changes until we hear the new President speak and meet with the Regents. Adams noted that our MOU is a working relationship document with the administration and that a policy document with the Regents is very different. Cerra noted that there is a September 12 meeting between UMRA and UMAA members to discuss our roles and possible collaborations. Rinehart asked Hockert, given his role as interim Volunteer chair, to consider how we might connect in more beneficial ways. Any changes in the MOU and/or a new regents policy will be deferred for discussion by the Board until after the president's regents presentation and after completion of meetings with the new regents.

**--Sponsorships. Report from Moe. Do we want to expand outside the U? Allow tables for sponsors at our meetings? Increase the price?** See report from Moe. Our thanks to Moe for doubling the income from sponsorships. Yes, we would like to expand sponsorships outside the U within limits. Adams noted that there must be a benefit to members of the

sponsorship and not be just “sales” and that we need to be sensitive to what the U and tax laws will allow. The Communications Committee with Adams and Moe will draft a sponsorship policy for consideration by the Board.

**--Membership. Report from Larson. A discussion of ways to increase membership.** Larson went over the membership report he had prepared. We currently have 640 members. 576 recent U of M retirees received letters from HR informing them about UMRA. We still cannot get contact info from HR so cannot contact recent (or longer-term) retirees directly. We will ask HR to send another letter to recent retirees. Morlock asked how we compare to other Big Ten retiree organizations—someone will need to check on that.

**--Other topics for UMRA to consider-long and short term.**  
Postponed to next meeting.

**5. Chip Peterson and Jerry Rinehart discussion of Organizational Documentation and memory.** Postponed to next meeting.

**6. Discussion of Big Ten Retiree Conference at University of Illinois, Kris Mortensen and Bill Donohue.** Postponed to next meeting

**The meeting ended at 3:07 p.m. so members could walk over to the “under construction” Health Sciences Education Center for a hard hat tour that was arranged by Mary Koppel.**