

UMRA Board Meeting  
25 November 2020, 11 AM  
Zoom Meeting

1. Happy New Year
2. Review/approval of November board minutes
3. EC Draft Minutes
4. Treasurers report. Greg
5. JOIE Editor Will
6. Retiree Retirement Tier. Ken, Andrew Parks, CFA, Deputy Chief Investment Officer,
7. Committee Reports
  - a. Program. Jan
  - b. Workshops. Ron
  - c. PDGR. John
  - d. Communications and Outreach. Jean
  - e. Social Activity and Travel. Cherie
  - f. Membership. John
  - g. BOR Liaison. Jerry
  - h. URVC. Erik
8. McNamara Space
9. No Honoraria
10. Other

(Draft) UMRA Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 23, 2020 11:00 a.m.  
Zoom call-in

Present: John Anderson, Frank Cerra, Will Craig, Bill Donohue, Vern Cardwell, Gary Engstrand, Cathy Lee Gierke, Cherie Hamilton, Greg Hestness, Eric Hockert, Jean Kinsey, Kenneth Larson, Virgil Larson, Ron Matross, Jan McCulloch, Kris Mortensen, Claudia Parliament, Chip Peterson, Donna Peterson, Gerry Rinehart, Barbara Shiels, KaiMay Terry, Cathrine Wambach, Gloria Williams

### **1. Anecdotes**

Frank convened the meeting at 11:00. Cathy W noted the obituary for Scott Murdoch and recapped his impressive career at the University. Barbara Shiels alerted the Board to the obituary for Robert Howe of the Medical School and recalled his work. Cathy W also commended Greg for his op-ed piece in the Star-Tribune.

### **2. Review/approval of October Board Minutes**

After corrections were noted by Claudia and Gloria, the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **3. EC Draft Minutes**

There were no questions about the draft 11/16 Executive Committee minutes.

### **4. Treasurer's Report [if you want all the numbers in the minutes, Greg will have to provide them to me.]**

Greg reported that the checkbook balanced and the income and expenses. There is a total of \$24,187 in UMRA accounts. He also recalled a scam text message supposedly from Frank requesting a transfer of funds. He did not make the requested transfer.

The Board voted unanimously to accept Greg's report.

### **5. Reports of Committee Chairs**

**5a. Program:** Jan said that there have been good events thus far in November and that there will be a "blockbuster" Forum tomorrow with Professor Kathryn Pearson from Political Science. The Program Committee is working on events for the first quarter of next year. The UMRA AM session **in January?** Will feature the Age-Friendly University Council and what it means for UMRA members. Tim Johnson will speak at the March Forum about \_\_\_\_\_. For December, they explored the possibility of a virtual happy hour with music but were unable to recruit and group to perform. It is now too late to responsibly schedule an event. Bill agreed with that decision and expressed the hope that an in-person holiday event could be held next year.

**5b. Workshops:** Ron reported that the workshop with two aging experts, on why retirement years should be the best years, went very well. Other Board members agreed. For January, Lisa Lemler from Recreational Sports has agreed to do a workshop on a balanced program of physical fitness.

**5c. PDGR:** Frank reported that John Bantle could not be at the meeting. They have received one application for a grant (the deadline is December 11) and have received about \$5,000 in crowd funding.

**5d. Communications and Outreach:** Jean said the Committee had not met but she has been in touch with Gary about reinvigorating the UMRA Facebook group. She would like a meeting with Jan Morlock and Frank to refine the message inviting people to participate. One question is whether the invitation should go only to UMRA members or to all retirees; in the case of the latter, with help from OHR. She has also been communicating with Cathy LG about allowing committee members and groups to post future events on the website. Frank asked Jean to set up the meeting she suggested.

**5e. Social Activity and Travel:** Cherie began with travel. She sent a message about the virtual Paris art and history tour and received one reservation; at the AROHE meeting she attended two more people signed up. She asked if a reminder should be sent; if they do not get 30 people, should the tour go ahead? That may depend on whether or not Road Scholar believes it would be worth it for 10 people; they are willing to postpone it. She said it would be good for UMRA members to see one of the Road Scholar virtual tours. Frank said that would be a good idea; Cherie said \_\_\_\_\_. She also reported that Road Scholar is still planning the October 2021 tour of Portugal; they should know for sure by March.

In terms of social activities, she reported that KaiMay had sent a message about getting Minnesota Orchestra tickets. KaiMay said that the Orchestra has a program with community organizations: when there are vacancies, they will send that information to the organizations, and its members can purchase tickets for \$5 on a first-come, first-served basis (this is for next year's live concerts). UMRA has been accepted as a community organization. Cherie said she will send out a notice when tickets are available.

**5f. Membership:** John thanked Board members who participated in the new member reception; there were 13 new members and 12 facilitators with four breakout rooms that had good conversations. The member-interest survey had about 80 responses and he has sent the information from the survey to several people involved in various activities.

**5g. Retirement Subcommittee:** Ken had sent notes of meeting of the Retirement Subcommittee, at which Andrew Parks presented on the potential creation of a retirement tier in the Faculty Retirement Plan. This would be a collection of products and services the University could offer to retirees, such as annuity products, withdrawal products, and target-date funds. Ken said he did not know how long the Subcommittee would focus on the idea nor how fast it would move. He suggested inviting Parks to a Board meeting to provide more information. The idea is that the University would use its leverage on behalf of retirees. He reported that he sent a note to the Subcommittee indicating UMRA would like to engage with it to provide insights. It would also help to know the number of retirees and the amount of the assets held by retirees. Frank suggested that Ken talk with Parks about joining an UMRA meeting and when it would be appropriate; Bill urged that Parks be invited as soon as possible because doing so may motivate the University to pursue the retirement tier and agreed that data on retirees and their investments are important.

Claudia asked if it will be possible to again receive the one-page statement on the performance of all funds from which people can choose; it was lost in the transition from Securian to Fidelity. Ken said he would ask and surmised it would be possible to provide that information for all the core funds.

**5h. BOR Liaison:** Jerry noted that his summary of the Board of Regents meeting covered a lot of material and that the Board will meet again in December. There are long documents and a video of the meeting available on the BOR website. UMRA should think about where it fits in with the BOR; everybody has partisan interests and UMRA would represent retirees. Jerry noted the "key measures" to

track institutional performance and UMRA could see where it could be involved, but there is no immediate need for action.

Barbara found the summary helpful and interesting and noted that Myron Frans will be coming to speak to UMRA again as Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations (he did so before in his role as Commissioner of Management and Budget). Cathy LG pointed out that the opportunity to mentor undergraduates aligns with the goal of helping undergraduates get research experience. Bill also commended Jerry for the report and commented that he didn't understand why the BOR is discussing regental selection criteria because the Board does not choose regents. Was this related to the Regent Candidate Advisory Council? It was, Jerry said, because the Board is interested in the criteria of teamwork and conflict of interest. Bill recalled that two years ago, when the legislature chose four new regents, UMRA published an op-ed piece; he said he plans to draft another one. KaiMay asked about the \$82 million from the Department of Defense for biomedical research: will that eventually become bioweapons research? Frank pointed out that such research is prohibited by University policy; Bill observed that the DOD funds a lot of research that is not related to weapons and cited a number of instances. Secret research is banned by University policy.

**5i. URVC:** Eric summarized information the Board had earlier been given: There had been a decrease in the number of volunteers and volunteer hours but October and November began to return to pre-pandemic numbers. He asked that Board members let him know of any volunteer opportunities of which they become aware. He and Jan Morlock have talked about the relationship between URVC and UMRA and are looking for ways to increase the connections (there are a number of relationships already in place).

**6. Update on Bylaws Changes:** Bill said the changes are done, approved 137-1, and on the UMRA website. In response to the one vote against, the changes will be brought for ratification at the next in-person UMRA annual meeting. In the meantime, UMRA will operate on the assumption that the changes were approved.

**7. Report on Zoom Financing:** Frank reported on two items: voluntary contributions and OIT cancellation of UMRA Zoom accounts. First, the message asking for a voluntary contribution to help cover Zoom expenses will be sent in January. Cathy LG asked about the routing of the donor when someone clicks on the link on the website; Bill urged that the link go directly to the donation, not through the member database.

Second, the Board needs to discuss whether to allow wider use of the UMRA Zoom account; it would be possible for people to contact Virgil to obtain the password and name in order to use the account. Bill reported that this issue arises from discussion with CIO Bernie Gulachek: as a cost-saving measure, the University is eliminating free Zoom accounts for anyone who is not a student or employee of the University. Gulachek did not say when this change would be implemented. People use their Zoom accounts for many UMRA meetings. There's nothing that can be done about it but there are many people upset; why would the University cut out people who donated \$29 million to it? Gulachek said they would not take away the UMRA Zoom account, so one proposal is to give people access to it for UMRA committees and groups. Some are queasy about giving out the access to a lot of people. Jan McCulloch asked if this change was temporary and might be reversed in the future; Bill thought not.

Frank observed that this implicates another question that Bill alluded to: how much do these Zoom accounts cost the University compared with the millions of dollars in contributions? He said he is offended by this decision to discontinue retiree accounts.

Cathy LG reported that she and Virgil had done research on a way to provide access to the UMRA Zoom account without giving out the name and password. Board members discussed the issues surrounding potential access versus the technological possibilities that would not require wider access. Frank asked that the information on how to use the Zoom account with the "claimed host" option, which was said to be easy to use.

Chip urged that UMRA not give up entirely on retiree Zoom accounts; perhaps it could at least retain them for UMRA members (which might serve as another incentive to join UMRA). Jean said that the cost of the accounts needs to be known and surmised that it is less than the \$150 cost of purchasing a personal Zoom account. Bill said UMRA could ask the Foundation to encourage retention of the accounts because retirees have given so much money. In addition, Kris said, to allowing access for umn.edu accounts for UMRA members who may not be retirees (such as Barbara's husband). Chip wondered if the Provost's office might be of help, per the agreement with UMRA; Bill said that was unlikely if the request involved money and that there has been no change in the agreement. He said talking with Gulachek is the best route to address UMRA's concerns.

Frank noted that currently UMRA will be charged \$400 per event for Zoom technological support. There will be no charges in December but there will be three in January and succeeding months. UMRA will need to keep paying those charges unless volunteers can take over running them.

**8. JOIE:** Will reviewed the history of JOIE, reported that he's found potential authors, and that an editor is needed. Jan McCulloch, Joanne Eicher, and M. Jan Hogan drafted a job description that had been circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting. Frank said he asked four people if they would be willing to serve as editor; all said "no." So he asked Board members to think about who might be willing to serve in the role. Will said he would put the matter in the newsletter again.

**9. UMRA Recordings on YouTube via the Alumni Association:** Frank reminded the Board that the Alumni Association has been putting up recordings on its YouTube channel, Gold Mind, and has invited UMRA to add its recordings. This is a good idea, he said; what is needed is a process for obtaining approval from UMRA presenters. He proposed that the thank-you letter that goes to presenters include a request for permission in writing. He also proposed that this be done not only with upcoming presentations, but that prior presenters also be asked for permission.

The Board voted unanimously to proceed in the manner Frank suggested. Frank asked Kris and Bill to develop text.

**10. UMF Presentation 12 Noon:** Frank welcomed Lynn Praska and Tracy Ketchem from the University of Minnesota Foundation to provide an update on the "Driven" campaign. Highlights of the presentation are reported here; their slides will be available at \_\_\_\_\_.

-- the campaign is nearing an end (it closes 6/30/21); the goal is \$4 billion. Some areas have reached their goals but some are not fully funded (the latter include "students" and "faculty and research," both of which are at about 93% of their goal).

-- there have been about 252,000 donors, of which 128,000 were new donors.

-- ~15,000 faculty and staff donated.

-- ten donors gave \$25 million or more; two donors gave more than \$50 million.

-- there is a deeper culture or habit of giving among faculty, staff, and retirees; 25% of employees and retirees give every year.

-- retirees are represented on the 8-member faculty/staff advisory committee

-- 14,887 faculty/staff/retirees have given \$172 million; the goal is \$200 million.

-- President Gabel started four funds related to COVID; a large percentage of the money in these funds came from faculty/staff/retirees.

-- UMRA members donated \$30.8 million; 84% of UMRA members donated; 17% of them gave \$25,000 or more (the campaign started in 2012; the donations may be cumulative).

Frank thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and adjourned it at 12:55.

-- Gary Engstrand



(Draft) MINUTES

UMRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021, 11:30 A.M.

ZOOM MEETING

Attendees: John Bantle, Bill Donohue, Vern Cardwell, Frank Cerra, Will Craig, Gary Engstrand, Cathy Lee Gierke, Cherie Hamilton, Greg Hestness, Jean Kinsey, Virgil Larson, Ron Matross, Jan Morlock, Kris Mortensen, Chip Peterson, Jerry Rinehart

**1. Happy New Year:** Everyone agreed.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 16, 2020 Executive Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

**3. Financial Report:** Greg provided an updated financial report covering December as well as the second quarter. Assets increased from \$22,556 to \$23,126 during the second quarter; there was very little financial activity in December. He has issued Form 1099s to Kris and Sadie Brendalen for their work on the newsletter, he has received no invoices from OIT yet, and the \$10,000 CD is earning .05% interest. The certificate is renewing every seven months. Chip asked if there were earnings on the savings account balance of \$6,972; Greg said there were not.

Committee members discussed possible options for obtaining an increased interest rate on the CD but concluded that the .05% is about the going rate for short-term deposits and that it would not be worth the effort to move the money. Frank observed that the intent was to keep the money in short-term deposits to retain flexibility for UMRA; Bill agreed that made sense with potential liabilities on the horizon.

Chip asked that Greg clarify the distinction between the quarterly report and the December activity.

**4. UMRA Event Discussions**

4a. 1-12-21 UMRA AM: Jan reported that the session on the age-friendly university (the University's membership in the Global Network of Age-Friendly Universities) led by Lynn Anderson and Rajean Moore had over 50 people, most of whom stayed to the end. It was a success, and in one respect it was a triumph: Virgil was the "technical director" and, along with Kris, Cathy Lee Gierke, and John Anderson, carried off the technical end extremely well. Jan expressed thanks to the Zoom user group. Also contributing to the success: Lynn made the session more interactive by presenting discussion questions and asking for responses in real time. Executive Committee members who participated in the session all agreed that it went very well.

4b. 1-19-21 Living Well Workshop: Ron noted that the Workshop will be on fitness and active lifestyle and will be led by Lisa Lemler from Recreational Sports. Kris reported that 68 people have signed up thus far.

**4c. 1-26-21 UMRA Forum:** Kris reminded Committee members that the January Forum will be on wearable technology, led by Brad Holschuh, Co-director of the Wearable Technology Lab in the College of Design. When she was editing the article for the newsletter about the Forum, she asked for examples; one is smart compression stockings. From the newsletter: *Consider, for example, typical compression stockings that squeeze the legs to help with circulatory issues. They are difficult to put on and uncomfortable to wear because they are designed to be too small in order to provide compression. By integrating technologies such as sensors and actuators into the structure of the clothing, it could be possible to create stockings that are selectively tight—meaning, they could tighten in different areas, at different times, and at different magnitudes. You could have compression stockings that are initially loose fitting, easy to put on, and can later tighten to provide the therapeutic effect when it is desired.*

So far there are 71 people registered.

## **5. Fundraising**

5a. PDGR: John Bantle reported that there have been \$6,145 in matching contributions toward the \$20,000 from the two earlier matching-gift donations, so there's a total of \$26,145 in funds raised. Added to the \$25,000 balance, there is now just over \$51,000 in the account. He said he did not know what would happen if the campaign falls short of raising \$20,000 eligible for the \$20,000 match donations. Frank reported that KaiMay Terry—who contributed \$10,000 of the \$20,000—has already told him that if total giving isn't enough, they will make up the difference.

John said, in response to a question from Frank about seeking more funds, that the need is not urgent. At the moment there are funds remaining for future awards. Frank agreed that any further appeals could wait a couple of months.

**5b. Zoom OIT:** Virgil said \$990 had been raised to help cover Zoom costs. Frank said there has been discussion about perhaps waiting before seeking more funds in order to see how the next sessions go when they are run by the Zoom volunteers. He added, however, that he believes funds will be needed downstream for meetings, even after in-person gatherings resume, as well as extra OIT charges that may arise. Bill said he was encouraged by how well handled the UMRA AM was and suggested that if that approach can continue, it would be a great solution to the problem of paying OIT for continued event support.

Bill asked where the fund-raising money went; Virgil said he transfers it to the UMRA bank account from Paypal. Bill suggested that the funds should be kept separate or identified separately. There should be an accounting line for Zoom funds. Greg said he would obtain the information from Virgil and set up an account. Frank pointed out that Virgil may also have expenses to be reimbursed. Virgil agreed.

**6. PDGR Activity:** John said they had received only one application for a PDGR grant, for \$4,000, from Joanne Eicher, which the committee approved.

There were two other items of committee business. First, they only have seven members and agreed to ask Frank to appoint new members, including one from one of the non-metro campuses and two others. Frank agreed to do so.

Second, they would like to support mentorship at the University. Undergraduate Research Scholarship (URS) students might be a good source of students to mentor. Jonathan Ravdin has identified a mentoring model that he found to be very successful, involving URS students. Mentoring supports the University's new strategic plan where mentoring undergrad students is one of the key goals, one that UMRA is uniquely positioned to support (possibly in collaboration with URVC). It fits the PDGR timeline better than UROP, and it benefits students who have been promised a scholarship, but will not get their full scholarship if they do not have a faculty mentor. Up to 50% of URS students are unable to collect their full scholarship due to lack of mentors. Jonathan and Marcie found mentoring to be very rewarding for them, as well as the students. They have considered asking PDGR recipients to add a student mentee, who will be working on their first University research project. How does the Executive Committee feel about that proposal? [Note: "The Undergraduate Research Scholarship (URS) provides first and second-year students scholarship funding for participating in the research and creative work with faculty. Undergraduate Research Scholarships (URS) are awarded by the University Admissions Office to prospective freshmen as part of the admissions award package."]

Chip asked if URS replaces UROP or is an addition to it; John said it is an addition. He noted two issues to be addressed: (1) while the majority of the PDGR committee is not faculty, one must be a faculty member to mentor students through URS; and (2) how aggressive should they be about asking PDGR applicants to add students (perhaps add a point to their evaluation if they will include a student to mentor)?

Executive Committee members discussed a number of points: whether or not they would think about grants for graduate students as well (PDGR grants can be used for any student and they have funded both graduate and undergraduate students in the past; the grant is to the retiree, not a student, to use for the retiree's project purposes); URS students receive \$700 at their start of their project and \$700 at the end, and may receive an additional \$300 for costs; and must have the approval of a mentor to start research, typically in the summer after the freshman year; PDGR recipients could help URS students obtain the money and do their work; the PDGR committee may try to develop a group of UMRA faculty who can provide oversight and collaboration for students who could work with non-faculty for their research; there could be a website to put students in contact with someone in UMRA who could help connect the student with a faculty member; the PDGR awards will be moved to February so that they can accommodate the URS award schedule.

Frank inquired if graduate students are aware of the possibility of working with PDGR recipients; Cathy said that she is working with the associate director of the program so they are aware of UMRA. The advantage of undergraduate researchers is that they will do what the PDGR recipient needs to have done whereas graduate students are more likely to work on their own projects.

Frank agreed that John should bring a more formal proposal to a future meeting and thanked him for the work.

**7. New Interests Groups:** Jan reported that three interest groups have asked for UMRA recognition; none has asked for money so the final decision can be made by the Executive Committee. All have begun; action today would put the official stamp on them and allow Kris and Cathy to accept material from them.

Jan reviewed the three groups.

## UMRA Book Club II

### Family History Interest Group

UMRA Zoom Interest Group: This is an online group communicating through an email list and having occasional Zoom meetings. The group is open to Zoom users of all levels, from the earliest beginner to the advanced expert, as well as users of other video communications programs. Our goal is to help everyone learn more about video communications and to support all UMRA programs using Zoom.

Jan reported that Zoom group has about 40 people; Virgil organized it and has identified people to take on the role of technical leads for UMRA events. The Family History group had 56 participants at its meeting last week. The Book Club II is proposed because there is a long waiting list to get into the existing UMRA book club. The new one would not be different from the existing one; the members would select what they will read.

Some indicated to her that they wished more information, Jan said, but they purposely kept the application short and simple. They could ask for more information. Chip suggested adding a comment section.

Bill moved approval of all three new interest groups; the motion passed unanimously.

**8. JOIE Potential Editor:** Will briefly reviewed the history of JOIE and why it ceased publishing. It needed an editor. As a result of an ad he placed in the newsletter, someone applied for the position. Her name is Kristine Bettin, she is an UMRA member, and spent most of her career at the University in the health sciences. Frank asked Tim Ebner, her last department head, about her and received a positive review. Will said he supports her application and would like to give her the chance to serve.

Chip asked if there is still an editorial committee. There is, Will said; some of its members do not belong to UMRA; he has contacted them and about half are willing to continue serving.

Bill moved approval of the appointment; the motion passed unanimously. Frank said he would bring it to the Board next week for approval.

**9. Speaker honoraria:** Frank reported that he has received questions about giving honoraria to speakers. He has told everyone that by policy UMRA does not give honoraria; speakers are volunteers.

**10. McNamara Space Update:** Frank reported on discussions that have been occurring about revamping space in McNamara. The three groups that have occupied the space in question have been asked to work with the real estate office to develop a plan; the space would go from 300sf to 200sf. He emphasized that there *no* agreements in place. It is possible that UMRA could receive a bill for \$3,000 even though it did not instigate the changes.

Bill said the space has consisted of two small offices plus access to a conference room. UMRA was content with it. In his view, UMRA does not need the space, just the address, and UMRA should inform those in charge that it will not pay. Jean reported that the main reason the space was needed, as Bill indicated, was for a legal address; someone was checking the voice

messages but that support may not be needed. Jan reported that this issue came up at the URVC meeting—they are one of the three users—and she said they are also taking the position that they did not ask for the change and do not have money to pay for it. Cherie said she's on the board of the Woman's Association—the third occupant of the space—and has heard nothing about the issue, but is certain it would not want to pay, either.

Kris asked if the URVC receives funding from the University. It does, Jan said, about \$4,000 per year, most of which pays a software license fee for a sophisticated software system. Of the three organizations that share the space, URVC is the dominant user and does have people who use it (but not during the pandemic).

Bill said UMRA needs to communicate to those responsible for the space that it is not paying. Frank will inform McNamara Real Estate that UMRA did not request this move and notify them that UMRA has no funds to pay for this move.

**11. Retiree Names in PeopleSoft:** Frank had distributed to the Executive Committee a copy of a memo he received from Sara Froelich about retiree names: their final determination is that retiree names are not in PeopleSoft and UMRA should continue to use the process it has in place with HR.

Cathy maintained that retiree names are in PeopleSoft and it's not clear what's going on here. Maybe there is confusion about listing retirees in the electronic directory. Frank said that the University takes the position that being a retiree is private information the University cannot make public. His sense is that this is part of a progressive reduction in retiree benefits. Jerry observed that HR could not send the letters to retirees on behalf of UMRA unless the names were in PeopleSoft.

There was continued discussion about whether or not retirees are in PeopleSoft. Bill finally urged that the current arrangements with HR be left in place, but he observed that it was highly likely that both UMAA and the Foundation know who all the retirees are. Kris recalled learning in preparation for UMRA's retiree benefit workshop in October that OHR has 3,000 retirees enrolled in U retiree benefit plans. Frank said he pursued this possibility of communicating with retirees via the OHR database and the answer was "no, no, and no." There is no chance that UMRA can obtain the list of 3,000.

**12. New Member Event:** Frank said John could not be at this meeting but brought up the idea of a virtual new member event that would be specially scheduled. Jerry said it is a great idea and John should move ahead on it. Cherie said that it will depend on how it is structured. Frank agreed and recalled that he's been in several such meetings on Zoom and they worked well. Jan noted that there was a new member event last fall with about 30-40 people and it went well.

Frank said he would talk to John about proceeding.

**13. BioMade—BOR:** Jerry had distributed a memo to Committee members prior to the meeting reporting on a discussion at a special meeting of the Board of Regents on BioMade. ("A public/private agreement enabling UM to become one of 16 participants for the Department of Defense's "National Network for Manufacturing Innovation.") This is a big deal, an exciting project for the University, Jerry said. Board members had questions about biowarfare and possible negative consequences of the program; they were dealt with at the meeting. Although the project is funded by the Department of Defense, the general understanding is that economic security is essential to national security. The initial grant will be for \$28 million to the College of

Biological Sciences to hire staff and get the project going; it will be housed in the Cargill Building. Later there will be an 80,000sf facility. The project will provide no less than \$87 million over five years, to be matched by the University, companies, and other organizations. It is expected there will be over \$200 million invested in the future.

Frank asked if someone could write a newsletter article about BioMade. Jerry suggested asking someone from CBS.

#### **14. UMRA Board Meeting Speakers**

**14a. Retirement Subcommittee:** Frank recalled that there is a proposal to create a retirement tier to provide retirees information on investments, planning tools, and products. Andrew Parks from the Office of Investments and Banking will make a presentation at the January Board meeting.

**14b. Maroon and Gold Rising:** Bill reported that Maroon and Gold Rising is an independent lobbying group and PAC organized by regents and donors to support the University. Regent Beeson asked if he could talk to UMRA about what Maroon and Gold Rising will do. He does not believe the University does a good enough job of lobbying. Bill said he did not think the Board should take any action but should ask questions and think about what it learns. Frank noted that the URL for Maroon and Gold Rising was in the material distributed to Committee members: [www.maroonandgoldrising.org](http://www.maroonandgoldrising.org)

Bill also noted that UMAA is interviewing candidates for the Board of Regents. The Regent Candidate Advisory Council interviewed candidates and recommended 17 individuals (several for each of the Congressional district they would represent). Jan pointed out that two of the current regents are running for re-election.

**14c./15 Modified board agenda:** Frank said that there will be no committee reports at the Board meeting next Monday because time will not allow them. He will ask committee chairs to provide written reports that can be part of the packet of materials sent to the Board.

Frank adjourned the meeting at 1:10.

-- Gary Engstrand

**UMRA**  
**SECOND QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2021**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2020 – DECEMBER 31, 2020**  
and **DECEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

	<u>10/1/20</u>	<u>12/31/20</u>
Savings Account	\$6,972	\$6,972
Savings Certificate	10,201	10,243
Checking Account	<u>5,383</u>	<u>5,911</u>
Total Checking and Savings <b>(Q2)</b>	\$22,556	\$23,126

REVENUE <b>(December)</b>	
Membership Renewals	\$5,444
Sponsorships	<u>2,500</u>
Total Revenue	\$4,944

EXPENSES <b>(December)</b>	
Newsletter	
Editing and Production	\$2,900
Printing/Mailing/Postage	<u>2,452</u> */*
Total Newsletter	\$5,352
Memorial Costs	
Memorials	<u>\$120</u>
Total Memorials	\$120
Pre-pay lunch refund	\$76
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$5,548
GAIN/(LOSS) <b>(Q2)</b>	\$570

Greg Hestness, Treasurer

- EIS bills combine printing/ mailing/postage
- The printing bill this quarter included \$1,305 for a two-year supply of “pre-print” stock for the UMRA newsletter.

**KRISTINE M. BETTIN**

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**EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA** January, 1971-December, 1973  
Minneapolis, MN  
B.S., biology, 1973

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS** June, 1969-December, 1969  
El Paso, TX

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSCIENCE,  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA** April, 1999-present  
Minneapolis, MN

*Part-time Support Staff.* Since retiring in 2016, this position supports the work of the Head of the Department of Neuroscience, Dr. Tim Ebner, and the faculty members of this department. Duties include proofing/editing of grant applications (in particular, for faculty members for whom English is not the first language), manuscripts and departmental reports. In addition, it includes drafting of reviews and correspondence for the Head.

*Interim Program Manager.* This position provided support for MnDRIVE Neuromodulation, one of four areas receiving legislative support in 2013 to advance research and industry interactions at the University. Duties included overall management of the program, including hiring of faculty, awarding of fellowships, hiring of staff, and equipment purchases. The position interfaces with University units that oversee the MnDRIVE initiative and multiple departments involved in neuromodulation.

*Executive Assistant.* This position provided support for the Head of the Department of Neuroscience, Dr. Tim Ebner. Duties included typing/editing/proofing documents, maintaining the Head's daily schedule, maintaining research protocols, initiating reports, drafting correspondence, completion of special projects, management of travel, and meetings chaired by Dr. Ebner. Also, departmental duties included assistance with merit review and promotion and tenure processes. Position required diligence, discretion, and flexibility.

*Student Support Services Assistant/Associate.* This position coordinated the educational services of the Department of Neuroscience. Duties of the position included administration of the Undergraduate Program in Neuroscience, preparation of reports on departmental educational



## Resume for Kristine Bettin

activities, student advising, support of the Director of Undergraduate Studies and design and maintenance of the departmental website.

**VA MEDICAL CENTER**  
Minneapolis, MN

August, 1998-April, 1999

**Geriatric Research, Education & Clinical Center (GRECC):**

**Health Sciences Specialist.** Coordinate clinical research study to evaluate the effectiveness of a nurse-managed interdisciplinary clinic involving veterans with dementia and their caregivers. Included enrollment of qualified patient/caregiver dyads, administration of questionnaires and task testing, and preparation of educational materials, as well as facilitation of educational sessions for caregivers. Included coordination of a multidisciplinary team of co-investigators, collaborators, nurses and occupational therapists. Also, co-authoring of abstracts and manuscripts for publication, as well as educational materials for dissemination to other clinical specialists.

**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY,  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
Minneapolis, MN

January, 1996-August, 1998

**Principal Scientist.** Coordinate clinical research study of the relationship of cytokine levels and disease in patients with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and obesity. Included identification/enrollment of qualified eating disordered subjects and controls, analysis of serum and tissue culture fluids for the levels of nine cytokines. Included training and supervision of research assistants, co-authoring of manuscripts for publication. Included all administrative duties for this NIH-funded project, including protocol updates and extension applications. This project was accomplished with minimal supervision of the principal investigator, who moved out-of-state shortly after activating the grant.

**VA MEDICAL CENTER**  
Minneapolis, MN

December, 1980-January, 1996

**Geriatric Research, Education & Clinical Center (GRECC):**

**Health Sciences Specialist.** Coordinate clinical research study on the relationship of serum anticholinergic levels and the severity of delirium symptoms among elderly hospitalized patients. Included identification/enrollment of qualified subjects, repeated subject interviews with evaluation of cognitive, behavioral and verbal skills and analysis of concurrent serum samples for anticholinergic activity. Included training and supervision of research assistants, and co-authoring of manuscripts for publication, as well as providing assistance in grant applications.

**Infectious Disease Research:**

**Health Sciences Specialist.** Project #1: Research on the epidemiology of *Clostridium difficile* colonization, disease and treatment among hospitalized patients. Project #2: Research on the pathophysiology and treatment of closed-space infections, including surgical preparation of an animal model, assays of biochemical and biological properties of infected body fluids and leukocytes. Also, training and supervision of medical fellows and students, laboratory assistants

## Resume for Kristine Bettin

and student employees; manuscript preparation, presentation at professional meetings and coordination of interdepartmental research projects.

**DEPARTMENT of MICROBIOLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
Minneapolis, MN

February, 1974-November, 1980

***Junior Scientist/Assistant Scientist.*** Research on the biochemical and biological properties of staphylococcal and streptococcal pyrogenic exotoxins. Included training and supervision of post doctoral fellows, laboratory technicians and students, co-authoring manuscripts and presentations.

***Senior Laboratory Attendant.*** Preparation and purification of streptococcal pyrogenic exotoxins and antisera.

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Member, Board of Directors, University of Minnesota Alumni Association  
College of Biological Sciences Liaison, 1993-96

Member, Board of Directors, Biological Sciences Alumni Society  
1988-1999 (President: 1991-92; President-elect: 1990-91; Secretary-Treasurer: 1989-90)

Ex-officio member, College of Biological Sciences Advisory Council  
1992-93

### **PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Co-author/first author: 27 journal articles (Bibliography upon request)

Co-author/first author: 29 abstracts (Bibliography upon request)

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Frank Cerra, President, UMRA

FROM: Ken Larson, UMRA Representative to the Retirement Subcommittee of the Faculty Senate

RE: December 7, 2020 Retirement Subcommittee Meeting

DATE: December 12, 2020

I attended the December meeting of the Retirement Subcommittee and am submitting this report to you and the Board regarding the meeting.

The potential Retirement Tier of the University's retirement plans was the only agenda item for this meeting. No presentations were made, and the meeting essentially consisted of Subcommittee members making comments and asking questions.

There are about 10,000 University Retirees who are Plan participants. Fidelity will soon be able to offer data including the number of individuals taking distributions, rolling other accounts into the Plan or rolling plan assets out of the Plan. The University will be getting this data and it will become more meaningful as Fidelity's involvement as record-keeper continues. (Of course, the number of retirees taking distributions is different from the total number of retirees because, for example, while some retirees begin taking distributions immediately upon retirement, others begin doing so only at the time minimum distributions are required by federal law. As a second example, a Plan participant may have worked at the University for a decade at the outset of their career and then moved on to one or more other universities, leaving their Plan assets in the University's Plan. They may never be considered by many within the University community to be "University retirees" but may still be counted as such by Fidelity once they begin taking distributions. Accordingly, having a complete picture of who retirees are and what needs they have requires information from both Fidelity and the University).

Several people pointed out that individual circumstances vary greatly and finding products or providing information that meets everyone's needs will be very difficult. Murray Frank, former Subcommittee Chair, recommended that we try to identify some "buckets" of retirees and then focus on identifying the needs and desires of people in at least the biggest of the buckets. He also recommended learning about the way peer institutions have addressed retiree issues.

Andrew Parks, who works in University Investments and Banking and staffs the Subcommittee, said that one approach might be to work with a framework analogous to what was done in the recent restructuring of the Plan's investment options. In other words, provide for groups that say

(1) “do this for me” and were offered Target Date Funds, (2) “give me a simple list of choices” and were offered the core investment fund list, and (3) “I want to be in charge” and were offered the brokerage window.

There was a consensus that the Retirement Tier should offer both investment and planning tools and investment products. Myles Shaver, Chair of the Subcommittee, said that these should appeal to individuals whose Plan Assets made up most of their total retirement assets as well as those who, for various reasons, have substantial assets outside the Plan.

Andrew noted that in his experience there ends up being limited “take-up” of annuity and insured investment products. Investigating and communicating regarding these options could require effort that is greatly disproportionate to the amount ultimately invested in them. The very popular General Account and General Account Limited have some of the advantages and provide some of the security afforded by annuities and insured income products. The GA and GAL provide protection against market volatility, but they do not hedge longevity risk.

The next meeting of the Subcommittee is in February 2021.

January 21, 2021

**To: UMRA Board Members**

**From: Jan Morlock and Ron Matross**

**Subject: UMRA Program and Workshop Committees Report to Board**

The following are information items; no action is requested at this time:

**Program Schedule.** The Program and Workshop Committees are filling out the program schedule for the first half of 2021, and have a start on programming for the Fall and Winter. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CZtOVBPsx17NrLU2CJXL6giJHCKl3\\_wimvuM\\_S66tS0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CZtOVBPsx17NrLU2CJXL6giJHCKl3_wimvuM_S66tS0/edit?usp=sharing)

We work from a robust list of potential topics and speakers and always welcome further suggestions, which can be directed to us at [jam@umn.edu](mailto:jam@umn.edu) and [rmatross@gmail.com](mailto:rmatross@gmail.com).

Ken Powell, who is finishing his term as Chair of the Board of Regents, has agreed to be our presenter at the noon forum in May, continuing our tradition of visiting with the board chair on the occasion of our annual meeting. Rick Beeson is leaving the Board of Regents after one term, not running for re-election, and is a former board chair. We are also looking at possible dates for a program with Regent Beeson as he transitions from his role with governance of the University.

At this time, we are anticipating continuing the tradition of taking off the months of June, July and August for UMRA all-member programs. UMRA interest groups and informal events may hold programs during the summer, at the discretion of the leaders and conveners.

**UMRA Living Well Workshops.** Average attendance for the virtual workshops is running about 20% higher than the previous average attendance at our in-person workshops. We are striving to develop a well-rounded program that balances topics concerning deficits and problems with topics on hobbies, fun, and personal growth. We are also proposing that the workshop planning be fully integrated into the Program Committee and not be done in a separate committee.

**UMRA interest groups.** In keeping with the new policy on the authorization of new interest groups, we received proposals for three interest groups: Family History, Book Club II, and UMRA Zoom Users. The proposals were circulated for comment consistent with the policy, and at its meeting on January 18, the UMRA Executive Committee endorsed the three new groups. Because none of the groups is requesting funding from UMRA and none have any known conflict of interest concerns, the Executive Committee's action is final and no further action is required of the Board of Directors.

The new interest groups are now authorized to be promoted through UMRA's communications including the newsletter, the website, and the new UMRA Facebook group. All are going strong. The Family History group, led by Lynn Anderson and Craig Swan, had 56(!) participants at its last event. The UMRA Zoom Users Group has 45+ members participating. Four of its members, under the leadership of Virgil Larson, are stepping up to serve as technical directors on some of our upcoming Zoom programs, each of which will save UMRA \$400-\$600 per event in fees for a technical consultant from UMN-OIT. Book Club II, led by Dorothy Marden and Maggie Catambaty, has held their second meeting and now has 15 members (some of whom were on the wait list from Book Club I).

The text of the report to the Executive Committee is pasted below, fyi:

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January 12, 2021

To: UMRA Executive Committee Members

From: Jan Morlock, UMRA Program Committee Chair

Subject: Applications for recognition of new interest groups--recommendation for action

The board recently approved a policy for recognition of new UMRA interest groups. We've created a brief application form that is now available on our website at <https://umra.umn.edu/news/2021-01-new-sig-policy>, thanks to Cathy Lee Gierke.

We have applications for three UMRA interest groups for your consideration. The Executive Committee's authorization will allow the organizers to promote activities in our newsletter, website, and other communications. The applications were circulated for comment as required in the policy. I received only affirmative comments, and a couple of questions and suggestions that I can address at the meeting on January 18.

I recommend Executive Committee authorization of these interest groups.

**UMRA Book Club II**

Email address: [marden@umn.edu](mailto:marden@umn.edu); [m-cata@umn.edu](mailto:m-cata@umn.edu)

Name: Dorothy Marden

Phone: 612-339-1768

Other contacts: Maggie Catambay

Name of the activity or interest group: UMRA Book Club II

Intended duration: Ongoing

Meeting schedule, if known: fourth Friday of the month; next meeting is January 22, 2:00 p.m.

Conflict of interest: None

Ongoing groups only: Yes we would like a webpage

Expect to seek UMRA financial support: No

**Family History Interest Group**

Email Address: [boundarywaters07@gmail.com](mailto:boundarywaters07@gmail.com)

Name: Lynn C. Anderson

Phone: 6515926784

Contact Info: Craig Swan, [swan@umn.edu](mailto:swan@umn.edu), 612-202-7408

Name of the activity or interest group: Family History

Intended duration: Ongoing interest group

Meeting schedule, if known: Wednesday mornings, 10-11 a.m., 5-6 times per year

Conflict of interest: None

Ongoing groups only: Yes, we would like a webpage for our group

Financial Support: No

**UMRA Zoom Interest Group**

Email Address: [larso071@umn.edu](mailto:larso071@umn.edu)

Name: Virgil Larson

Phone: 651-644-4562

Contact Info:

Name of the activity or interest group: UMRA Zoom Interest Group

Intended duration: Ongoing interest group

Meeting schedule, if known: There is no fixed schedule. Members with questions or comments submit them to the mailing list as needed.

Conflict of interest: There are no conflicts of interest.

Ongoing groups only: Yes, we would like a webpage for our group

Financial Support: No

Comment: This is an online group communicating through an email list and having occasional Zoom meetings. The group is open to Zoom users of all levels, from the earliest beginner to the advanced expert, as well as users of other video communications programs. Our goal is to help everyone learn more about video communications and to support all UMRA programs using Zoom.

## PDGR Program Report

January 19, 2021

Funding: Since creation of our crowdfunding page last year, we have received \$6,145 in contributions from UMRA members and two matching grants totaling \$20,000.

Program: This year we received only one grant application. The application, for \$4,000, was titled "Color images for book, Global Trade, Cultural Authentication, and the Kalabari of the Niger Delta". It was from Joanne Eicher, Regents Professor Emerita, College of Design. The PDGR Committee met by Zoom on January 12 and approved an award.

Initiatives: 1) the Committee presently has only seven members and would like to add two or three members and at least one from Duluth or one of the University campuses other than the Twin Cities; 2) the Committee would like to increase student mentorship by PDGR awardees and is developing a proposal intended to facilitate this.



Special Meeting of Regents  
January 8, 2021

***Primary Topic: Review and Approve Resolution Regarding BioMADE Research Institute and Production Facility (Twin Cities campus)***

A public/private agreement enabling UM to become one of 16 participants for the Department of Defense's "National Network for Manufacturing Innovation." [General understanding is that economic security is essential to national security.]

**BioMADE Vision and Mission Vision (Docket following p. 92)**

To build a sustainable, domestic end-to-end bioindustrial manufacturing ecosystem.

**"Mission**

Our mission is to enable domestic bioindustrial manufacturing at all scales, develop technologies to enhance U.S. bioindustrial competitiveness, derisk investment in relevant infrastructure, and expand the biomanufacturing workforce to realize the economic promise of industrial biotechnology."

1. Introduction by President Gabel and project overview by VP for Research Chris Cramer underscored significant benefits to University in research and academics activity, corporate and manufacturing connections, and work force training. Bio Tech manufacturing estimated as \$4 trillion economic sector. Gabel also referenced new opportunities to connect with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) participating in the initiative—potential pipeline for graduate students and employers.
2. Under these agreements, the University will:
  - a. Lease space to BioMADE.
  - b. Provide University employees who will perform administrative and technical support services for BioMADE.
  - c. Provide accounting and financial services to BioMADE.
  - d. Provide technology commercialization advice and assistance to BioMADE.

**(Docket, p. 3)**
3. Activity will initially be housed in the Cargill building with future move to new Microbial Cell Production Facility, an 80,000 sq feet anchor for a biotech district on the St. Paul Campus.

Regent's Discussion:

**Beesom:** One of most exciting projects he's seen in 12 years on the Board. Noted that this opportunity grew out of long-term relationship building efforts of the U with DOD and industry partners. On the "opportunities side," he noted that Congresswoman McCollum is on DOD

appropriations committee in the U.S. House—this agreement positions the UM campus as federal site with potential for stimulus funding.

Question for CBS Dean Forbes regarding fund-raising opportunities—is there a “naming” opportunity for the new building? **Dean Forbes** response—probably not, nature of the partnership limits such possibilities.

**McMillan:** appreciative of complexity of the arrangement. [note: legal documents supporting the four areas of agreement constitute 80+ pages in the Docket materials]. Appears to be “risk-balanced,” thanks to OGC’s efforts. Two question areas regarding risk/reward a) what is the “Secondment” arrangement regarding staffing and what happens to these employees at end of 5-7 yrs? What happens in 80,000 sq’ building when the grant is finished? Does this facility fit with CBS’s future plans?

**CBS Dean Forbes** Response: “Secondment” arrangement: Employees are hired by UM and subject to UM HR policies, protections etc. BioMADE people participate in the selection process and provide funding for positions as part of the grant. Some current CBS employees will shift to this project; others will be hired and “seconded” to BioMade. 22 positions in initial grant including administrative support services and some technical staff doing actual work of institute. These numbers will likely grow to 50 over next 5 yrs.

Current plan: one faculty position is part of the cost share commitment from CBS; and one other CBS faculty member will allocate a portion of his time. Other staff will be research professionals.

**Powell**—many staff will be directly involved in bio-cell production, not academic, research activities per se.

**Dean Forbes Regarding the Building:** Current bio tech resource facility has been active for 35 years—has a strong record of success, but it is very small scale--more oriented to “proof of concept;” not production. The new “Microbial Cell Production Facility” will be a large scale production facility. This is in keeping with CBS activities around microbial fermentation. Dean Forbes doesn’t anticipate difficulty using space for additional CBS activities (possible corporate co-locations; opportunity to ramp up bio cell production)

**Simonsen**—risk responsibility issue: e.g will there be research involving animal disease—Zoonatics. **Cramer** response—BioMade wants deep embedment of activity in UM research protocols with its oversight and regulatory infrastructure. [Below, Dean Forbes indicates this is a non-medical facility]

**Hsu**—Are adequate protections included for possible long-term negative outcomes (e.g. 3M’s water pollution etc.problems)?

**OGC response on liability: Peterson & Benrud**—1) mitigation through tiered insurance coverages—as BioMade grows, insurance will be adjusted; 2) indemnification language that indicates BioMade’s independence is clear—liability goes with control. 3) UM management of employees is a layer of protection. Mn has statutes re tort protection for public institutions.

Additionally, the initial period is primarily administrative functions occurring in Cargill Building space. Later, move into small lab space/activity in Cargill. When new facility opens, negotiations over insurance coverage with occur.

**Hsu**—what if bio-warfare activity is going on, and we don't know about it? If future problems occur, what protections do we have? **Cramer**—US has foresworn bio warfare; **OGC's Peterson** questioned assumption that we would not know what work is going on—these are UM employees subject to our health safety regulations.

**Frans/Volna**—UM will begin assessing risks as the partnership progresses; can't deal with all hypotheticals at this point; will certainly be cognizant of potential risks with new developments and respond. **Dean Forbes**—no plans or levels of security in the building related to bio-warfare activity. It is all non-medical space: producing enzymes and proteins for agriculture and industrial uses.

**Hsu**—where is the cash coming from and where is it going? When/where is the “break even” point? He understands CBS is funding the building through UM loans—but, are there profits to be considered? E.g. Cash flow issues: **Volna**—mechanics of financial arrangements haven't been worked out; as work develops the cash flow/debt service/ operating costs will be monitored, sequestered, and followed. He anticipates growing positive cash flows; plus platform for additional grant requests and funding. Current cash flow analysis (referenced I Sviggum comment below) is based on employees and administrative costs only.

**Sviggum**: noted the current \$273K positive cash flow —not impressive, but potential for students, research, industrial growth is tremendous. And “jobs” are a great potential for U and for the state of Minnesota. What are potential employment impacts? **Cramer** response 1) timeline takes a while 2) initially start-ups will have smaller employment impacts, 3) successful firms will go forward. He projects decade impact of “hundreds” of new employees over next decade.

**Kenyana**: follow up questions:

Is the potential bio-weaponry overtly counter-indicated in the contractual language? **Dean Forbes response**: 1) bio-weapon production is a violation of international law; 2) bio-weapons are not on the table.” All parties will follow applicable laws”—1972 international agreement (referenced by Cramer above) therefore applies.

**Kenyana**: Protections regarding facility in future if project is abandoned? **OGC Peterson** response: “notice” and other provisions related to early/unexpected intent to terminate are addressed in the contract. Benrud: specific notice given to allow assessment of impacts. The costs of early termination (employee and others) would be BioMade's responsibility

**Mayeron**: understands there are risks involved, but believes the agreement has been effectively crafted to minimize risks and maximize opportunities. Partnership seems consistent with U's mission and its opportunities significantly outweigh its risks.

**Roll call vote**: Unanimous approval of 12 Regents

Respectfully submitted

Jerry Rinehart, UMRA Liaison to Regents

January 14, 2021

# University Retiree Volunteer Center (URVC)

## Annual Report

Calendar Year 2020

Since 1987 the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) has served the University of Minnesota by matching volunteers with UMN and community projects in need of assistance. Many of our volunteers are University faculty and staff retirees. URVC is associated with the University through the Office of University Relations.

URVC was active in 2020, continues to operate effectively and continues to provide meaningful opportunities for our 450 volunteers.

For the past decade, the number of hours of volunteer service steadily increased until 2020 when Covid-19 caused cancellation of many activities and especially those on campus. The average for the previous 3 years (FY17-19) was over 10,000 hours per year contributed by about 300 volunteers. During calendar year 2020 we had 185 volunteers contribute 4,688 hours of service – a substantial decrease from previous years with that total also representing approximately 1,200 volunteer hours to support URVC’s office and Board operations. We anticipate that during CY21 activity will rebound as our society and the University reopen and projects get underway again.

One of our goals has been to increase volunteer contributions to the University of Minnesota relative to projects in the community outside the University. We announced 78 projects in 2019 of which 24% were UMN projects and 80 in 2020 (32% UMN). This is short of our eventual goal for UMN-related projects but is moving in a positive direction.

Just as many units have struggled to adapt to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the URVC encountered substantial reductions in the number of active volunteers as well as in the number of hours volunteered. However, the advice to work from home was rather easily followed since the URVC adopted an online volunteer management system in 2019 with financial support from the University. This software system facilitates many of the management functions previously accomplished by volunteer staff working in the URVC office. Since most of the office work is now being accomplished remotely the physical redesign of the office space in McNamara Alumni Center (including the URVC office space) has not been a significant obstacle to URVC’s continuing operations and effectiveness. However, we look forward to the completion of the design and build of a new office in McNamara Alumni Center.

A significant accomplishment in 2020 was the creation of a Communications group to make the resources of URVC more broadly known throughout the University. One of its first successes

was the completion of a one-page Snapshot document that summarizes URVC and describes how University units can access our volunteers for their projects. Other successes include completion of a Thank You card sent to volunteers, development of a photo database to be used to share the URVC story, and the inclusion of a monthly article spotlighting a volunteer related item in the UMRA newsletter (University of Minnesota Retirees' Association). This group continues to expand its work with other activities in progress.

Here are examples of the types of projects URVC supported in CY20 –

- Audio reader (MN State Services for the Blind)
- Tutoring computer skills (Open Door Learning Center, St. Paul, Midway)
- Tutoring English as a second language (ESL)
- Reader Writer program (Minneapolis and St. Paul Schools)
- Tutor in elementary schools (St. Paul, Minneapolis and suburbs)
- Environmental projects (Great River Greening)
- Mock Jury Trials (Mitchell-Hamline School of Law)
- History Day judges (Minnesota State Competitions)
- Science Fair judges (Twin Cities Regional)
- Food insecurity (Second Harvest Heartland, Meals on Wheels)
- Medical research participants (University of Minnesota)
- Tax Aides (AARP)
- Mental health (Stress balls for the Center for the Victims of Torture)
- Student integrity (UMN – Academic Integrity Matters/AIM)
- Medical student training (serving as “Community Health Teachers – Medical School)
- Ushers (Rarig, Institute for Advanced Studies/IAS)
- And many more

In addition, we have initiated an exploratory effort with UMRA to develop a mentoring program for undergraduate research work with retired faculty in coordination with the Undergraduate Research Office.

URVC's operations have been updated and documented for future volunteers and leaders in the form of a URVC Handbook.

The URVC appreciates continuing financial support (\$4,000 annually) provided by the Office of University Relations which serves to cover the annual cost of our volunteer management software system, costs of on campus parking for volunteers, volunteer recognition and general office operations.

Eric Hockert  
URVC, Board Chair

Wed, Dec 9, 4:31 PM (17  
hours ago)

**cerra001 University of Minnesota <cerra001@umn.edu>**

to bcunning, Jan, Suzanne, me

I do understand your inquiry regarding an honorarium. Unfortunately, UMRA has no budget to do this with. We rely on dues and donations and this year have the added expense of OIT charging for Zoom support services. We do provide posting your talk on the UMRA website and on YouTube, with your permission of course.

Your talk would educate our membership about the great services CUHCC provides as well as your insights into a major problem in the existing health system. I urge you to help the membership, and other viewers, understand the nature of the challenge as you see it. And, perhaps, the listeners will choose to make a donation or two to CUHCC.

Thanks for considering

Frank

10:25 AM (9 minutes ago)

**cerra001 University of Minnesota <cerra001@umn.edu>**

to Kelly, Judy, Cherie, donohue, Jan

The current information from you regarding the UMRA space in McNamara and the contemplated move was discussed at the UMRA Executive Committee on 1/18, 2021. Most of the UMRA materials have been moved out of our current space by us. The information you provided to Judy now indicates not only a reduction in allocated space, but indicates UMRA will incur expenses for a move that it did not request or need.

Given this situation, I have been asked by the UMRA Executive Committee to inform you and the Real Estate Office that UMRA has no money for this move and no intention of paying for it.

Yours

Frank B Cerra MD  
UMRA President