

UMRA Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 9-10:30 a.m.

Coffman Room 411

Members Present: Lynn C. Anderson, Vern Cardwell, Frank Cerra, Will Craig, William Donohue, Cherie Hamilton, Eric Hockert, Jean Kinsey, Ron Matross, Jan Morlock, Claudia Parliament, Chip Peterson, Gerald Rinehart, Terri Roe, Gloria Williams

Members Absent: Carl Adams, Virgil Larson, Jeanne Markell, Donna Peterson, Dick Poppele, KayMay Terry

Others Present: Kris Mortensen

Cherie Hamilton gave her report from the Social/Travel committee and then had to leave. So far there are 12 people signed up for the cruise and 5 signed up for the Lisbon trip. The website says the trip is full but since this is reserved for UMRA members and their guests, Cherie is checking to see what is going on. The Travel Committee will meet on Friday to plan 2 more trips for 2021. Cherie and Will reported on attendance at the women's hockey game (5 attended out of 12 tickets sold). There was a question about the next marching band concert at Northrop; it is in November. Cherie wondered if we know why members don't renew and if they could be surveyed or called to find out. We will discuss this with V

1. Introductions: all board members and guests introduced themselves and their former unit affiliation.
2. Approval of Minutes: approved

3. Membership Update: Virgil was unable to attend but we reviewed his report and chart. Several ideas were raised: write an article about the demographics of UMRA membership to educate us and dispel myths, contact emeritus faculty over the summer to invite them to join (their names are public), contact potential members multiple times, determine demographics of who does not renew, what data do we have historically on non-renewal, what are our retention efforts and do some produce better results than others? Frank noted that the medical school does not do a good job of tracking alumni and emeritus faculty. We should make sure to inform departments when their former colleagues receive a grant from UMRA. Invite John Anderson to comment on all of these ideas.

4. Review of Today's forum and arrangements: Bill will thank the Pillars representatives for their sponsorship; they are offering the workshop this afternoon in the West Wing. Lynn noted that each of the Pillars representatives will be seated at a table with a member of the Executive Cmte in order for them to get to feel "hosted" and meet UMRA members. Bill mentioned the March 2, 1-2 p.m. discussion on immigration.

5. Nominating Committee Report: Jerry thanked the nominating committee members (Jean K, Frank, Rebecca, and Ron). They will bring the final slate of candidates to the March board meeting. The nominees will be announced in the April newsletter and their bios and photos will be in the May newsletter. The vote will be at the annual meeting in May.

6. Committee Reports:

Communications Committee: Jean reviewed the report she had prepared for us. The committee will meet again March 6. Jean will use her laptop and record today's luncheon speaker but we need someone (or two people) to do this going forward. They would need to bring their laptops and be trained to record the presentation. Bill will request volunteers at today's luncheon.

Social/Travel Committee: see above

Continuity and Organizational Memory Committee: Jerry noted that this will be a topic of discussion at the retreat this coming summer. He surveyed the Big 10 and only two responded saying they were not doing much, others that did not respond are likely not doing anything/much. Jerry shared a draft of the policy document and it was suggested that we add by whom the policy was approved and a place for the revision dates. The format for position guides is under development and Jerry will share this information at our March board meeting. They are also discussing what to keep, where to keep it, and how. Gloria Williams and Julie Wallace are working on an update of the history of UMRA.

Program Committee: Frank talked about our March luncheon speaker, Jon Christensen, who will speak on "Medicare for all, some, or more." He hopes this talk can be recorded since he anticipates there will be lots of interest in the topic.

7. Immigration Presentation on March 2, 1-2 p.m.: Bill noted that about 30 people have signed up thus far. There was a brief discussion of how UMRA members might volunteer to assist U of M international students. Lynn will check with Barbara Kappler, Director of ISSS, and report back.

8. Discussion of UMF fundraising presentation: Jane Godfrey will talk about how to donate to the U. Her presentation will be from 10:30-11:15 a.m. on the Tuesday of the luncheon in either March or April. Bill is confirming the date with her.

9. Any other topic: Lynn gave a brief report on the Armchair Traveler program. There were 38 attendees at the January 14th program. The next program will be on April 14, 3-5 p.m. at the Highland Park Community Center and Library. Ryan Mattke will talk about and show pictures showing the history of the University through maps. Ron Anderson will talk about and show pictures of Ethiopia.

Submitted by Lynn C. Anderson