

From: **Gerald Rinehart** <g-rine@umn.edu>  
Date: Wed, Jun 6, 2018 at 7:29 AM  
Subject: Survey Comments from Ron Matross  
To: Claudia Parliament <cparliam@umn.edu>, Vernon Cardwell <cardw001@umn.edu>, William Donohue <donohue@umn.edu>, Jeanne Markell <marke002@umn.edu>, Chip Peterson <c-pete@umn.edu>, Peggy Mann Rinehart <rineh002@umn.edu>

In case you have a chance to see this before our meeting this morning:

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From Ron Matross: I think it's pretty clear that people would prefer the West Wing or other larger venue over Rooms ABC. Among May attendees, 4 out of 5 strongly liked the West Wing Venue. And not being able to get to the meetings because the spots were already filled was cited as a reason for not attending by nearly a third of respondents.

Respondents were also pretty negative about the luncheon food. A number of the comments were quite explicit on this. "To have a good meal" was by far the lowest rated reason for attending, and absolutely nobody cited it as their primary reason for attending! There were some issues with the appetizer buffet that sound like they need tweaking, but the concept seems promising to those who responded. Charging more money for the current luncheon is going to be a really tough sell.

People were more ambivalent about the afternoon time. Rush-hour traffic seems daunting to a number of people. Transportation seems like a big issue for the more elderly members, and I think the suggestion to the Cares Committee to look at it is a good one. We could perhaps have a workshop on ride services like Uber and Lyft and consider organizing ride sharing among members.

If I had to predict the arrangement that would be the most popular with the most people, it would be an appetizer luncheon in the West Wing at a price lower or the same as what people have been paying.

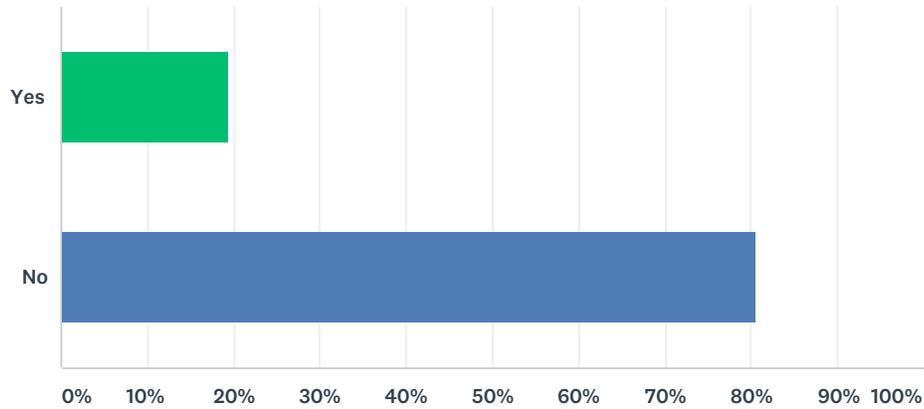
All in all, there's a lot for the board to ponder!

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Jerry Rinehart  
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### Q1 Did you attend the May annual meeting with President Kaler?

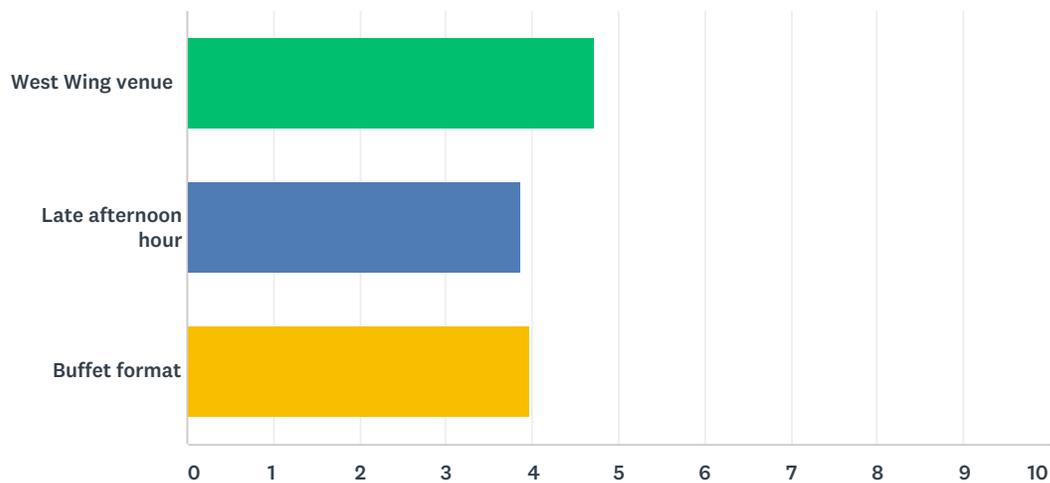
Answered: 252 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	19.44% 49
No	80.56% 203
TOTAL	252

### Q2 How much did you like or dislike the following aspects of the May meeting?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 205

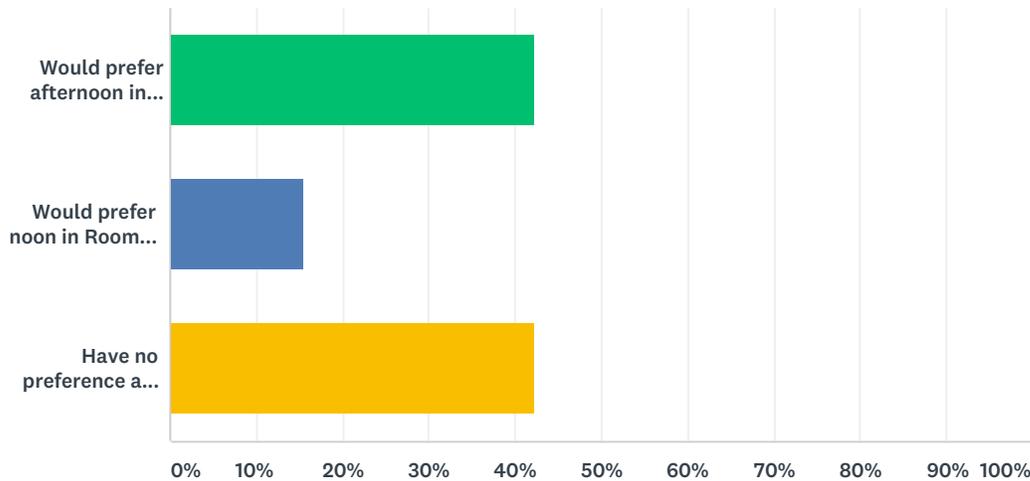


	STRONGLY DISLIKED	DISLIKED SOMEWHAT	NEUTRAL	LIKED SOMEWHAT	STRONGLY LIKED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
West Wing venue	2.22% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	17.78% 8	80.00% 36	45	4.73
Late afternoon hour	2.22% 1	4.44% 2	22.22% 10	46.67% 21	24.44% 11	45	3.87

Buffet format	2.17%	15.22%	10.87%	26.09%	45.65%		
	1	7	5	12	21	46	3.98

Q3 Our September meeting will not be a luncheon, but will be an afternoon meeting in the West Wing with a social hour and appetizer buffet at 4 p.m. followed by a speaker at 5 p.m (with no workshop). For April and May, we have the opportunity to again have afternoon meetings with a possible workshop at 3, appetizers at 4, and speaker at 5. As best you can answer now, do you think you would prefer to have the April and May meetings in the afternoon in the West Wing, or would you prefer the usual luncheon meeting in Rooms ABC?

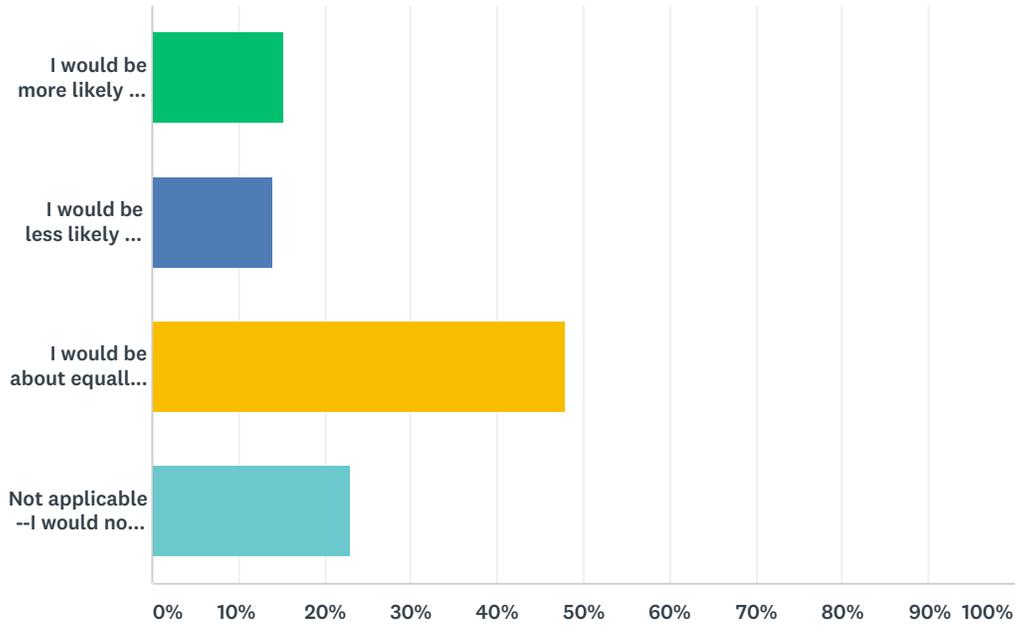
Answered: 232 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Would prefer afternoon in the West Wing	42.24%	98
Would prefer noon in Rooms ABC	15.52%	36
Have no preference at this time	42.24%	98
TOTAL		232

Q4 Currently the workshops are from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, following the luncheon meeting. For afternoon meetings next year they would be from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., preceding the buffet/social hour and speaker. How do you think the change to a later time would affect your attendance?

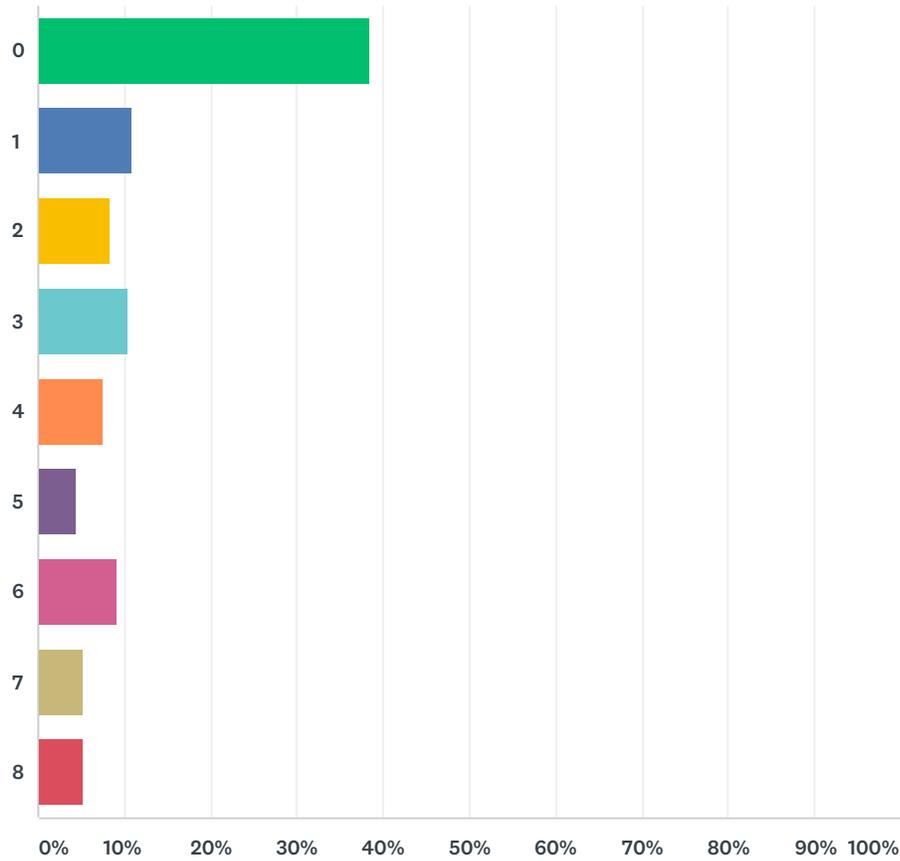
Answered: 230 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I would be more likely to attend workshops than at present	15.22%	35
I would be less likely to attend workshops than at present	13.91%	32
I would be about equally likely to attend a workshop as at present	47.83%	110
Not applicable --I would not be likely to attend workshops in either case	23.04%	53
TOTAL		230

### Q5 Approximately how many of this year's eight luncheon meetings did you attend?

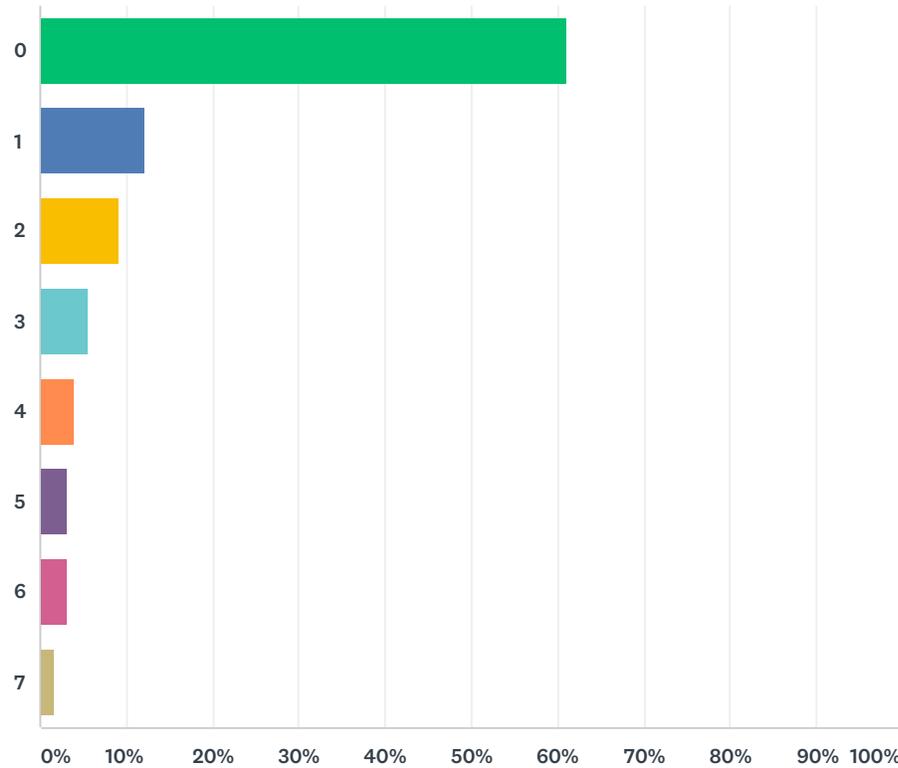
Answered: 228 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	38.60%	88
1	10.96%	25
2	8.33%	19
3	10.53%	24
4	7.46%	17
5	4.39%	10
6	9.21%	21
7	5.26%	12
8	5.26%	12
TOTAL		228

### Q6 Approximately how many of this year's seven workshops did you attend?

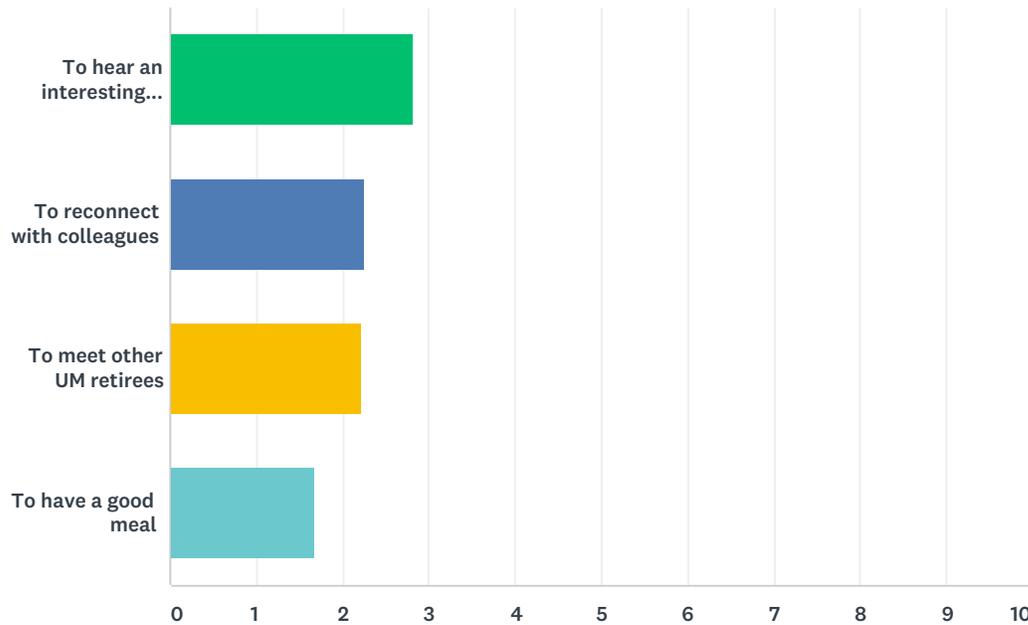
Answered: 229 Skipped: 23



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	61.14%	140
1	12.23%	28
2	9.17%	21
3	5.68%	13
4	3.93%	9
5	3.06%	7
6	3.06%	7
7	1.75%	4
TOTAL		229

**Q7 What are your reasons for attending UMRA meetings? Please rate how important each of the following are in your decision to attend.**

Answered: 226 Skipped: 26



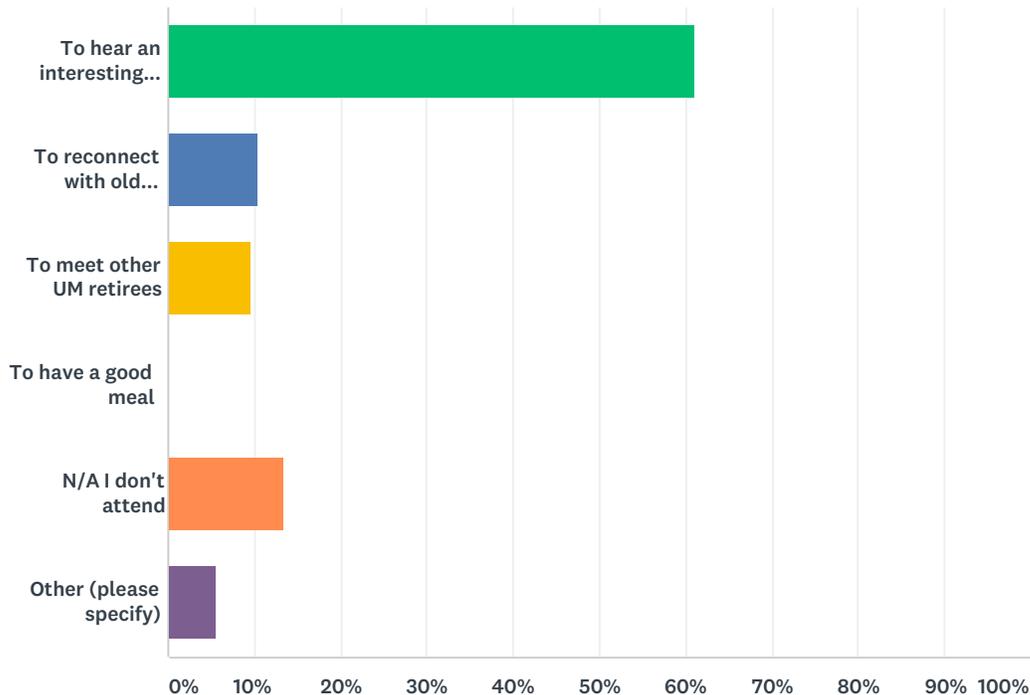
	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	N/A I DON'T ATTEND	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
To hear an interesting speaker	0.00% 0	14.16% 32	71.24% 161	14.60% 33	226	2.83
To reconnect with colleagues	10.19% 22	42.59% 92	31.94% 69	15.28% 33	216	2.26
To meet other UM retirees	9.59% 21	47.49% 104	28.77% 63	14.16% 31	219	2.22
To have a good meal	36.79% 78	39.62% 84	8.49% 18	15.09% 32	212	1.67

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I enjoy being around people who are supportive of the U and higher education	6/4/2018 11:51 AM
2	I am a Board member and should attend in addition of above.	6/3/2018 4:32 PM
3	Haven't been able to attend any because of health concerns.	6/3/2018 3:33 PM
4	i was interested in speakers but had conflicts or it was full	6/3/2018 8:07 AM
5	To stay involved in UMRA	6/2/2018 11:52 PM
6	I want bread served!!'	6/2/2018 10:05 PM
7	I live in AZ half of the year and that accounts for some of my non-attendance. When I am in MN I am pretty busy.	6/2/2018 6:11 PM
8	To learn - highest priority reason	6/2/2018 3:02 PM
9	Meals are not worth the price.	6/2/2018 12:17 PM
10	To reconnect with the campus	6/2/2018 10:12 AM
11	The vegetarian meals are uninspired at best	6/2/2018 8:32 AM
12	I live in OR and cannot attend UMRA meetings	6/1/2018 10:27 AM
13	Here is why I cannot attend as regularly as I once did. For older members (80's and 90's) with mobility and hearing issues, the meetings at the university are more and more difficult. Could regional (NE,SE, NW, SW) metro with smaller numbers, handicap accessible parking, and clear acoustics be arranged?	5/31/2018 10:43 AM

14	To hear what others are doing in retirement. At my table or a speaker.	5/30/2018 4:37 PM
15	Do not attend as living in Texas	5/29/2018 9:14 PM
16	however I'm often out of town for all the meetingd	5/28/2018 4:07 PM
17	To stay connected with the U and up to date on U	5/28/2018 2:55 PM
18	Learn something to apply to my aging life.	5/28/2018 12:13 PM
19	I've been out of town a lot and unable to attend any meetings, but when my schedule permits I will.	5/28/2018 11:40 AM
20	I went to the financial workshops	5/28/2018 9:21 AM
21	To support UMRA	5/28/2018 9:02 AM
22	I an a new retiree as of December and did not attend meeting as of yet (but plan to in the coming year)	5/28/2018 8:48 AM
23	Speakers and workshops often have good information as well as being interesting.	5/28/2018 7:37 AM
24	Note: I am a snowbird; when in Minnesota I live 250 miles from the U campus; in the winter, it is over 1500 miles from the U; very hard to attend any luncheons	5/28/2018 6:07 AM
25	I'm on the board, so I go to the luncheons to support them	5/27/2018 11:13 PM
26	I have a long-standing routine engagement on UMRA luncheon meeting days.	5/27/2018 9:51 PM
27	most fill up before I have time to figure out my schedule.	5/27/2018 9:40 PM
28	CC meals are sparse for the price.	5/27/2018 9:30 PM
29	Meals need improvement	5/27/2018 9:21 PM
30	The meal could be an attraction	5/27/2018 8:43 PM

### Q8 What would you say is the single most important reason for your attending UMRA meetings (select one)

Answered: 231 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES

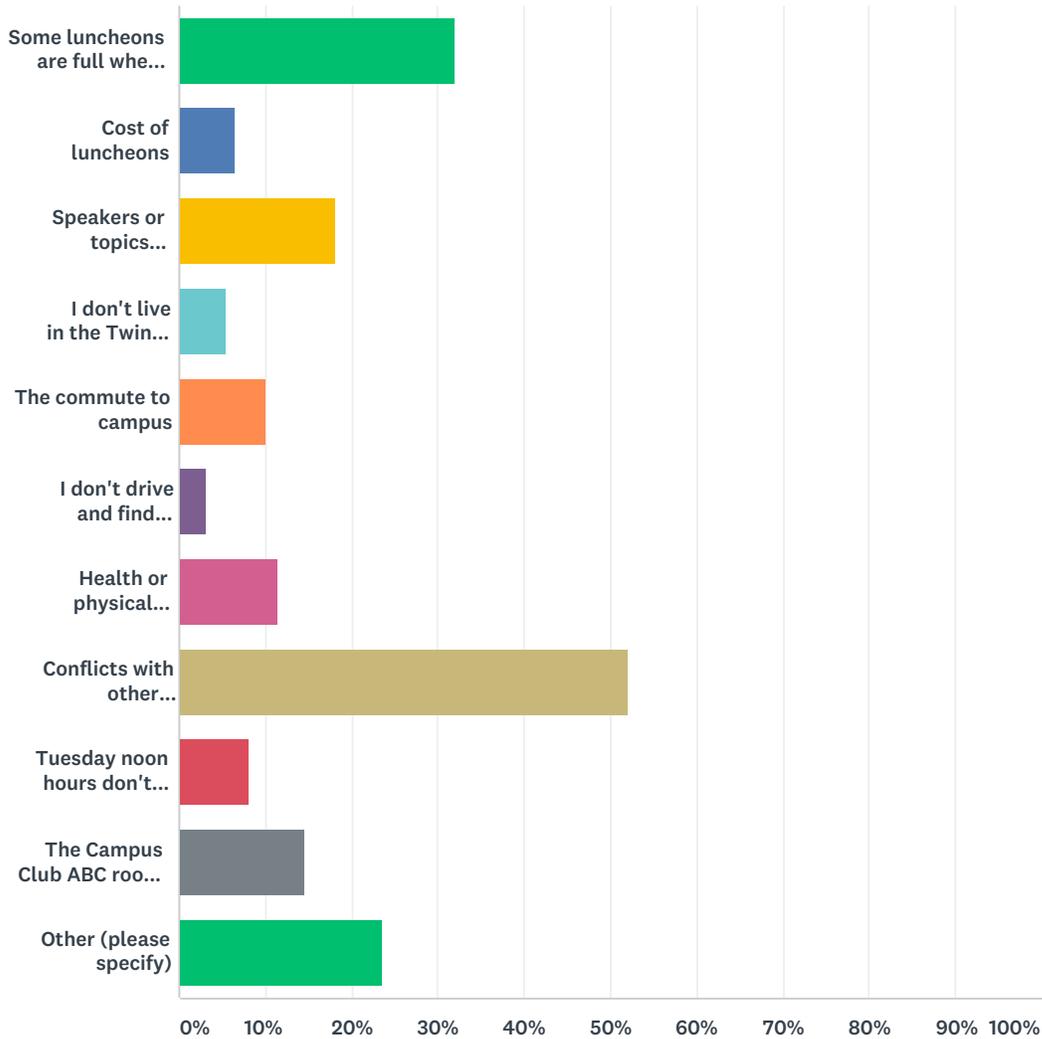
RESPONSES

To hear an interesting speaker	61.04%	141
To reconnect with old colleagues	10.39%	24
To meet other UM retirees	9.52%	22
To have a good meal	0.00%	0
N/A I don't attend	13.42%	31
Other (please specify)	5.63%	13
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>231</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	hard to rate a single reason	6/2/2018 3:11 PM
2	see question 6 answer	6/2/2018 3:02 PM
3	Either the speaker or to have a useful workshop.	6/1/2018 9:24 PM
4	I would appreciate much more emphasis on public policy/social justice issues particularly in these times.	5/31/2018 10:43 AM
5	Due to the current timing of meetings I have not been able to attend	5/29/2018 6:41 AM
6	I attend only if I'm interested in the speaker and/or workshop.	5/28/2018 10:11 AM
7	Stay connected in all ways to the U of M	5/28/2018 8:50 AM
8	for the future - my reason would be to connect with colleagues	5/28/2018 8:48 AM
9	All of the above.	5/28/2018 7:37 AM
10	IF I were attending, it would be to meet/socialize with other UM retirees.	5/27/2018 9:51 PM
11	Listen to an interesting speaker AND meet fellow retirees	5/27/2018 8:45 PM
12	To be a part of the University	5/27/2018 8:32 PM
13	a combination of speaker, reconnect with colleagues & lunch	5/27/2018 8:02 PM

**Q9 What are the issues that prevent you from attending more UMRA meetings than you currently do? (Check all that apply, if any)**

Answered: 219 Skipped: 33



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Some luncheons are full when I try to register	31.96%	70
Cost of luncheons	6.39%	14
Speakers or topics generally not of interest	18.26%	40
I don't live in the Twin Cities area	5.48%	12
The commute to campus	10.05%	22
I don't drive and find transportation to the U inconvenient	3.20%	7
Health or physical mobility issues	11.42%	25
Conflicts with other events/activities	52.05%	114
Tuesday noon hours don't work well for me	8.22%	18
The Campus Club ABC rooms don't lend themselves to socializing	14.61%	32
Other (please specify)	23.74%	52
Total Respondents: 219		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
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# UMRA Survey on Monthly Meeting Format and Venue

SurveyMonkey

1	bad weather	6/4/2018 6:27 PM
2	I subscribe to all lunches. Parkiing in bad weather can be a problem.	6/4/2018 4:20 PM
3	I come when I can and make sure to come when there is a good speaker	6/4/2018 11:51 AM
4	Out of town	6/4/2018 9:28 AM
5	We spend some time in Florida each winter.	6/4/2018 4:17 AM
6	none	6/3/2018 4:32 PM
7	People who sign up for the entire season are apparently filling up the small room before it even is advertised.	6/3/2018 12:47 PM
8	distance from parking lot to meeting room (long push in a wheelchair	6/2/2018 8:12 PM
9	Other personal and professional commitments	6/2/2018 7:06 PM
10	I don't live in the Twin Cities at least half of the year.	6/2/2018 6:11 PM
11	I live out of state during the winter months	6/2/2018 5:32 PM
12	would like to hear speakers without being attached to luncheons	6/2/2018 5:30 PM
13	when traveling	6/2/2018 3:11 PM
14	I attend always if I can so above do not apply to me	6/2/2018 2:53 PM
15	And we're gone half the year (winter)	6/2/2018 2:24 PM
16	Feel there is more faculty than Civil Service staff that attend the meetings.	6/2/2018 2:09 PM
17	Travels tend to overlap meeting dates.	6/2/2018 1:59 PM
18	I'm a new member and plan to attend in the future	6/2/2018 1:49 PM
19	parking unavailable	6/2/2018 12:21 PM
20	I'm out of the country 3 months out of each year. When I'm here, I hate to break up the day with a trip to campus.	5/31/2018 8:26 PM
21	As Elder Justice issues come to the foreground in Minnesota, I believe that UMRA must play a more active role.	5/31/2018 10:43 AM
22	We are away in the winter.	5/31/2018 10:11 AM
23	It's been a crazy year for me.	5/30/2018 1:27 PM
24	I'm just in the habit of attending as many meetings as I can.	5/30/2018 9:09 AM
25	I have fall classes, Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:50a - 1:30p00	5/29/2018 12:11 PM
26	Socializing isn't the issue, the rooms are just cramped.	5/29/2018 9:51 AM
27	I help at the Dental School Tuesdays and Wed until 1:00 p.m.	5/29/2018 6:41 AM
28	We are snowbirds and are out of town from January through April.	5/28/2018 10:08 PM
29	am in MN only in the summer and early fall	5/28/2018 3:26 PM
30	overcrowded	5/28/2018 2:48 PM
31	Meal quality is inconsistent	5/28/2018 1:45 PM
32	So far I have attended and enjoyed all 2017-18 meetings	5/28/2018 12:13 PM
33	Difficulty in getting to parking garage and long walk to Campus Club	5/28/2018 12:00 PM
34	I've been healing from brk NH en ankle, now healed, and more needed foot surgery.	5/28/2018 10:19 AM
35	We forget to go when we have signed up and paid to be there	5/28/2018 10:16 AM
36	I don't want to go to luncheon meetings	5/28/2018 9:21 AM
37	NA; I attend all of them already	5/28/2018 9:02 AM
38	I am a caregvier and never know ahead of time if I can come or not, thus I cannot make early reservations. I would like to come. It depends on how my husband feels.	5/28/2018 7:37 AM

39	This year we were able to attend all of them. But a scheduling conflict or poor health might prevent us in the future. We take the bus to CMU.	5/28/2018 7:37 AM
40	Parking, traffic	5/28/2018 7:20 AM
41	See previous note about being a snowbird	5/28/2018 6:07 AM
42	My significant other is an alumna but not a member.	5/28/2018 4:49 AM
43	I attended all of them	5/27/2018 11:13 PM
44	Parking	5/27/2018 10:22 PM
45	Campus Club ABC rooms are small relative to the number members attending.	5/27/2018 10:09 PM
46	Cost of lunches is high for what we receive, so the speaker needs to be very interesting for me to attend.	5/27/2018 10:01 PM
47	Too small a space for last minute decisions	5/27/2018 9:40 PM
48	I'm a vegetarian, and the vegetarian meals at the Campus Club can be challenging for my old guts.	5/27/2018 8:47 PM
49	Want to avoid someone.	5/27/2018 8:35 PM
50	Travelling	5/27/2018 8:27 PM
51	Events are so crowded it is too hard to connect with friends/colleagues	5/27/2018 8:09 PM
52	The parking and commute to campus is the primary reason I do not attend, but pay my dues - for I believe I. The goals of the organization. A off campus, convenient location with great parking would make my attendance much more likely.	5/27/2018 7:55 PM

## Q10 Please add any further thoughts or advice on the questions of venue, hour, and food.

Answered: 91 Skipped: 161

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The tests of the West Wing are good, There needs to be better/more food and service concomitant with the quality of the speakers and ambiance.	6/4/2018 4:20 PM
2	Great speakers and interesting workshops are the drivers for me. I would like to see more interaction with the U and issues affecting support for the U. Legislative, regents selection,	6/4/2018 11:51 AM
3	Currently, don't have any. Am certain that UMRA executives and board have carefully considered the above.	6/3/2018 4:32 PM
4	Again, this recent rule of members signing up for the entire season make many of the events filled before even being announced. Therefore it has been difficult to get in. Space is too small now so something needs to be done about the location. No ideas there but just a fact of what is happening.	6/3/2018 12:47 PM
5	I'm sorry if you're getting a second survey from me. After seeing your questions I recognize that I filled out this form once before but maybe you didn't receive my previous submission. Since retiring I have regularly attended University classes under the Senior Citizens Education Program (SCEP) and the noon hour has always conflicted with both a morning or afternoon class time. I have enjoyed the few times I have been able to attend. I'm please that you are considering this timer/date change and hope that it means I will be able to attend more often in the future.	6/3/2018 12:45 PM
6	I have only attended one luncheon meeting. Traffic coming to campus was terrible that day so I missed the socializing part. The food was so so (I am a campus club member so I hate to say that). The speaker was great, very enjoyable. Since then I have tried to sign up a couple of times but been too late. I have also missed opportunities because of travel and recovery from surgery. I like the idea of using the West Wing, but don't like the idea of negotiating rush hour traffic after the meeting. It will be especially difficult for anyone coming from south Minneapolis with the construction on 35W.	6/3/2018 11:11 AM
7	Add bread to the meal!!!	6/2/2018 10:05 PM

8	I like the campus venue, but I suggest a larger space so that as many people can attend as possible. I would try to keep the cost of the meal down as much as possible. Appetizers may be ok with a lower cost, especially for those whose major reason for coming is to connect with others. I was surprised that the Annual Mtg with Pres Kaler cost \$30. I suggest that the Annual mtg of the Association be open and free to members. And if there is a meal, price it same as the other meals during the year. Thank you to the leadership of the Association.	6/2/2018 7:06 PM
9	I read the newsletter religiously and will continue to support the organization through membership. I always think your speakers and workshops look interesting and would probably attend some if we were here more of the year.	6/2/2018 6:11 PM
10	Would enjoy attending such interesting speakers but do not want to devote the time to the attached luncheon time. Appreciate your survey!!	6/2/2018 5:30 PM
11	Not enough space for luncheons, also if can have table sign up based on prior history and interest for Schools would be helpful so can have more interesting and relevant conversation. food is irrelevant as eat often at the a member. Learning based upon speaker or other UMRA members sharing interesting experience/information is better. Hate to say but also need younger members with more common interests as well.	6/2/2018 4:23 PM
12	The food is usually disappointing.	6/2/2018 3:18 PM
13	I hope to attend more UMRA meetings in the future, but seem to have other conflicts when the meetings are held. I did enjoy the May meeting so hope to be able to attend more in the future.	6/2/2018 3:12 PM
14	If we can solve the space problem, Coffman is fine with me. I am flexible for the hours and the food.	6/2/2018 2:53 PM
15	Keep up the good work.	6/2/2018 1:47 PM
16	We enjoy coming when we do. We find sharing with tablemates enough socializing. We mainly come when there is a speaker that addresses issues important to us. Cost is a problem and cost seems to be rising. It is unlikely that we would attend every meeting.	6/2/2018 12:17 PM
17	For the luncheon meetings and workshops, the time between lunch and workshop is too long. I assumed the time was needed for the staff to clear luncheon dishes, but since they don't do that, please shorten the time we must stand around waiting for the workshop.	6/2/2018 10:16 AM
18	Thanks for looking out for us. You have a hard job, and all of us need to let you do it and be grateful. Keep searching for a good on-campus location. Is there any room at McNamara?	6/2/2018 10:12 AM
19	If I had been able to attend this past year, I often did not find the food choice appealing. Perhaps going to an appetizer event would change that.	6/2/2018 10:08 AM
20	Other than the friend I usually come with, I seldom run into people I know.	6/2/2018 8:32 AM
21	Lunch is a tad expensive, but I understand why and don't mind. Socializing with members and the workshops are valuable and enticing, and I regret that other activities kept me away so much this year.	6/1/2018 9:24 PM
22	You do a very nice job of arranging interesting speakers and workshops. I appreciate the opportunity to participate, even though I don't attend very often. May attend more often in the future if I can find a friend to attend with.	6/1/2018 3:50 PM
23	The meetings are always Tuesday. I am a Master Gardener and the UMRA meetings always fall the same day of the month so I have to choose. Therefore I never get to attend UMRA. Is there any way of changing up different days so those of us that have conflicts can at least attend some meetings? With the change in the timing of meetings to the afternoons, remember that traffic is horrible at those hours for those of us driving home. Makes me wonder if I will attempt the traffic and just give up trying to make it. Why does it have to be the Campus Club for meetings. I think the Campus Club is controlling UMRA and life is never easy moving on - it 's work. A life lesson is that we outgrow situations. The campus is huge. Northrup, Academic Center, etc. East Bank and St Paul Campus (parking nice). Pot lucks are nice and no requirements to bring anything for those unable to do so. A \$16 lunch can be trimmed to a better package - maybe by moving elsewhere. The Arboretum has done potluck gatherings and the food is fantastic and healthy. Great cooks out there!!	5/31/2018 11:58 AM

24	From my perspective, UMRA is in transition from a print to digital world, from older members to many newer and younger members, from a set schedule to other options. Beyond where and when the organization meets, I think there needs to be more consideration of its vision/mission. Why does the UMRA exist? Is it to benefit only the members or the larger society? Why can't there be opportunities for contributions to a scholarship fund for students who are the first in their families to attend the university? Why isn't there more emphasis on public policy with Position Papers on issues such as Elder Justice? Since UMRA is the system wide retiree organization, why doesn't it have a map of all the research centers and coordinate campuses in the system and make a special effort to connect them to the UMRA website (perhaps an UMRA article in the UM System Brief)? Thanks for soliciting input and for considering these issues.	5/31/2018 10:43 AM
25	It would be nice to have the luncheons in the West Wing, is possible, as it is sometimes unpleasantly crowded in the other venue.	5/31/2018 10:11 AM
26	Thanks for trying new options. Mixing it up might increase participation and offer other opportunities. Like tours or speakers not available before.	5/30/2018 4:37 PM
27	I'd like to be back in the loop, just need to make the times work.	5/30/2018 1:27 PM
28	Use of a larger plate supplied for the buffet would be better and would encourage choice and amount of food selected better than such a small plate.	5/30/2018 9:09 AM
29	First of all., I resent that UMRA seems to be a prisoner of the campus club which itself is struggling to survive, I would guess. Here we are nicely retired, looking to hear interesting speakers from our rich number of faculty..interesting things they are doing...but often we get some contemporary political view or something on aging...again!! where are the geologists, the geographers, the astronomers maybe even physicists. Let me go on...then, we are crowded into a room often with poor acoustics and fair visibility to eat a high priced luncheon, often with dirty plates left on table...ugh!! and for \$32 a couple...give me a break!!! Whoever had the idea of afternoons in the west wing ought to have his/her head examined...ever try to commute to the U up 35W in afternoon...traffic needs to be thought of. I admit loving to come back to campus and willing to do so but not so eager when there is a \$32 lunch and \$6 parking in a crowded room with little opportunity to say boo to anyone (the 10:30 coffee is not the right scene for that sort of interaction ) and a speaker..rarely of great interest. I do admit Lori Sturdevant was great, as was the prof who used to run showboat..well that was a well done act, and years back we had someone from astronomy..and I am sure others which we have appreciated . What is wrong with the Macamera center..parking is great and I am sure we could find ways that the U wouldn't charge \$7 for a god damned glass of wine that might cost \$5 a bottle. You might find yourself with a lively and large group of retirees enjoying and socializing with a bit of wine and space to move about and a talk. Have a nice day as they say..so often..RMcCullister, retired assoc dean Med.	5/29/2018 8:58 PM
30	Late Tuesday afternoons do not work for me because I attend a once-a-month meeting out of town that starts at five. This is why I haven't attended the workshops. I enjoy the UM retirees and will participate as fully as possible no matter what time and place are selected. Thank you for all your good work.	5/29/2018 4:25 PM
31	The buffet line for the annual meeting moved slowly because there were too many choices and several of those choices were tiny pieces of food (carrots, berries, cheese that needed to be cut, etc.). If the motivation for moving the meetings to the West Wing includes accommodating larger attendance and facilitating the flow for socializing, the food offered on the buffet needs to be similarly in accord, i.e. fewer choices that are better suited for self-service (especially for an elderly population) or a buffet line with servers.	5/29/2018 1:30 PM
32	I would like to see the Campus Club do a little better job with the food given the proposed price increase ( I realize the inflation issue).	5/29/2018 1:11 PM
33	Good to to have had-outs with guest presenters, with a schedule of all other UMRA meetings.	5/29/2018 12:11 PM
34	I really enjoy meeting people at my table (as well as visiting with good friends there) but it would be nice to be able to mingle with people at other tables, so the social hour in the west wing would seem to provide more opportunity to meet more people. Otherwise I have enjoyed the lunches overall and the Campus Club (thought it is pretty crowded for lunch) is very convenient for me (and my husband).	5/29/2018 11:29 AM
35	The Ratatouille entrée that was served recently was one of the worst entrees we have had. Salmon was not good either. Perhaps stay will safer menu choices.	5/29/2018 11:26 AM

36	The lunch at the May meeting was disappointing. For visiting with others, the informal gathering before the meal seems to work ok, although space is limited so that it gets crowded. Continue to encourage outside activities like the visit to the state capital building.	5/29/2018 10:03 AM
37	Do we really need lunch? The ABC rooms would probably be big enough without the tables. A possibility, for openers: 10:30-11:00/11:15, Rolls and coffee, followed by the program. People would then be on their own for lunch, perhaps with friends in the Campus Club. Don't have a plan for the workshops.	5/29/2018 9:51 AM
38	I meet with Kiwanis at 1:30 on Tuesdays. This conflict is the reason that I don't attend more meetings.	5/29/2018 6:25 AM
39	I'd rather have a meal instead of appetizers, whether at noon or later in the afternoon.	5/28/2018 7:38 PM
40	The lunches served in the Campus Club during the meetings were disappointing. Perhaps a salad, sandwiches, soup would be a better option. Another option is for meeting late mornings for coffee and some rolls, muffins, fruit, etc. If meetings were to be changed to the afternoons, I would suggest schedules that avoid rush hour traffic! Coffee, cold beverages and light appetizers would be a nice addition.	5/28/2018 3:26 PM
41	Thank you to the UMRA officers and board for their work to make UMRA events more available to U retirees!	5/28/2018 2:55 PM
42	#1. West wing would fine even though I don't have claustrophobia--- #2. Don't need a gourmet meal for lunch. .	5/28/2018 2:48 PM
43	This past year was too much taken up with care-giving. I will try next year to attend more meetings. Ted Galambos	5/28/2018 12:43 PM
44	You did not ask about noon meetings and PARKING availability in River Road Ramp. I would gladly pay \$1-5 extra to be assured of a parking place! I would guess that a major advantage of late afternoon meetings would be easier parking at Coffman. At some future time I will have to stop driving and then there may be a major problem to solve to continue attending meetings. Weather is a factor in my winter driving as well. The Board should revisit the attendance issue for our "older" members who have stopped driving. How about a Cares Committee task force on this problem that would explore ride share, Uber, Lyft, etc? They might also consider the many issues that members over 80-85 face in maintaining connections with UMRA, with other people, and life in general.	5/28/2018 12:13 PM
45	A less congested area and larger meeting facility (such as is available on the St. Paul Campus) would allow me to attend functions.	5/28/2018 12:00 PM
46	\$30 for a table of unpalatable snacks was a joke. A separate dessert table with cake & pie (not just cookies) would have helped May. But best of all would be if the Campus Club would move their scattering of regular lunchers to ABC. Note that is at most 6 days/year since September and May are outside the calendar for many. And we are now talking about \$2,000 plus per meal, no small incentive. As to timing, luncheon is by far the best, with a sit-down, served meal.	5/28/2018 11:13 AM
47	One of the most beneficial aspects of retirement to me is the freedom to attend events during the day. Because I have a number of commitments during late afternoon and evening, I would be forced to attend fewer UMRA gatherings if scheduled during the late afternoon. (Heavy "rush hour" traffic would also be a strongly negative factor.)	5/28/2018 11:09 AM
48	I just joined UMRA and have only attended the May annual meeting so far and look forward to attending more meetings in the coming year.	5/28/2018 10:59 AM
49	Although I was unable to attend the May meeting in the afternoon, I'm guessing that driving to and from the U would be more difficult during those hours when there will be more commuter traffic than during the midday. Although traffic isn't a problem for me (yet), I know many other retirees who refuse to drive when the roads are at their busiest. Also, due to progressing scoliosis and sciatica, I take opioid painkillers throughout the day, making me somewhat sleepier than normal by late afternoon. I certainly don't expect UMRA to schedule meetings based on my needs, but my own situation makes me aware that others may have similar problems with tiredness as the day progresses. I think the plan to try a variety of meeting times in the next year is a good idea and will let us figure out what works for the majority who wish to attend. I plan to attend meetings at both midday and afternoon times.	5/28/2018 10:40 AM

50	I had a wonderful time visiting with people at the May meeting. There was room to move around and mingle. Round tables are very conducive to conversation. Also, it was easy to "table-hop" to say a few words to a friend at another table. The West Wing venue lends itself to fellowship! I look forward to our next couple of meetings in the West Wing of the Campus Club while we still enjoy daylight beyond 6:00 p.m.	5/28/2018 10:34 AM
51	Cost of the luncheons are high for the food. I understand that is because of the cost they charge and for fees and the board is trying to work it out the best they can. I certainly don't come for the food as I could go elsewhere for a better meal for the price. It is the quality and diversity of speakers that brings me.	5/28/2018 10:22 AM
52	I've especially enjoyed the noon meetings with a meal.	5/28/2018 10:19 AM
53	As I mentioned, I only attend if I have a strong interest in the speaker or the workshop. Sometimes I have other conflicts and moving it later in the day will probably increase those conflicts. However, because I only attend a few luncheons a year, I think the majority should rule on this issue.	5/28/2018 10:11 AM
54	How will the change of venue and food affect the cost of the meal?	5/28/2018 9:54 AM
55	I will not attend if the meetings are later in the afternoon. The driving to campus is too horrible with 35W under repair, and the traffic as the U lets out for the day adds to the unpleasantness. I MUCH PREFER the luncheons. You could make the luncheons more of a buffet. The food is terrible, but I don't attend for the food. I accept that it is terrible, but maybe you could do something about that. I am interested in the speaker.	5/28/2018 9:41 AM
56	HAVE ATTENDED THIS YEAR TWO SIG MEETINGS IN TAX/HEATH ISSUES, AND EARLY LAST YEAR TWO SIG IN PHOTO. ST PAUL CAMPUS IS MOR APPEALING TO ME THAN MAIN CAMPUS. COMPLEMENT UMRA IN EFFORTS TO BE MORE RELEVANT TO NEEDS OF UMRA MEMBERS.	5/28/2018 9:39 AM
57	Campus Club ABC is very inadequate and frequently when I might have attended registration was already closed. Lunch time is preferred, but doubt anyone comes to have a good meal; food is only fair.	5/28/2018 8:53 AM
58	My first thought is that if the current space does not fill the needs of the organization, then - kudos for locating an alternative space and experimenting with that! The coming year should be interesting. If it does not work out, there is always the option of going back to the luncheon idea.	5/28/2018 8:48 AM
59	ABC is obviously cramped which makes it difficult to navigate (esp for folks in wheelchairs or using other assistance devices) and discourages people from getting up to go see a former colleague. I usually jump on the notice so I'm assured a space. Having reserved parking is helpful, but it still takes a LONG time to find an open parking slot and get into CMU. Food quality is inconsistent but has been better recently. I'd be willing to pay more for a higher quality meal. Table space is also cramped which prohibits having a separate salad plate. I enjoy the variety of speakers and topics. Sometimes the luncheon interferes with OLLI classes that I attend. I've enjoyed the luncheons very much. Keep those grey cells working!	5/28/2018 8:48 AM
60	I am frustrated when I cannot attend, such as the last dinner time meeting. Can the lectures be recorded and available on your website?	5/28/2018 7:54 AM
61	I like the the afternoon sessions and the buffet format. A buffet allows people to make their own choices for nourishment.	5/28/2018 7:37 AM
62	I attend the luncheons mainly to hear the speaker. The luncheons are not worth what we pay for them - it would be better to go through the line and choose what you like for the same price. going through the line is equivalent to having a buffet and you end up happy with your choice.	5/28/2018 7:37 AM
63	Need handicapped accessibility for spouse. Need to be able to come at spur of moment. Ok if no lunch for those of us who cannot make reservations ahead of time.	5/28/2018 7:37 AM

64	1. Campus Club works great for us as we live a short distance away by bus, and, so far, we are in good health. I am concerned about those who would like to attend for various reasons listed above. 2. One solution—for those who can't be there in person or can't afford the lunch—would be to videotape and have the meetings available on the UMRA website. Do coordinate campuses have meetings? 3. Please make sure that questions from the audience are either repeated by someone with a microphone or make traveling mics for questioners. 4. For speakers and workshop leaders, meet with them earlier to explain who the members are and address— when relevant— two questions: *What actions can UMRA members do for your organization, cause, project, etc.? *What can your organization, cause, project do for UMRA members? 5. I would prefer fruit rather than candy for dessert. 6. I really like the buffet style for us, but am concerned about those who might find it difficult selecting and carrying food to their tables. Thank you!	5/28/2018 7:37 AM
65	The late afternoon time works well in avoiding traffic congestion during commuting time, and allows time to get home before dark, except in winter. The luncheon time might work better in winter months. Thanks for your thoughtful planning and for seeking constructive input from members.	5/28/2018 7:20 AM
66	Campus Club luncheons have been tasty but often a bit skimpy. An increase in the cost is inevitable.	5/28/2018 7:12 AM
67	Just make it possible for people who wish to attend to be able to do so—at least on a rotating basis. I suspect right now it is the same people who are able to attend all/most of the time and the rest get left in the dust. One option is what an over-subscribed wine club I belong to does: it does a raffle [sign up by a certain time and then the names of the people who are able to attend are drawn out of a hat]. Another option is to rotate: if someone attended the lunch this month, they are put at the bottom of the list for next month. Have a cut-off date and then inform those who can attend and those who can't.	5/28/2018 6:07 AM
68	I found that the cost of the lunch a for the meeting I attended to be quite expensive for what was served. If I want to spend \$16, I can find much more exciting and plentiful food elsewhere.	5/28/2018 5:55 AM
69	I prefer noon luncheons and workshops and like to pay in advance	5/28/2018 5:55 AM
70	Prefer noon meetings.	5/28/2018 12:17 AM
71	The West Wing and buffet were amazing. The room was large, with plenty of room to move around. The windows on 3 sides of the room were very nice, and didn't interfere with the projection. The buffet was plenty of food for me. And it was extremely well presented, interesting, and delicious! The buffet was better than the lunches, and I would be happy to have this kind of buffet all the time, if possible, even at lunch time. The time of day is unimportant to me. I don't mind driving in rush hour, or in the dark, although I understand some do.	5/27/2018 11:13 PM
72	Thank you for considering a new time. Sine my retirement I have enrolled in University classes which has beeb a lifeline for me. The noon lunches have always conflicted with my class times, sine they overlapbith morning & afternoon sessions.	5/27/2018 11:03 PM
73	Thanks for the work to resolve the overcrowding issue. I have a volunteer obligation on Tuesdays from 9-1, hence I can never attend as the meetings are now configured. If the outcome of your study is to have meetings at various times throughout the year, I would be able to attend.	5/27/2018 10:55 PM
74	Glad you are thinking of making a change. I was disappointed 3 times this year when the lunches were full. Also, the time conflicts with AAUW St Paul	5/27/2018 10:16 PM
75	As a recent retiree, I find it interesting that we meet during the academic year when many retirees go to warmer climates and return to Minnesota for the summers. The winter weather can make attending less attractive. If we meet during the summer, it might be easier to rent the west wing for our lunches. The afternoon meetings is worth trying out, however I want to avoid rush-hour traffic. Some of the older ,embers may not want to drive after dark.	5/27/2018 10:01 PM
76	I appreciate the work of this group and I am very happy to be part of it. I look forward to trying to attend more events next year.	5/27/2018 9:55 PM
77	Since member consensus is to have a meal plus a speaker, I suggest that UMRA stay with that format, preferably at noon in the West Wing. For those wishing to socialize, I suggest creating a social committee or group to arrange gatherings (CC or elsewhere) similar to the UMRA Book Club. I consider the workshops an educational opportunity and I also suggest an educational committee to arrange workshops as a separate member opportunity similar to the camera club, book club, and the finanacial interest group.	5/27/2018 9:51 PM
78	Find an alternate venue with decent parking and location.	5/27/2018 9:50 PM

79	I am not familiar with the West Wing venue, so it's hard to compare.	5/27/2018 9:41 PM
80	Need a larger venue.	5/27/2018 9:40 PM
81	No additional comments.	5/27/2018 8:51 PM
82	The cost of the May mtg/appetizers last week was \$30. It was announced at the May mtg that the cost of lunches would increase to \$20 next year. I think some clarification would be helpful. Would the cost for the appetizers at the Sept., April and May UMRA mtgs be \$20? 30? Would there be an open bar at all of the UMRA mtgs that are held in the West Wing? Is the cost of making that service available (even though a cash bar) one of the reasons why the May mtgs cost more? If no open bar is available, as when mtgs are in the ABC rooms, would the cost be \$20 whether held in either the ABC or West Wing areas?	5/27/2018 8:51 PM
83	I appreciate your trying to find a bigger venue. A 5:00 PM speaker would be a challenge for me, though I imagine I might stay that late once in a while.	5/27/2018 8:47 PM
84	Need more space for the luncheons; luncheon prices are too low. Late afternoon meetings would place attendees in the afternoon traffic mess.	5/27/2018 8:44 PM
85	More space would be good and good food is always important. The most important however is to keep the high quality speakers you always have had at these sessions.	5/27/2018 8:27 PM
86	Having an hour between workshops and speaker is not a good idea. I would attend workshop if just before or within 30 minutes. A hour is too long.	5/27/2018 8:13 PM
87	It should be possible to hear a speaker w/o attending the luncheon. Perhaps have the speaker talk in a larger separate room.	5/27/2018 8:12 PM
88	Having additional space and the ability to circulate will be heavenly!	5/27/2018 8:09 PM
89	A possible option would be to schedule the West wing once a month and direct the regular luncheon guests to ABC or schedule the UMRA luncheon at 1. Most people on campus have a regular 12:00 lunch time so would be out of the West Wing by 1. Might be a problem but could be worked out, I would think for one day a month.	5/27/2018 8:04 PM
90	I am pleased that you are experimenting with the proposed changes. By next year, we will know what is the best venue & format going forward. The luncheon works best for me due to traffic & I try to avoid rush hour traffic since live on the east side of St. Paul. However, I support the new proposed schedule.	5/27/2018 8:02 PM
91	I would encourage you to look for an off campus location. If it is convenient, I think additional members with mobility issues would attend. Thank you for considering this observation. I know it is difficult to make decisions that work for everyone. Best wishes and thanks.	5/27/2018 7:55 PM