

Alumni Association

UMRA Liaison Report for 2019-2020

by Will Craig

I continue my efforts to create a more formal connection with the Alumni Association (UMAA). Other Big Ten retirees' associations have a range of useful connections. AROHE encourages its members to develop a range of formal connections as a way of enhancing their own profile.

Our sister organization, the University Retirees Volunteer Center has connected with UMAA's Day of Service program.

One of the major issues for both organizations is current overlapping membership. In June 2019, John Anderson sent the UMRA roster to UMAA for comparison. Their analysis showed

- 34% of the people on the list are currently UMAA members (19% of that is Life Members) and 66% are not members
- Of the people who are not members, 24% were members in the past and 42% have never been a member. So, 58% of the total people on your list have been involved with the Alumni Association at some point
- Only 45% of the people on the list are alumni of the U of M

This looked promising. In the fall I tried to enlist UMAA as a luncheon sponsor. While first enthusiastic, they discovered that UMAA is unable to support any organization with which they have no formal agreement.

On February 12, 2020, Jerry Rinehart and I met with UMAA officials Jon Ruzek, Vice President of Engagement, and Steve Davis, Director of Affinity Engagement. Our goal was to develop a formal arrangement. UMAA has developed a range of agreements and, following discussion about the interests and needs of both organizations, Ruzek promised to develop a draft for UMRA to consider. For various reasons, that draft did not arrive until June 9. I have forwarded it the UMRA Executive Committee for discussion.

One final note. UMRA had signed up with UMAA to attend a Spring Twins baseball game, one of the UofM Days. That game was cancelled, along with other Major League Baseball games, because of the coronavirus.