

UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
Monday, February 28, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.
Approved Minutes

In attendance (virtual): John Anderson, Vernon Caldwell, Will Craig, Gary Engstrand, Bill Donohue, Cathy Lee Gierke, Greg Hestness, Laurie Koch, Ron Matross, Jan McCulloch, Jan Morlock, Kristine Mortensen, Jerry Rinehart, Cathrine Wambach, Diane Young,

Regrets: John Bantle, Eric Hockert, Cherie Hamilton, Julie Sweitzer, Terry Roe, , KaiMay Terry

Jan Morlock opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. by noting the passing of Hal Miller, and members shared their memories of him as a University administrator, colleague and president of UMRA.

Minutes: Jan noted that Ron Matross would be taking minutes for this meeting, in place of Julie Sweitzer. She then asked for approval of the January minutes. Frank moved approval, Jerry seconded, and all voted in favor. Frank requested that in the future the draft minutes for the immediately preceding Executive Committee meeting be put on the Board's agenda. Jan agreed.

Treasurer's Report: Greg discussed the January report. January income was \$500 from a Bakken sponsorship. Jan asked how the sponsorship income compared with last year, and Greg said it was somewhat lower. Expenses were \$1292, due to a late invoice for printing and a need to reissue a check for newsletter stock. There was a net loss of \$792 for the month. Greg noted that he had consulted with a University tax expert on how to change UMRA's fiscal year, and that the process should be on track. Laurie moved approval of the report, Gary seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.

MOU with UMN: Jan and Bill reported on progress with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Provost. If approved by the Board, the MOU will be signed by Jan and the Provost immediately. Bill reported on significant improvements in the new agreement: (1) The Provost has agreed to provide \$15,000 a year for the PDGR program, after no funding the previous year. (2). The agreement now recognizes the URVC in the agreement and assures the current \$4000 funding level. The agreement also recognizes URVC volunteers as University volunteers, so that they are covered by the University's liability insurance. (3) The University agrees to send letters from UMRA to retirees for three years, not just one year. The agreement has no end date, but every three years, either side can ask for the agreement to be reviewed. Bill moved to approve the MOU, and Gary seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. A report on the agreement will be included in the April newsletter, and presented at the May meeting.

Nominating Committee: Frank presented the report of the committee. He noted that the nominating process is on a short timeline, with the committee needing to present a slate of board and officer candidates for approval at the March 28 Board meeting. The Executive Committee has approved a proposed membership list for the committee, and this list needs to

be approved by the Board today. As called for in the by-laws, past president Frank Cerra is to chair the committee and president-elect Ron Matross is to be a member. There needs to be one board member on the committee and three non-board members. The proposed members are John Bantle as the Board representative, with Brad Cleary, Suzanne Bardouche, and Vicki Field as the non-Board members. Frank moved approval of the slate of committee members and Vern seconded, followed by a unanimous vote in support.

UMRA/URVC Relationship Task Force: Jerry presented an update on the proposed agreement for re-integrating UMRA and the URVC. He first noted that service to UMRA should be included in the counts of volunteer service done by retirees. Then he proposed that In April the Boards of UMRA and URVC should meet jointly to discuss the proposal, and have each vote on it. At Jerry's request, Bill said that he thought the agreement was a good one, but noted that as a former lawyer, he wanted to take out any remaining "legalese" and make the language as simple as possible. He inquired about who would sign the agreement, and Jerry replied that the presidents of UMRA and URVC would sign. Bill also asked for clarification about membership on the two boards. Jerry said that in addition to sitting on each other's boards, as is currently the case, the UMRA president-elect would now sit on the URVC executive committee and the URVC chair would sit on the URVC executive committee. Bill and Frank questioned whether the executive committee cross-membership would be necessary in the long term. Jan asked about financial accounting. Frank replied that as a center within UMRA, URVC funds would be tracked as a separate center budget within UMRA's and never comingled. Jan suggested that we need to focus on the agreement itself, and that a number of details like these will need to be determined during the implementation process. Jan asked whether the agreement needed to be put to a vote of the membership. Bill replied that it didn't need to be, but could be if we wanted. Jan McCulloch, Bill, Frank, Laurie and Vern argued that it would be best if the Board approved the agreement, and simply reported it to the membership. The discussion ended with a consensus on going ahead with the joint meeting of the boards, possibly in person.

Program Committee Report: Ron began by noting that the figures for attendance at the Zoom webinars in February were stronger than they were last fall. He thanked Bill for his assiduous work in putting together the special forum with Governor Walz and President Gable, which was very well attended. He then moved to talking about the transition to in-person meetings. He first summarized the results of the membership survey, conducted in late January, on what month to return: While many were unsure, fewer than a fifth of those choosing a month wanted to return in March, but two-thirds of those answering would return by May. Many respondents commented that they think we should have hybrid in-person/virtual meetings. Based on these results, Ron recommended that we return to the Campus Club for our May meeting and forum, and that we make it a hybrid meeting, broadcasting it to virtual attendees. The Zoom team is willing to work on developing our hybrid meeting capabilities. Jerry and Bill wondered whether May was too late, and suggested we go back in April. Kris, on behalf of the Zoom team, and Diane, on behalf of the Hosting Team said that they would prefer May in order to practice and get all the procedures for the meeting in place. Frank said that the meeting should be a true hybrid meeting, with the ability to show audience interaction as well as the

speaker. Frank then moved that the May meeting should be in-person and hybrid. Laurie seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Communications and Outreach Committee Report: In place of Eric, Kris reported on the activities of the C & O committee. As noted earlier, attendance at the Zoom webinars was up in February. The website migration team led by Cathy has been working steadily; virtually everything on the site has to be redone. Will has been investigating UMRA participation in the Alumni Association's upcoming Day of Service. The committee is proposing that the May newsletter be sent to the entire UMRA membership. Kris noted that the newsletter is pushed out electronically each month, but only a fraction of the membership clicks through to it or the articles from it. Sending out the printed newsletter in May could better get the word out about our activities. The cost of sending to all 570 households, instead of the 265 currently receiving it, would be \$560 vs. \$312. Kris moved that this proposal be approved by the Board, and Vern seconded. All voted in favor.

Announcements: Jan asked for input on the agenda for the May meeting. John Bantle will have two vacancies on the PDGR Committee and would like suggestions for new members. Kathleen O'Brien wishes to end her time as chair of the Cares Committee at the end of this program year, and suggestions for a replacement are welcomed. The Cares Committee does the very important work of sending remembrance cards to families of University retirees who have died, as well as donating \$30 memorials in their name.

Jan adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m.