

UMRA Executive Committee (Zoom)
Monday, February 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

Attendees: Kristy Frost-Griep, Eric Hockert, Ron Matross, Jan Morlock, Jerry Rinehart, Julie Sweitzer

Ron called the meeting to order shortly after 1:00 p.m. Eric moved and Jerry seconded approval of the January minutes and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Finances: Kristy presented the budget report, noting there is less activity in winter. Virgil may have a few more dues checks from his email reminders. A print mailing will go out soon. Eric asked if the Big Ten conference costs reflect last year's expenses, or savings for our hosting in 2026. Kristy said they reflect the annual conference expenses, and there is no separate account for 2026 yet. Julie said the annual expenses were high last year due to three people attending, and Jan noted 2023 should be cheaper as it is in Madison, which is drivable.

Ron reported he had been asked for an UMRA contribution of \$300 to the Age-Friendly University event, and he was concerned that was too high. Jan thought it was in UMRA's self-interest as we have a stake in the success of the overall goal. Jerry said our absence would be noted. Kristy said the overall sponsor, the School of Public Health, has deeper pockets than UMRA but it wouldn't "break the bank". Ron said he would recommend it to the board.

Ron reported he had discussed the calendar for dues solicitation and collection with the Communications and Outreach committee. The final consensus was to start soliciting in May, with a deadline of June 30, so that it aligns with the fiscal year and is connected in time with actual programming. They also have some ideas about making the communications more inviting. Jan wondered if June 30 was too late? Eric suggested an all-member event for those who renew. Julie recommended collecting renewals at the May annual event (checks, credit cards, etc.) and Jan agreed. Ron will follow-up with Membership Committee.

Bylaws (URVC): Jerry presented the revised bylaws, reflecting the integration of URVC into UMRA. URVC has approved the changes to its bylaws already. Drafting of the revisions was done by Deanne Magnuson, Bill Donohue, Eric Hockert, Andy Phalen and Jerry. There are seven changes:

1. Article III on Membership makes URVC council members eligible for UMRA.
2. Article IV adds the URVC chair as an officer.
3. Article IV says the UMRA treasurer will receive financial reports from URVC.
4. Article V increases the total board membership to 21 to include the URVC chair.
5. Article X expands nominating committee membership to 8.
6. Article X includes URVC chair on nominating committee.
7. The anticipated final approval date of May 2023 is added at the end.

Jan, Eric and Ron (with nods from Julie and Kristy) expressed their appreciation for the tremendous amount of work Jerry put into this project. All were supportive of the revisions.

UMN Email: Ron presented a summary of the recent email controversy. Members had reported a UMN communication stating that email and Google access was being eliminated for retirees in 2024, despite a Regents' policy on emeriti faculty specifically stating email access would be retained. After several discussions Ron sent an email advocating for UMRA members and obtained a meeting with OIT, after which OIT leaders said UMRA members would keep their email and Google workspace access. Jan said she attended the Town Hall OIT held, during which OIT staff repeated that emeriti faculty and UMRA members would keep their email and Google access. Both Ron and Jan agreed that it still a proposal and we need to watch to make sure the statements endure. Access needs to be further defined, including whether that means new members, and there are operational decisions to be made. Jerry agreed it was a time to watch the process but not raise further questions now. All agreed we can't promote it to future members until it is final. Some UMRA members have said we should advocate for all retirees, but Jan pointed out we aren't allowed to know who they are. Jerry suggested clarification of the Membership Committee's responsibilities, as they could be in charge of monitoring these developments. Ron has begun conversations with John Anderson on the scope of the committee, along with changes in membership and dues structure. Julie was asked to review minutes to see if the board had acted on those issues.

Program Committee: Eric reported on three items. First, he thanked all involved in putting on special Forum on the proposed Sanford-Fairview merger and related issues, with Jakob Tolar as the guest. Second, the March forum will include several efforts to engage new members. Eric will personally invite recent members immediately after the formal registration communication. Jan McCulloch will coordinate board hosts for new members. There will be a 30 minute 'new member' session before the luncheon, where Ron will provide information on UMRA and ways to get involved.

Third, Jan, Cathy Lee Gierke, Kate Maple and Diane Young have been discussing all-UMRA events, with a tentative proposal of the Arboretum in spring, a July picnic, and September boat trip. Jan said they would each lead one event only, and she asked whether Como Pavilion should be considered for the picnic. A short discussion about the problems last year led to a recommendation that because the location is great, it was worth contacting them again, with an in-person discussion. If the staff is not responsive, we should go elsewhere, such as a boat trip. She asked about priorities among the dates, and all agreed summer was most important because there is no other programming. Outdoor events are important as many members still have COVID concerns. A holiday party for December was mentioned, but Jan said she was not interested in organizing that type of event for multiple reasons. Julie suggested January is a better month for winter celebrations.

Nominating Committee: Jan reported she is working with Eric, Jerry, Dale Blyth, Becky Yust, Russell Luepker, Cathrine Wambach and Kathy G. Three board members have terms that are expiring (Cathrine Wambach, Barb Shiels and Jan McCulloch), plus there may be room for one more member. One question relates to John Bantle's membership. She believes he was elected to a one-year term, but she can't confirm a subsequent election for his continuation on the board. The committee agreed his nomination should be retroactive to when the new term started, making his term 2022 to 2025, consistent with the class for his board seat. A discussion of the various incomplete records of board elections and the need to update and clarify them. Eric said it was on his list of things to do when he becomes president. Jan wants to be clear on the number of board members they need to recruit. Jerry said there should be clarification of the number of past presidents who participate, and he suggested three.

Board Meeting: Ron said he would include reports from the Regents and Alumni Association liaisons and asked for any other items for the board meeting. Eric reported that it is possible that the UMN Center on Healthy Aging and Innovation was exploring serving as the host institution for AROHE, but that it was very preliminary and unlikely. Ron said that was too premature to discuss with the board.

Meeting adjourned by Ron at 2:25 p.m.