

Materials for Monday's UMRA Board Meeting

Dec 9, 2022,
5:21 PM

to Eric, Julie, Kristy, Jan, John, Will, donohue, me, Cherie, Laura, Russell, Kate, Jerry, Barbara, Cathrine,

I've attached three things for your review for the Board meeting:

- 1) Final overall summary results from 346 respondents
- 2) A page of observations on some subgroup analyses
- 3) Notes from the meeting Diane and I had at the Campus Club today.

The agenda of the meeting is to decide what we want to do with our March, April, and May forums. We need to decide whether we want to go to Midland Hills, stay at the Campus Club, or do both.

Notes on Meeting with Campus Club, 12/9/22

Ron Matross and Diane Young

We met with three representatives from the Campus Club: Ann Holt, Executive Director, Rhonda Erickson, Assistant Director, and Mollie White, Events Coordinator. Our notes and answers to our questions follow.

Is the Campus Club scheduling future events? The Campus Club will be in business for the remainder of this fiscal year and the following fiscal year and would welcome our business.

Is the Campus Club adequately staffed to meet our needs? They believe they have the staff to service our events, as long as they are buffets. They are currently fully staffed, with only occasional shortages in the morning. They generally do not have enough staff to do plated lunches for us, but could muster the necessary staff if we insisted, but at a price--\$35.00 plus 25% service fee and 7.5% taxes.

Will costs increase? Yes. The \$600 room fee for the West Wing will go up to \$800 next fall plus the \$200 for technology, but the fee for the ABC room will remain at \$525 plus \$200 for technology. The \$25 lunch charge (tax and service fee included) will remain the same until the University raises the amount it permits departments to spend on food. As soon as that happens, the lunch cost will go up to whatever the University sets for reimbursement.

Can the Campus Club do morning or afternoon coffees? Yes, but there is a minimum charge of \$1850 for food and beverages with a room rental, making the charges not that much lower than the lunch costs (We are double checking this point). They now also offer breakfasts. We could do a cold breakfast buffet for \$17.95 per person, and a hot buffet for \$23.95.

How significant is our business to them? We are important customers, but they do many events for groups our size or larger. If we give them a budget, they are willing to work with us to determine what could be provided for that budget.

What is the long-term future of the Campus Club? The CC is applying to become a 501-3c organization that more fully embraces the mission of feeding the campus community writ large. They have worked with Second Harvest Heartland to provide free meals, but are limited in that work by their current tax status. They envision rebranding their organization and abandoning the old club and membership model. Event and food sales will still be their main source of revenue, but they will also be free to fundraise. There will likely still be memberships in order to use space, but they will be not be to a "club".

Observations on the Fall 2022 UMRA Program Survey

Ron Matross

12/08/2022

Responses

We received responses from 346 people, more than in any other UMRA Survey except our 2019 survey on volunteerism.

Obstacles

- Three factors were named as obstacles (major or minor) by a majority of respondents.
 - Covid/other disease concerns—68%
 - Schedule conflicts—55%
 - Parking—54%

While only 7% named parking as a major obstacle, it is clearly an irritant to many.

- Those who had not attended any in-person events this year generally saw all the factors as more of an obstacle than those who had attended. One difference stands out as both statistically significant and noteworthy:
 - 55% of those who have not attended said that not knowing enough people was an obstacle, with 16% saying it's a major obstacle. (Compared to only 26% and 2% among attenders)

Formats

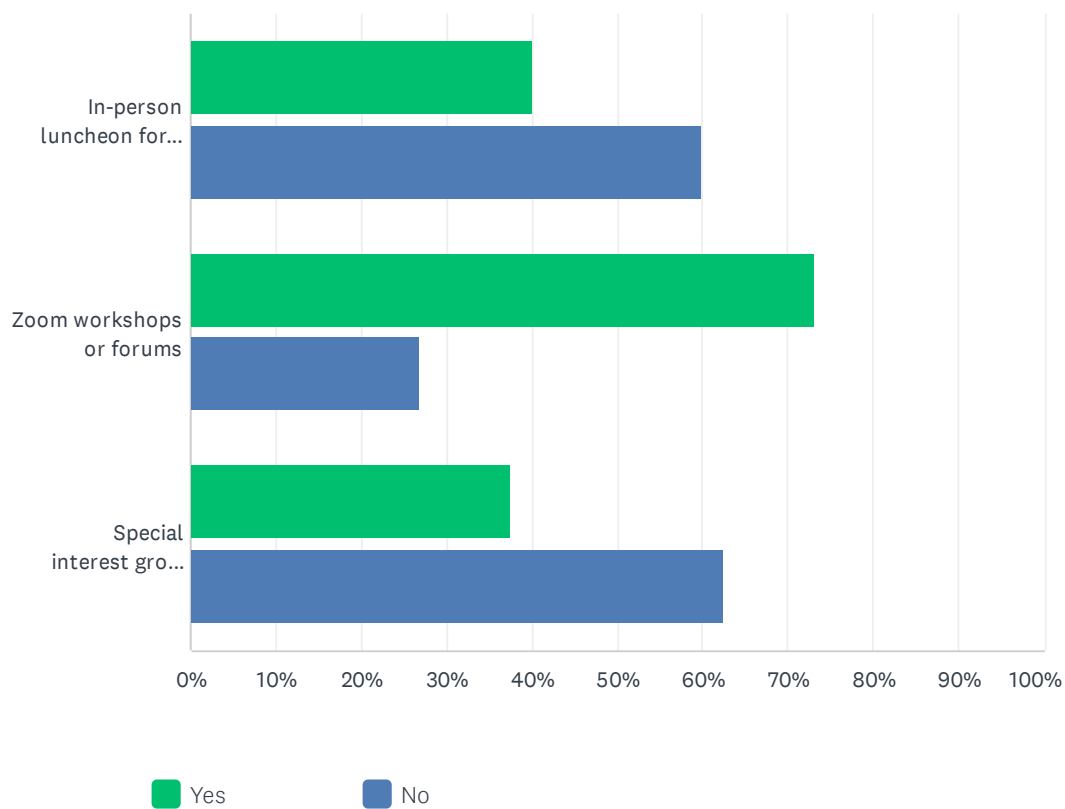
- By themselves, the proposed coffee formats were generally rated as less appealing than the luncheon formats.
 - The two luncheon formats together were the top choice of 46%, compared with only 19% for the coffee formats.
 - However, 35% said that a mix of luncheons and coffees was their top choice. Taken together with those who preferred the coffee formats, we can infer that 54% indicated an openness to the alternative format.
- Those who had attended UMRA events regularly before COVID (N=87) had a much stronger preference for luncheons.
 - 65% preferred the luncheon formats, and the traditional hot lunch was their single most favored choice at 40%

Importance of an On-Campus Location

- Respondents were split on their views of the importance of being on campus.
 - 54% said it was very or somewhat important to stay on campus, and 45% said it was not important or only slightly important.
- The pre-Covid regulars were strongly in favor of a campus location, with 69% saying that it was very or somewhat important to stay on campus (28% very and 41% somewhat)
- Among those who had attended events this year, 67% replied that a campus location was very or somewhat important, while among those who had not attended, a 56% majority said the campus location was not important or only slightly important.

Q1 Since July 2021, have you attended any of these UMRA events:

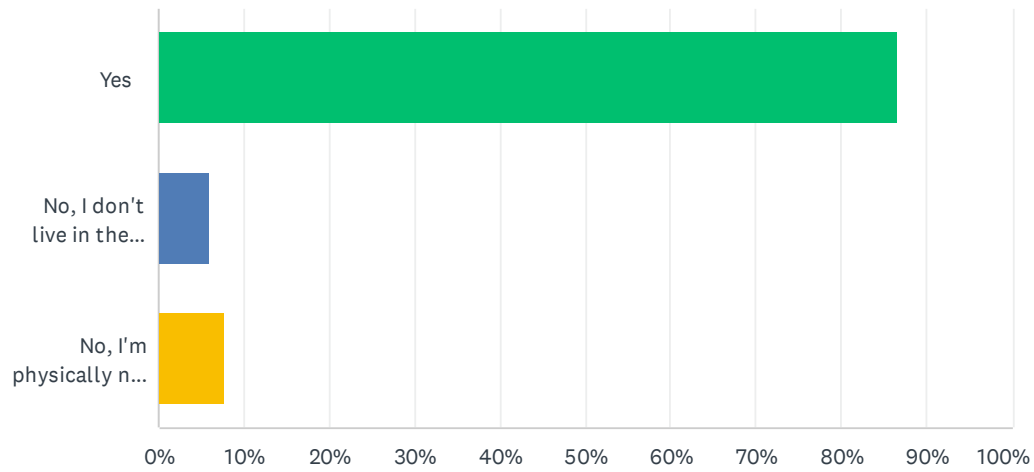
Answered: 343 Skipped: 3



	YES	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
In-person luncheon forums or social events	40.12% 134	59.88% 200	334	1.60
Zoom workshops or forums	73.11% 242	26.89% 89	331	1.27
Special interest group or committee meetings	37.54% 119	62.46% 198	317	1.62

Q2 Are you able to attend any UMRA in-person events?

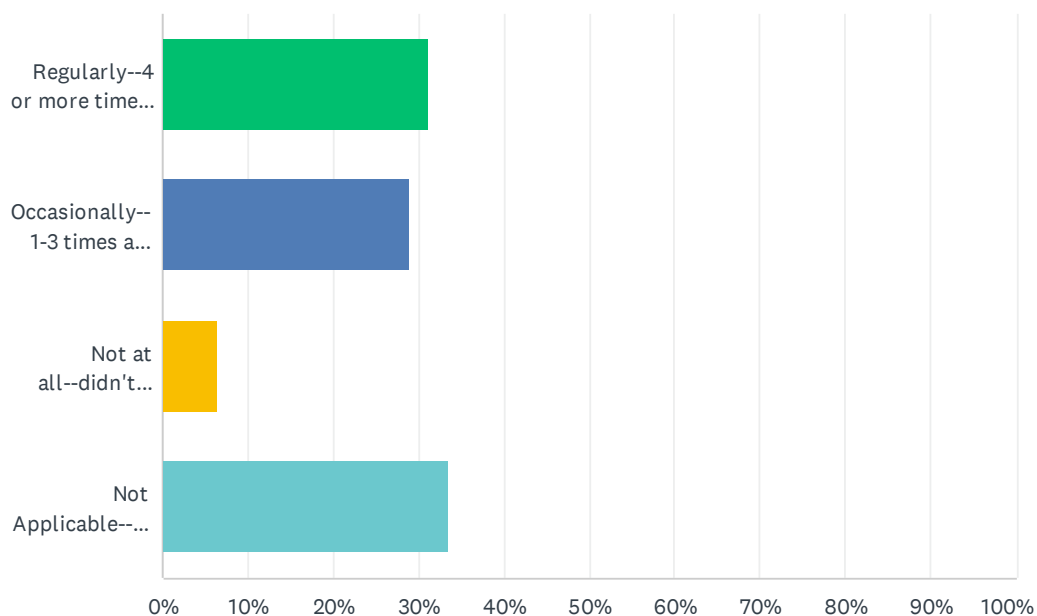
Answered: 341 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.51%	295
No, I don't live in the area	5.87%	20
No, I'm physically not able	7.62%	26
TOTAL		341

Q3 Pre-COVID, how often did you attend UMRA in-person events?

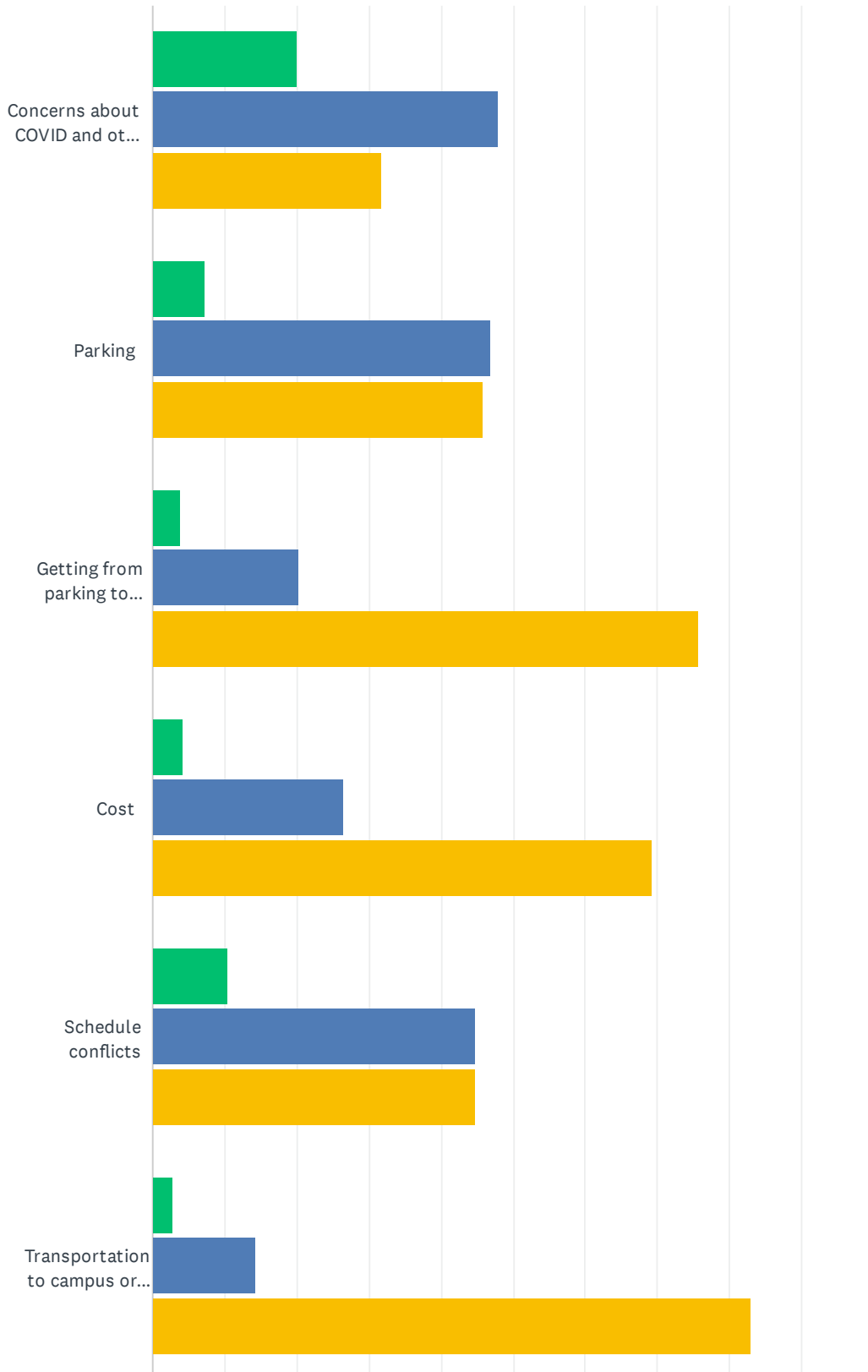
Answered: 280 Skipped: 66



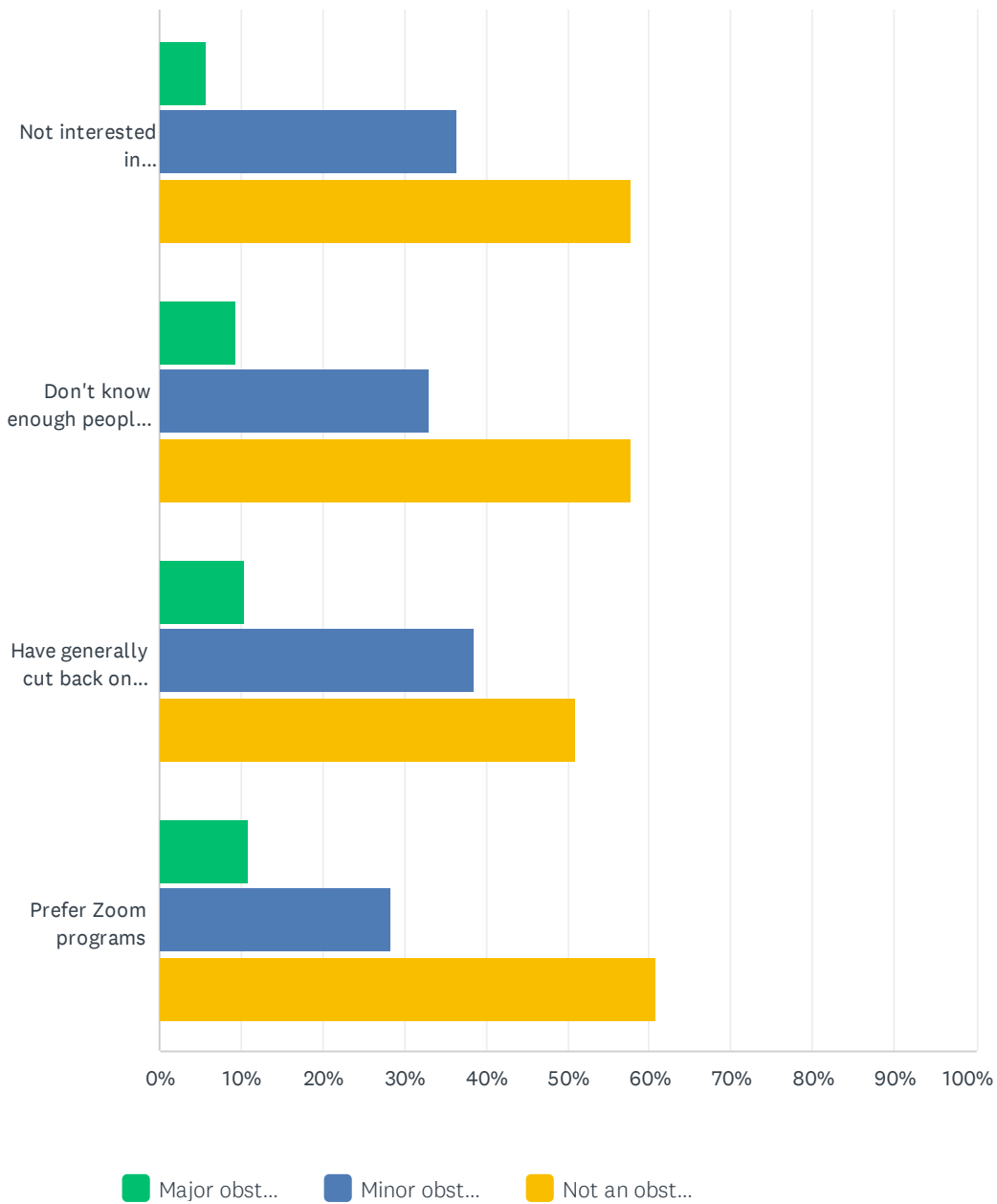
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Regularly--4 or more times a year	31.07%	87
Occasionally-- 1-3 times a year	28.93%	81
Not at all--didn't attend	6.43%	18
Not Applicable--wasn't an UMRA member then	33.57%	94
TOTAL		280

Q4 Are the following factors obstacles to your attending UMRA in-person events?

Answered: 283 Skipped: 63



UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey



UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

	MAJOR OBSTACLE	MINOR OBSTACLE	NOT AN OBSTACLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Concerns about COVID and other infectious diseases	20.14% 57	48.06% 136	31.80% 90	283	1.88
Parking	7.22% 20	46.93% 130	45.85% 127	277	1.61
Getting from parking to Campus Club	3.93% 11	20.36% 57	75.71% 212	280	1.28
Cost	4.27% 12	26.33% 74	69.40% 195	281	1.35
Schedule conflicts	10.39% 29	44.80% 125	44.80% 125	279	1.66
Transportation to campus or other venue	2.85% 8	14.23% 40	82.92% 233	281	1.20
Not interested in speakers/topics	5.82% 16	36.36% 100	57.82% 159	275	1.48
Don't know enough people there	9.32% 26	32.97% 92	57.71% 161	279	1.52
Have generally cut back on going out	10.47% 29	38.63% 107	50.90% 141	277	1.60
Prefer Zoom programs	10.86% 29	28.46% 76	60.67% 162	267	1.50

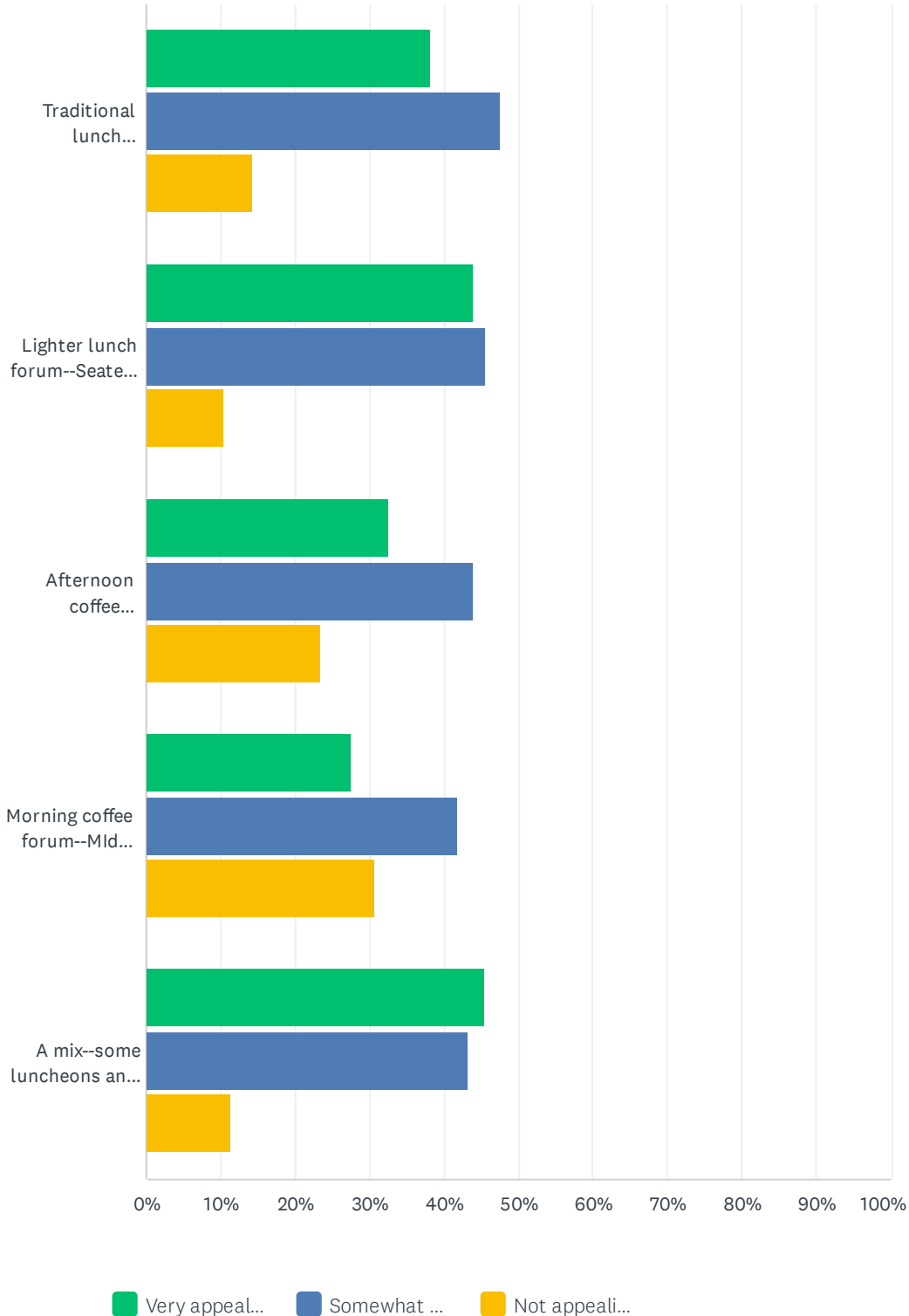
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I'm new so am not aware of some events.	12/5/2022 6:34 PM
2	I am a (gregarious) loner. My only contact has been with Craig Swan on genealogical matters. I enjoyed it.	12/5/2022 3:41 PM
3	Parking is a major issue. Have no desire to walk from lots on the other side of University Ave. to events near Washington Ave in hte winter. Like zoom but have had scheduling conflicts.	12/5/2022 9:41 AM
4	I'm avoiding being in large and/or maskless groups, e.g. UMRA lunches in winter especially. I appreciate all the zoom sessions and would like to have more. Can UMRA lunches be zoomed too, in addition to being in-person? Although I wrote "very appealing" in q. #5, I would only attend virtually, if that were an option. It is possible to use software that puts people virtually at tables, and have the option to move virtually to other tables. A school reunion i was at held the reunion in a virtual room with tables of this sort, very effective.	12/2/2022 3:54 PM
5	often offered on same day of week and conflicts with work schedule.	12/2/2022 2:16 PM
6	At this point I prefer zoom programs.	12/2/2022 11:55 AM
7	Distance from campus.	12/2/2022 11:42 AM
8	There was COVID, my husband died, now traveling again and eager for in person UMRA	12/2/2022 11:33 AM
9	I was never notified of anything! I paid my money and got nothing. I assumed you had not resumed these events.	12/2/2022 11:31 AM
10	The speakers/topics have been interesting; I like the mix of in person and Zoom.	12/1/2022 7:18 PM
11	I seemed to attend more sessions when they were all on Zoom in 2020-21, including topics I may not have gone to but would do remotely.	11/30/2022 11:35 PM
12	I'm in favor of Zoom so would be disappointed if we moved away from that format.	11/30/2022 11:34 PM
13	I love the in person meetings.	11/30/2022 7:14 PM
14	I live about 30 miles from campus so only plan on attending about 2-3 times per year.	11/30/2022 4:05 PM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

15	Medical appointments and my spouse's health have limited my outings this year.	11/30/2022 10:31 AM
16	The campus club is most inconvenient to get to.	11/30/2022 8:59 AM
17	At this point I am only doing Zoom including Board of Directors and Exec Committee for nonprofit	11/30/2022 1:33 AM
18	reduce vision from aging, hate to drive long distance, need my spouse or friend to drive me to campus	11/29/2022 11:55 PM
19	I'm a board member	11/29/2022 6:47 PM
20	Difficult to get away because my husband cannot be left alone and impossible to get him to the campus club from parking. I would love to attend. Would attend by zoom which I don't love but it is better than nothing.	11/29/2022 5:31 PM
21	I currently do not have a car so it's helpful if events are at places I can get to by public transit.	11/29/2022 3:59 PM
22	My spouse, who was the retired employee, just passed away on 4/30/22 and it is not as much fun to go alone, as I do not know folks.	11/29/2022 3:31 PM
23	The uncompleted questions would be "not a problem."	11/29/2022 1:17 PM
24	I am still transitioning from the work life to the retired life and my schedule is still full.	11/29/2022 12:38 PM
25	I am not averse to attending in-person UMRA events, but would wear a mask, so I would not partake of food and beverages. I am interested in all of the formats listed below, but have indicated "not appealing" as all involve food/beverages for which I would pay, but not consume.	11/29/2022 12:17 PM
26	I	11/29/2022 11:42 AM
27	Winter snow and ice are a problem and an obstacle for me	11/29/2022 11:37 AM
28	travel	11/29/2022 11:37 AM
29	Concern about campus crime and surrounding area raises concern about getting to the UMRA event safely even during the day.	11/29/2022 11:21 AM
30	I have cut back on going out, and I prefer Zoom programs (does that make them an obstacle or not an obstacle?)	11/29/2022 11:18 AM
31	I value the in person luncheon with a speaker at the Campus Club. Travel and weather conflict sometimes. Grateful programs are also available on zoom.	11/29/2022 11:05 AM
32	Alas, I tutor ESL Citizenship on Tuesdays, otherwise I might come to Campus Club on the bus. Although we have had a lot of bills lately, so the cost is a concern, too.	11/29/2022 10:49 AM
33	Generally do not go out much for socializing these days, but I do miss a wider social circle.	11/29/2022 10:44 AM
34	I do prefer Zoom meetings. Simpler and less prep required. As a non-academic, I have fewer contacts there.	11/29/2022 10:34 AM
35	Didn't know how to answer last question given answer options. But do prefer Zoom programs.	11/29/2022 10:24 AM
36	Generally, I have cut back on going out since COVID and I am 88; still driving, etc. but more restrictions are probably in my near future. I can, however, participate on Zoom.	11/29/2022 10:24 AM
37	We are not always interested in the speaker. Probably won't attend monthly, but will come 2-3 times a year.	11/29/2022 10:24 AM
38	Out of town for some of the events	11/29/2022 10:20 AM

Q5 UMRA's traditional luncheon forums combine a hot lunch, socializing at tables, and a speaker. We'd like to know whether there is interest in other formats. How appealing to you is each of the following?

Answered: 283 Skipped: 63

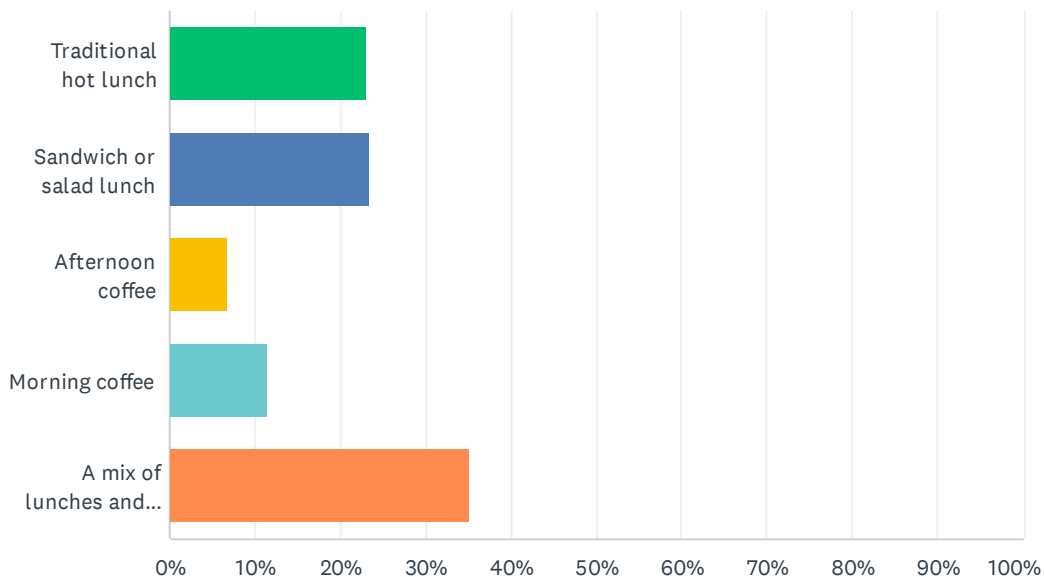


UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

	VERY APPEALING	SOMEWHAT APPEALING	NOT APPEALING	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Traditional lunch forum--Seated at tables, hot lunch, followed by a speaker	38.18% 105	47.64% 131	14.18% 39	275	2.24
Lighter lunch forum--Seated at tables, sandwich or salad lunch, speaker (slightly less expensive)	43.88% 122	45.68% 127	10.43% 29	278	2.33
Afternoon coffee forum--Early afternoon, seated at tables, coffee and snack, speaker (substantially less expensive)	32.61% 90	43.84% 121	23.55% 65	276	2.09
Morning coffee forum--Mid morning, seated at tables, coffee and snack, speaker (substantially less expensive)	27.44% 76	41.88% 116	30.69% 85	277	1.97
A mix--some luncheons and some coffees	45.42% 124	43.22% 118	11.36% 31	273	2.34

Q6 Which one of the forum formats from question 5 above is your top preference?

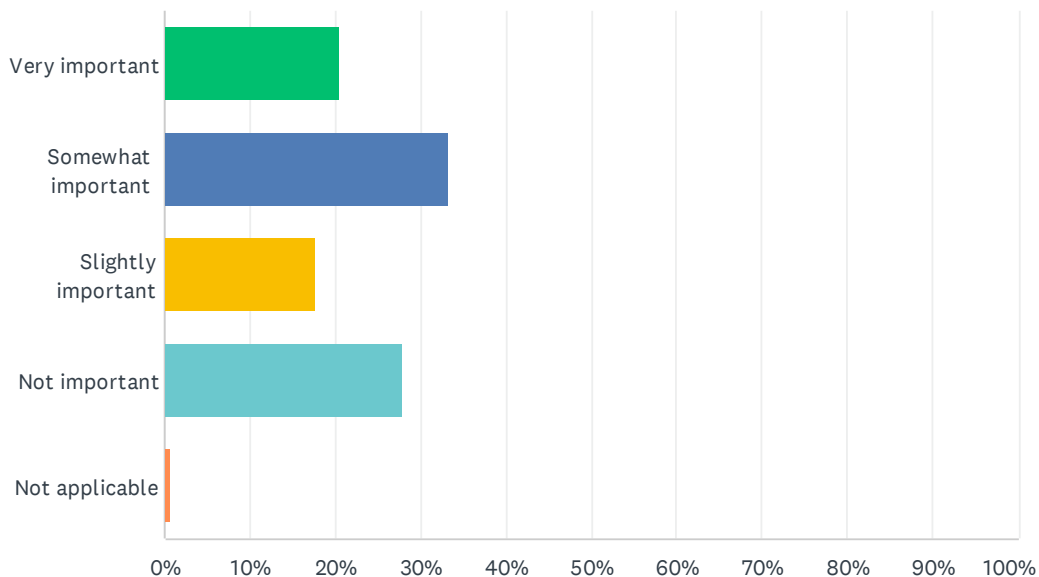
Answered: 278 Skipped: 68



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Traditional hot lunch	23.02%	64
Sandwich or salad lunch	23.38%	65
Afternoon coffee	6.83%	19
Morning coffee	11.51%	32
A mix of lunches and coffees	35.25%	98
TOTAL		278

Q7 How important is to you, personally, to have our in-person forums at a location on the University campus?

Answered: 283 Skipped: 63



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	20.49%	58
Somewhat important	33.22%	94
Slightly important	17.67%	50
Not important	27.92%	79
Not applicable	0.71%	2
TOTAL		283

Q8 Finally, how we can make our in-person and virtual events better? Include suggestions for speakers and topics if you have them.

Answered: 152 Skipped: 194

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The current format for both is very good. Have not had enough experience with all events to comment. I hope to be more flexible to join the programs next year. Thanks.	12/6/2022 4:19 PM
2	As I have written before, my husband cannot get very far with his walker. Parking for the Union is impossibly too far. Even parking at Como was too far. We miss attending.	12/6/2022 2:08 PM
3	I have interest in the events whether in person or virtual, however, due to scheduling conflicts have been unable to attend in person yet.	12/6/2022 9:14 AM
4	In-person meal events are appealing and excellent. Given - the parking (fee is fine, challenge to find a space); the drive to campus (40 miles round trip); and not knowing anyone there (I'm sure it would be friendly once I got there, but unlikely to have significant conversations so I'd just be sitting there) - it is overall more convenient to watch online. Virtual events are good in variety and topics.	12/6/2022 8:36 AM
5	As I am older there is a hassle factor getting to the U and parking. Also prior to COVID the lunch tho always delicious, was very crowded. I have no particular requests, I am pretty much interested in any subject an expert is willing to expound on.	12/6/2022 4:49 AM
6	I think the in-person events are enjoyable. I'd appreciate topics on art, also travel opportunities within the U.S.	12/5/2022 8:16 PM
7	I enjoy programs related to science, health, outdoors and travel. Thanks!	12/5/2022 6:48 PM
8	I've only been to one event - lunch at coffman with a buffet, not in the campus club. Yes, parking was a problem but next time I will be aware of that and plan ahead. As as first timer I was indeed frustrated (and late!) and almost went home but ended in northrup ramp and had a great time afterall. I found everyone so friendly. I'm too new to have any other opinions. I'm happy to have joined!	12/5/2022 6:34 PM
9	Sometimes I don't attend not because I am not interested in speakers, but because I have a previous calendar item and cannot break it. Also, I don't know that many people there and feel uncomfortable sitting at tables where I don't know anyone. I am interested in most speakers especially on medical and financial issues.	12/5/2022 5:42 PM
10	I sent info about making accessibility better at handicap entrance.	12/5/2022 4:25 PM
11	One or two chairs by the disability entrance for Coffman and a bench outside by the s8dewalk are needed for people with walkers or canes as they wait for their driver to pick them up.	12/5/2022 4:24 PM
12	Interesting campus speakers on topics Hobbies of retries Travel stories	12/5/2022 3:56 PM
13	For most of us, the Covid shutdown of businesses and venues was devastating. We got out of going out to restaurants and events and still haven't gotten back into the routine. I think what UMRA has done with Zoom talks has been outstanding and I admire the talent the people behind these talks have done. All have been impressive and informative. Previously, when we attended talks in person, those, too, were wonderful, but I'm afraid I don't have any ideas about future speakers or topics. I just need to get back into the routine of going places.	12/5/2022 3:48 PM
14	I am sorry to have to say I haven't a clue.	12/5/2022 3:41 PM
15	As a newer member, I have been enjoying the current format and making new friends. Thanks!	12/5/2022 3:09 PM
16	An insider's perspective on the state legislature. This could be from a U lobbyist, retired or current legislator or staff member or perhaps a pair or panel of speakers. History of the U - perspectives we may not have heard Recent significant medical or scientific research at the U. Presentation on brain plasticity was fascinating and relevant.	12/5/2022 2:52 PM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

17	I will be moving to Iowa in the next few months to be closer to family, so will not be able to attend in person. However, I am still interested in what is happening at the UMN and with UMRA. Thanks for all your hard work!!	12/5/2022 2:47 PM
18	Managing Minnesota forests and preserving old growth forests, Invasive species and effect on Minnesota lakes and proposed solutions, CFANS should have professors to recommend.	12/5/2022 2:00 PM
19	Just joined within the past year and live in Duluth.	12/5/2022 1:04 PM
20	Topics I'm interested in.... Lgbtq . Getting a ride to campus	12/5/2022 12:17 PM
21	Virtual is better for me. Just keep them coming!	12/5/2022 12:04 PM
22	A coffee where we move around would make it easier to meet and chat with people.	12/5/2022 11:46 AM
23	They sound pretty good. I'm a new member and just haven't had time as yet,	12/5/2022 11:28 AM
24	I would be happy to attend online events via Zoom, but I no longer live in Minnesota.	12/5/2022 11:26 AM
25	It would be good if those of us who do not live in the Mpls/St Paul area could receive a quarterly list of upcoming programs that we could attend via Zoom. That list would include UMRA luncheon speakers. The notice might also include a description about how we might access virtual courses via OLLI (the U of MN Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and how we might access a directory of videos from prior luncheon speaker presentations, etc.	12/5/2022 9:50 AM
26	I like your topics - great job picking them. Scheduling problems are an issue for me as I am quite busy with other activities, volunteering, etc. Is there a possibility of recording Zoom events and making them available so people can watch at their convenience?	12/5/2022 9:41 AM
27	Enjoy the mix of in-person and Zoom events, and hope you'll keep offering both options, depending on the topic.	12/4/2022 11:48 PM
28	Seems like they can be anywhere, maybe other host facilities. There was no option for early morning breakfast/speaker. That would be easiest for me since I still work. Thanks, Cass	12/4/2022 10:59 PM
29	No suggestions at this time. I have had an interest in speakers and topics but, with some conflicts, have not participated much to date.	12/4/2022 7:04 PM
30	Having sometimes regionalized in person events with UMRA members may give more accessibility to more people.	12/4/2022 10:47 AM
31	Foster inclusiveness and welcoming environment. Sometimes feels like a closed club.	12/3/2022 4:55 PM
32	How about more speakers on political topics that affect Seniors.	12/3/2022 6:55 AM
33	I've enjoyed all the luncheons and speakers I've attended - not only the food and the stimulating presentations, but the chance to meet other members as well.	12/2/2022 9:33 PM
34	Still a little spooked by Covid and gathering. A spacious location would help. Although I could not attend, the Como Pavilion activity was appealing.	12/2/2022 5:01 PM
35	Just don't move UMRA events to the distant suburbs!	12/2/2022 4:46 PM
36	I hope to be able to attend luncheons by fall, 2023. Not sure. Much appreciate zoom, livestream, or recording to watch later. Problems arose suddenly in May, 2022 and while in ok control now I, cannot go far from apartment at this time,	12/2/2022 4:05 PM
37	I am OK with lighter lunch formats but not replacing forums with breakfast meetings. I think UMRA should sponsor smaller in person breakfasts on specialty topics like breast or prostate cancer and put a limit on the number of who can attend. The format can be brief remarks by the expert followed by extended discussion. Sort of like UMRA AM but in person.	12/2/2022 3:58 PM
38	Speaker suggestions: Joe Gaugler, Robert Kane professorship in Aging. I'm part of a local group called Land Conservation Natural Burial that is seeking a conservancy site in the TC for natural green burial. Ask someone from the group to educate us about what natural green burial is and what the benefits are. It's an option that is catching on nationally. PBS had a program called "Bury me at Taylor Hollow" describing natural burial and that group's process of securing a natural site in Tennessee; the video has an example of a natural burial ceremony. Natural burial is returning the body to the land without embalming, a casket, or the traditional funeral home intervention. Closely related is the work of a "death doula" to work with the family around dying and after. I believe someone in the local NCNB group is a doula. I also have a	12/2/2022 3:54 PM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

suggestion about the perks that UMRA has: I have a U issued computer but it doesn't have Microsoft Office installed because it was issued after I retired. I need Word on it so I can access research files. Considering the thousands of volunteer hours that UMRA folks give to the U, can the U be more generous in giving us such things as Microsoft Office, at a deep discount?

39	I wish luncheon speakers' could be accessed virtually. Perhaps they could be recorded at the luncheon and made available later on the UMRA website.	12/2/2022 2:45 PM
40	We are brand new members, so we haven't attended any events at all, so I've left those answers blank.	12/2/2022 2:11 PM
41	My wife is usually very busy with her preparations for her discussion groups.	12/2/2022 2:03 PM
42	.	12/2/2022 1:44 PM
43	Your selection of speakers and topics has been great. Keep up the good work!	12/2/2022 1:31 PM
44	I'm still settling in to retirement & have not thought long term yet	12/2/2022 1:13 PM
45	More Art/Music/Performance	12/2/2022 1:13 PM
46	The divisions within our community based on race, ethnicity and income/wealth. Homelessness Affordable housing	12/2/2022 12:26 PM
47	Vary the topics and ensure representation from a broader academic and service unit base. Research and Physical Health Science updates---Dept. of Kinesiology--contact the Dept. Chair CFANS reseach and community engagement Extension Service community engagement programs or outdoor projects. Global Strategic Alliance Programs, including Learning Aboard--this is an award winning program (Meredith McQuaid) Instiute of Child Development research on child, adolescent development--contact Megan Gunner--award winning professor. ICD research and academic programs consistently no. 1 among research 1 universities . Comparative International Development and Education (CIDE/CEHD) research and global technical assistance--contact Frances Vavrus or Joan DeJaghere (works in many global locations, but particularly Vietnam and Africa) Frances Vavrus (Africa) and other developing countries John Romano and Tom Skovolt Global Mental Health initiatives etc. CIA Low Vision and Hearing Research CSOM--Global Education Programs/Initiatives ---contact Asst. Dean Anne Di Angelo Family Social Science --gift card scams and other relevant reseach studies related to adults 65 and older--contact Dr.Marti De Leima	12/2/2022 12:26 PM
48	Keep up the interesting speakers and timely topics.	12/2/2022 12:22 PM
49	The question under "are the following factors obstacles" and then putting prefer Zoom meetings as a choice, did not make sense. I do actually prefer Zoom meetings especially in the winter. It would be great if you would change to Zoom meetings during the winter months.	12/2/2022 11:57 AM
50	How about offering a happy hour format, drinks and appetizers with a speaker? Topics Health topics Crime and safety Finding meaning in retirement Making connections in retirement Social activities you may not have ever considered Strength and balance exercises Developing or expanding your creative side	12/2/2022 11:54 AM
51	Hold events at easier access locations.	12/2/2022 11:42 AM
52	Make it easy for all to get to; a large parking lot outside of the venue would be ideal.	12/2/2022 11:33 AM
53	As I noted before, I was never sent any information about events, thus I didn't attend. I assumed you had not resumed the events. I want to attend and hope I'll get on whatever list it is that sends out notices of events.	12/2/2022 11:31 AM
54	I joined and never attended the luncheons, so I do not feel qualified to express and option. I have enjoyed the zooms. thanks, kathy	12/1/2022 5:57 PM
55	I'm a fairly new member and have enjoyed the in person meetings I went to pre-covid. It's so much better seeing people in person rather than on Zoom. As a newish member, I don't have suggestions for improvement. From what I've seen that's been presented in the past, I think you have very good program offerings!	12/1/2022 2:42 PM
56	Pay for parking or offer rides	12/1/2022 9:14 AM
57	I like the mix of speakers you've had. The U is a huge source of interesting people. I also	11/30/2022 11:35 PM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

enjoy talking to people at my table who I don't know.

58	Keep providing excellent speakers on timely topics which is my primary reason for attending the luncheons, as well as having an opportunity to meet other members. The service, food and ambiance of the Campus Club is worth the cost. Alternatively, please continue to offer Zoom sessions along with in person activities. It's much easier to participate in a variety of activities if you don't have to physically transport yourself to a meeting place in another part of the city. Would affiliating with the Alumni Association benefit our membership? Could we expand or combine our activities in reciprocal ways that would strengthen and increase our visibility within the University community?	11/30/2022 11:34 PM
59	Vary the speakers who are heavy on data with others who are more narrative or "story tellers"	11/30/2022 5:03 PM
60	If we can't make it to a luncheon, it would be nice if the forum speaker was available via zoom, or if there was at least an audio connection. I think the monthly living well speakers have been very good.	11/30/2022 4:05 PM
61	Are there other centrally located venues available that might have easier parking? It's fun to be on campus but the parking is an issue. We need extra reminders to reserve ahead because otherwise it's impossible to find a convenient place to park. I forgot to reserve parking one time and ended up turning around, skipping the luncheon, and driving back home because I could not find an available lot.	11/30/2022 10:53 AM
62	You run a good, tight schedule, but I still feel I am pressed for time. I often attend only the lunch, skipping the speaker, or only the speaker, coming in after lunch. I believe very few other UMRA members would share my feeling. Thanks for the easy, sensible, and obvious survey.	11/30/2022 10:31 AM
63	Not a direct answer to your question but I would rather have either a Zoom option for meetings or suspend meetings in the winter months rather than summer. Many of us are out of Minnesota for X number of months in the winter so can't attend. Even if I am here winter driving is too often hazardous. Driving, parking, and making one's way to the meeting room is much easier in the summer months. Maybe do a survey posing those options?	11/30/2022 10:28 AM
64	Lunch topics and speakers are good. We just cannot attend in person. We would like to see zoom links.	11/30/2022 9:28 AM
65	Have better food. more convenient place to get to, try alternative formats, i.e, sometimes a panel discussion, a debate, more time for Q&A. This group always has a lot to say and ask. Perhaps once a year some entertainment, like the U song group we had at a December gathering 3 years ago.	11/30/2022 8:59 AM
66	Current offerings seem to be a good mix. I personally enjoy current events, science and history topics	11/30/2022 7:18 AM
67	Please offer "taped / Zoom" monthly forums available to watch after the event.	11/30/2022 7:14 AM
68	It's good enough. But you face lots of competition for attention as we belong to many organizations that offer webinars or in person talks...etc. As we get OLDER, dislike driving in general	11/29/2022 11:55 PM
69	Due to health concerns I am unlikely to participate in in-person events that involve being unmasked indoors with a group (eg eating a meal) for the time being. I appreciate the option of virtual events. I would be interested in additional sessions that address practical applications of university research, especially as it applies to aging well.	11/29/2022 9:05 PM
70	Topic suggestion: The promise and perils of the use of AI in education.	11/29/2022 7:43 PM
71	Lately nearly all speakers have come from the U of M. Don't limit yourselves to that pool. In the past we've had some wonderful speakers from the community.	11/29/2022 7:21 PM
72	I think a time to socialize is important. At luncheons people talk over lunch. If we didn't have lunch, some other form of socializing time would be good. We could also add a drink time BEFORE the lunch or coffee, for social time. If we had money for it, we could provide cheese and crackers, or some other small enticement and something to keep the hands busy ;-)	11/29/2022 6:47 PM
73	Being perfectly honest, I don't think the food for the luncheons is very good and the service has been slow lately. I am in favor of trying some alternative locations. I usually really enjoy the speakers but having a Dean come and give an end of the year report was not appealing.	11/29/2022 6:42 PM
74	I like Zoom presentations, but they tend to be a bit wooden. Not the group's fault! Many of the	11/29/2022 5:35 PM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

in-person events are not to my interest. Not the group's fault! My big problem is mainly getting around on the campus, even though I need and like to be there. The U, in its infinitesimal wisdom, has taken away the handicapped parking near Wilson Library and the bus service that attended it. Crossing the street from the Parking ramp to the street bordering the campus is inconceivable for me in winter.

75	Mornings I have someone who can be with him but they leave at noon.	11/29/2022 5:31 PM
76	I'm new so not sure what you've done in the past, but debates on controversial topics and topics around aging well would be great. Thank you!	11/29/2022 5:11 PM
77	I retired during COVID so I haven't been to many events as I live with a person who is at high risk for complications. That said, if I were to attend an in person event, I would prefer it be off campus. I don't miss the congestion, safety, and parking issues that come with campus locations.	11/29/2022 4:55 PM
78	I would be interested in hearing from the Deans within the U of MN Colleges or those who serve as Regents of the University. Meeting at and learning more about what goes on at the Arboretum.	11/29/2022 4:42 PM
79	Star U faculty	11/29/2022 4:37 PM
80	Looking at Fall 2022 MN Alumni magazine: Food Stylist Betsy Nelson UMN BA '85 pp. 30-31, and Sculptor Nick Legeros, MFA UMN'83. pp. 23-24. Both interesting people with unique career paths/careers. I don't know if a fee would be involved, or if they would be interested in connecting with UMRA b/c it is a connection to UMN.	11/29/2022 4:20 PM
81	I have only been able to attend one in-person event since becoming a member and since the pandemic. It was a summer lunch at the Lake Como Pavillion. I thought it was a great place to get together, but I was dismayed that almost all the food containers, utensils, etc. were disposable. There were some items which were coded as recyclable but, unfortunately, very little "recyclable" plastic actually ends up being recycled. I would like it to be a primary consideration for in-person events to be as close to zero-waste as possible. SPEAKER/TOPIC Ideas -- Dr. Mark Seeley on "Evidence and Consequences of Climate Change in Minnesota" -- Speaker from the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum -- An outing to the Arboretum Although I'm a relatively new member of UMRA, I think you are doing a great job trying to provide interesting forums and opportunities to get together with others. Thanks for all your efforts and good work.	11/29/2022 3:59 PM
82	Topics, speakers, and luncheons are good. A different location might be appealing, somewhere with good parking.	11/29/2022 3:34 PM
83	The speakers have been terrific. Thank you.	11/29/2022 3:31 PM
84	I am a new retiree as of October 2022 and have not attended any in-person events. I did attend a Zoom meeting last year on Minnesota wines and found it to be very interesting and informative. I look forward to joining any future events (in person or Zoom) that may be of interest.	11/29/2022 3:26 PM
85	Lectures by University profs on topics from their specialties. E.g. a history prof on Ukraine or Russia, or a scientist on current research, or an art history prof on the current art scene.	11/29/2022 3:26 PM
86	I am so thankful that we now have a hosting committee -- after all these years--and glad that our new member meetings have been expanded from the one time a year. Paying attention to our new members and making them comfortable is especially important. Mixing games like at the summer social will also serve to open up our connections with one another. Speakers: I think it is very important for speakers to know their audience--to be informed so they can tailor their talk and make it mutually beneficial. When a program committee member does the ask, they should have heard the speakers and know they are good at speaking, engaging, and connecting with the audience we represent. For our publicity work in presenting that speaker we need to have information to "sell" the topic and the speaker. A bio is not enough. Perhaps beforehand, we should pose a few questions so the speakers will know what we are looking to hear about and can go beyond their usual "canned" presentations. Almost anyone can connect with an audience if they have that discussion, and after all, isn't that what most speakers want to do?	11/29/2022 3:12 PM
87	A combination of in-person and virtual events like ours are here to stay, I imagine. So make sure the technology is up to standards to enjoy.	11/29/2022 2:26 PM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

88	I'm a new member, so don't have a great deal of experience with speakers/topics! I'm looking forward to exploring!	11/29/2022 2:15 PM
89	The Violence Project: How to Stop Mass Shootings Dr. James Densley, Professor and Department Chair, School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Metro State University Non-profit-, non-partisan research center dedicated to reducing violence in society and improving related policy by using data and analysis. Funded by the National Institute of Justice. He is a dynamic speaker and explodes some myths and provide data-driven answers. He spoke at Mpls Assoc of University Women and was very well received.	11/29/2022 2:01 PM
90	Topics: Housing (eg tiny homes, variety of retirement options) Family relationships (interactions with grandchildren of all age and from a distance) (interactions with an incarcerated family member.)	11/29/2022 1:48 PM
91	Would appreciate more topics on finance and wellness.	11/29/2022 1:45 PM
92	I think they are very good and serve different purposes. Thank you for making them happen!	11/29/2022 1:45 PM
93	Great speakers and great food in a university location--the Campus Club	11/29/2022 1:28 PM
94	I used to attend the luncheons every month but as the number of people attending grew ever larger I felt rather claustrophobic and gave up coming as the room became so crowded. I'd love to return but to more spacious quarters. Cost of the meal is not a problem for me.	11/29/2022 1:17 PM
95	Just joined UMRA a few months ago so I really don't have much input to give.	11/29/2022 1:14 PM
96	Outdoor events would make me feel safer.	11/29/2022 12:58 PM
97	I haven't been to many of the in-person events, but I've been pleased with those I've attended. \$30 strikes me as high for what we got last time. The salmon and sweet potatoes were great, but no salad and no dessert. :-)	11/29/2022 12:43 PM
98	Event without food or tables--lecture hall or room in Coffman with coffee on side table	11/29/2022 12:40 PM
99	Selection is good	11/29/2022 12:30 PM
100	Is it possible to continue the virtual option for those who travel?	11/29/2022 12:25 PM
101	I enjoy the mix of topics UMRA has presented. I enjoy travel ones especially but then I am surprised how much I have enjoyed hearing about other topics. I am happy to be a member. Thank you.	11/29/2022 12:00 PM
102	I like hybrid meetings. I will attend whenever possible. When I miss a meeting, I like being able to watch the YouTube recording. Suggestions: - Michael Osterholm? - Future of print newspapers - Metro/Outstate political divide - Long-term impact of Covid on the white-collar workplace (including the University)	11/29/2022 12:00 PM
103	Begin each forum with a Wellness Minute...start with a light topic of interest following a welcome to start table conversation. It could also be tied to the speaker's topic.	11/29/2022 11:50 AM
104	1. Have mixed events--in person & on Zoom 2. Have the new VP for Research as a speaker & ask him to talk about some of the important research going on at the University 3. Encourage UMRA members to volunteer to participate in the University research projects.	11/29/2022 11:49 AM
105	Thank you We are away Feb to April	11/29/2022 11:44 AM
106	I'm a late sleeper, so in-person meetings before noon and zooms before 10 a.m. are not that appealing to me.	11/29/2022 11:40 AM
107	I think seating at tables is the best way.	11/29/2022 11:37 AM
108	Jan Malcolm (suggested to me by another UMRA member and I agree)	11/29/2022 11:37 AM
109	It would be interesting to hear from retired faculty who continue to make a difference i.e. a panel or dialogue.	11/29/2022 11:35 AM
110	I would love it if there was another venue where parking is ample and it is easy to get to the facility. It would be interesting to have a speaker on the changes in the gay/ lesbian community. I would especially like to learn about the pronouns now being used. My granddaughter is at the UN of MN and took a class which included this. It would be nice to have all the programs recorded if a member is unable to attend. Kathy Draeger is a staff	11/29/2022 11:25 AM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

person on sabbatical right now. She is working on a project called Rural Grocery Initiative. It is about how rural areas of the state get their groceries especially when there are disasters like the pandemic. She is looking at local farmers and reasons why they can't supply them and how it is government regulations that are the blocking this. There is much more to her research but someone to look at. Pauline Boss also has a new book out that might be interesting. Sometimes I'm not really interested in the program for the luncheons but I'm always glad I came as I learn something new every time. Thanks program committee.

111	Maybe more topics relevant to retirees. Estate planning was a good example. Maybe something like Medicare or benefits available to UMN retirees.	11/29/2022 11:23 AM
112	I was rarely interested in the speakers. I felt that the speakers were almost always oriented towards current social issues. I would prefer more scientific, historical or artistic topics. I doubt I will renew my membership.	11/29/2022 11:22 AM
113	The topics have been good. It might sense to limit how many in person events in the winter due to higher rates of Covid n other infectious diseases. Doing outside events in summer can be a good idea at various venues. Thanks	11/29/2022 11:21 AM
114	I prefer virtual events, so would only attend them going forward.	11/29/2022 11:18 AM
115	Keep doing Zoom, without shaming those of us who are not yet comfortable again—for valid medical and scientific reasons—with in-person crowds!! (For example, that last survey question only allowed “physically unable” or “not in the area” as reasons: mine is that my spouse recently had surgery, we often babysit a tiny relative, and we don't want to be among the 300-plus Americans over 65 still dying of COVID every single day!)	11/29/2022 11:14 AM
116	Dynamic speakers like Kathrun Pearson, Steve Sack and Fred de Sam Lavro. Would love to hear Scott Gillespie, Star Tribune, talk about the state of news/journalism. Michael Osterholm would also be great.	11/29/2022 11:10 AM
117	I encourage having UMN faculty member speak on their research and administrators speak on the UMN policy direction and issues.	11/29/2022 11:05 AM
118	Prefer topics related to the university and its mission rather than those that deal with personal issues associated with retirement. That is-- what's going on with U and how are policy issues being dealt with. Also, what local and national policy issues are the subject of university involvement (energy, environment, public health, international affairs).	11/29/2022 11:01 AM
119	Because of mobility issues related to parking at Coffman, it is impossible for me to attend monthly meetings. This I deeply regret. I can't help but think that there may be members - and prospective members - who as they age cannot get to The Campus Club for the meetings. Has any thought been given to an alternative site for meetings? Thanks for considering this observation from an interested member. Bob Veninga, Professor Emeritus, School of Public Health. 651-472-0919	11/29/2022 10:57 AM
120	1. Zoom is a good way to be inclusive. 2. Topics I am interested in are: medical research in progress new medical devices how diseases might impact us as we age new medical technology (hearing aids, heart monitors, blood pressure and blood glucose monitors) 3. I suggest speakers active or retired from the medical school staff, students working in research areas, UMRA members with expertise and experience in a given area (Drs.Cerra or Bantle for example)	11/29/2022 10:57 AM
121	Virtual -- Generally I like the topics and I zoom in to watch. But then I find some speakers to be just reading their power points, or if they are talking they sometimes have their camera pointed at the top of side of their head, or they aren't looking at the camera. The best talks are the ones where the speaker is engaged with us visually and mentally and isn't reading from a power point slide. I often watch the recording, if there is one, and speed it up to 1.25x.	11/29/2022 10:55 AM
122	Sorry, no suggestions, but most of the recent luncheon speakers were not of enough interest to me. I also dislike the idea of an overpriced and puny lunch. Dessert is one tiny bit of candy!?	11/29/2022 10:54 AM
123	Climate change: what can we do that would be most impactful? Cognitive health strategies Break-throughs in health care delivery and treatments Nonviolent Peaceforce: Innovative strategies for managing international and national conflicts.	11/29/2022 10:53 AM
124	More zoom	11/29/2022 10:51 AM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

125	Don't know	11/29/2022 10:50 AM
126	I am so sad that I have had a scheduling conflict as I think you provide wonderful programs. Asynchronous Zoom options for all programs would be best for me at this time. The only UMRA activity that fits in my schedule is the UMRA Book Club on Zoom.	11/29/2022 10:49 AM
127	Volunteer activities report.	11/29/2022 10:49 AM
128	Speaker suggestions: Jan Malcolm (she could talk about any number of public health issues -- not least the need for public health education of professionals and the general population -- depending on the time, in addition to her experience being in the crosshairs during COVID) MPR Host Angela Davis, about "life in Minnesota and how the state is changing" -- the focus of her 9am M-F program on MPR news PDGR grant recipient and documentary video producer Randy Croce	11/29/2022 10:49 AM
129	Can the luncheon speakers also be zoomed for those not attending in person? Thank you for taking time to survey membership.	11/29/2022 10:46 AM
130	Perhaps include occasionally more academic subjects, although still for non-specialist audiences.	11/29/2022 10:44 AM
131	I think the choice of speakers has generally been very good; interesting subject matter that is nearly always timely and of general interest	11/29/2022 10:42 AM
132	Consider topics and speakers more relevant to the urban community that surrounds the university, both in Mpls and St Paul. Affordable housing (housing as human right not an investment market for wealthy corporations), for example, or food insecurity or automatic weapons or securing higher wages for more workers in areas combating climate change; include speakers with lived experience of the problem(s) being addressed, not just academic or big picture speakers describing the issue. And don't stop at describing the problem; get ideas from both academics and people with lived experience and practical suggestions for possible solutions. Goal: one on one relationships between retirees and people pursuing well being of community members outside academia.	11/29/2022 10:41 AM
133	Keep them bi-modal, whenever feasible.	11/29/2022 10:39 AM
134	In-person luncheon forums have proven effective, but my wife and I find the overall effort not adequately rewarding. Getting there, staying protected during a waning pandemic, finding a parking space, having little conversation time (mostly superficial), eating a so-so lunch, and enjoying an interesting presentation doesn't seem worth the effort. Suggestion: How about charging a nominal fee to members who elect to view the presentation, either as a streaming event or as a post-forum video? A hybrid form might reach more people, also keep the in-person audience small enough for more convivial socializing.	11/29/2022 10:37 AM
135	Perhaps a more open plan for events, lead by various members of the community and an on-site expert. These might be smaller on-campus tours/visits to museums, libraries, special sites and/or regional visits. More variety and more active participation seems useful for individuals and the group. These would be singular events led by volunteers.	11/29/2022 10:36 AM
136	Speaker suggestion: Invite UMRA prof dev grant recipients to discuss their projects, perhaps two or three at a meeting, chosen from different areas of the University.	11/29/2022 10:35 AM
137	I'm new to UMRA and have not yet attended any forums, though many look interesting. I wonder if UMRA events feel targeted to faculty and staff feel less heard/welcomed (I'll have to try it and find out, I know!). Additionally, thirty dollars seems steep for a lunch. Thanks for all your efforts - I do read and appreciate UMRA emails and publications.	11/29/2022 10:32 AM
138	Due to scheduling conflicts I was able to "attend" many more events. Thank you for incorporating zoom. I particularly enjoy the diversity and variety of speakers and topics. Two suggestions: The chair of the Mortuary Science Program at the U of M...Michael LuBrant(sp?) ; A person from the University Commercialization group within the Office of Research Thanks for your leadership!	11/29/2022 10:32 AM
139	We have a wealth of resources in our community. In person is the best, but combination of in person and Zoom would likely reach more people.	11/29/2022 10:30 AM
140	Recent authors of non-medical works.	11/29/2022 10:28 AM
141	They are already good! Campus location is handy for LRT riders, and easier for U faculty	11/29/2022 10:28 AM

UMRA Fall 2022 Program Survey

	speakers to attend. But trying some new (less expensive) venues, with parking, is a good idea.	
142	Alternative location away from campus with available parking.	11/29/2022 10:27 AM
143	I am not attending because covid is not over. Perhaps the committee could pay attention to the recommendations of Michael Osterholm. I get people are tired of covid and acting like it is over. Given the demographics of our group we are in the high risk category. We need to be mindful of it. Prior to covid we were packed in like sardines for the lunches which physically was often uncomfortable. With covid it is now dangerous. Furthermore the lunches have been WAY to expensive for what you get. I still went because the programs and companionship were more important. By moving off campus to a larger venue we could get better lunches that are less expensive. I will most likely, attend again when the covid risk is not as high.	11/29/2022 10:27 AM
144	Thanks for great programs! Jan Malcolm, retired from MN Dep't of Health, led MN thru COVID response; has a connection with the U. Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan Karen Diver, Senior Advisor to the Pres on Native Amer Affairs and citizen of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa--tho' I haven't heard her speak! We could seek advice from Deb Cran or other who would have seen her in action. Steven Ruggles, recent awardee of the MacArthur "Genius Grant" for his work with the UMN Population Center, https://www.startribune.com/u-professor-wins-macarthur-genius-grant/600215180/ --to talk about how the work of the Center has helped to generate results in hundreds of research areas across the U.S. and the world. Eric H. has gathered other excellent suggestions on his Program Committee spreadsheet.	11/29/2022 10:26 AM
145	Your committee does such a good job; I don't have suggestions. Thank you.	11/29/2022 10:24 AM
146	A mix of speakers at in-person events, mix of lunches and coffees, Zoom events for interest groups such as Family History and Travel are great.	11/29/2022 10:24 AM
147	I have been very pleased with the offerings - both the topics and the speakers. When I cannot attend, I like the option of having "tapes" on the UMRA web site. I like the social aspects of the in-person gatherings.	11/29/2022 10:20 AM
148	limprove content and quality of lunches	11/29/2022 10:18 AM
149	I am very pleased with the traditional formats and speaker choices.	11/29/2022 10:17 AM
150	I am a satisfied customer! I also am flexible and would leave it up to the Board to find an alternative location to meet, if preferred by this survey.	11/29/2022 10:16 AM
151	More opportunities to interact with new people.	11/29/2022 10:14 AM
152	I really like the Zoom events.	11/29/2022 10:12 AM