

# **Age-Friendly University (AFU)**

## **Annual Report, 2023-24**

### **Executive Summary**

The AFU Council includes representatives from UMN groups with activities related to aging and serves as a coordinating group. UMRA has a position on this Council and participates in one of their key programs – the Age Friendly University Day held in June each year. The Council also supported UMRA's efforts in early 2024 to modify the U's decision to terminate UMN emails for non-emeriti UMRA members.

### **Recommendations**

1. UMRA continue to provide a representative to the AFU Council. Eric Hockert is currently serving in this role as a successor to Lynn Anderson.
2. UMRA continue to participate in the AFU Day (June 2025) in coordination with the UMRA Membership and Communications Committee.
3. UMRA leadership consider additional ways to engage with the Council in areas of mutual benefit related to an aging population of UMN retirees.
4. Identify if there are opportunities to provide volunteer services to the AFU Council member departments. The UMRA AFU representative (currently Eric Hockert) to connect with URVC and the Council leadership (Rajean Moone) to open a dialogue.

### **Background**

The University of Minnesota was admitted to the international Age-Friendly University (AFU) consortium in September 2020. UMRA asked Lynn Anderson to serve as the UMRA representative to the U of M's AFU planning committee in May 2020. When the U was admitted to AFU our group became a Council.

The Council meets about 6 times a year. In our meetings we have gotten to know each other and our units and all of the contributions that we are making toward helping the U expand its ability to be an even better AFU and reach more people. We are sharing relevant information about our units with each

Lynn Anderson  
AFU Representative from UMRA FY24  
Eric Hockert  
AFU Representative from UMRA FY25  
8/25/24

other's members. There has been some preliminary consultation with the UMC, UMD, UMM, and UMR campuses but we do not yet have members from those campuses on our Council.

The AFU Council has planned and held an Age Friendly University Day on the third ay Monday in June since 2022. Lynn Anderson was involved in the planning of each AFU day and UMRA was engaged, supportive, and many UMRA members participated. UMRA had a booth at each AFU Day. The day has included a breakfast and lunch, a presentation by the Vice President, a presentation by a member of the AFU Council, presentations from local (and national) age-friendly organizations, tabling by all of our Council organizations and a few more (for instance AARP), and workshops.

The Council wrote a letter in support of UMRA's efforts to modify the university's decision to terminate UMN emails (and associated access to UMN IT systems). This letter was sent to university leadership.

Lynn Anderson had to resign her position on the AFU Council in February 2024 and UMRA President Eric Hockert assumed responsibility for representing UMRA at AFU Council meetings. Thank you, Eric!

Lynn C. Anderson

UMRA Representative to the AFU Council (FY24)

Eric Hockert

UMRA Representative to the AFU Council (FY25)

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