

Date: June 12, 2024
To: UMRA Committee Chairs
From: Eric Hockert, UMRA President
Jerry Rinehart, Co-Chair, UMRA Organizational Continuity Committee (OCC)
Re: **UMRA Committee Chair Annual Reports Overview**

Annual reports from committee chairs, special interest group leaders, representatives/liaisons, and officers are intended to enhance UMRA's continuity and operations. As board members and leaders come and go, institutional memory is a challenge. These reports keep UMRA moving forward with predictable and effective service to its members and community.

Importantly, these annual reflections also facilitate thinking about UMRA's progress toward achieving its mission. They help the board become aware of issues, challenges, and successes within UMRA's various activities and interests. The Organizational Continuity Committee reads and summarizes all the reports for the board.

The template below is intended to provide guidance for your report. Each section should be as brief and concise as possible, but you should feel free to add information you feel relevant that does not fit into the template categories. Simply skip any sections not applicable. If the essence of your report is readily known and available elsewhere, i.e. in meeting minutes, simply state where it can be found.

Thank you for your work on behalf of UMRA.

The following template is for use by:
Committee Chairs/leaders

UMRA committee chair annual report

DATE: April 7, 2025

TO: Cathy Lee Gierke, OCC Co-Chair,
Julia Wallace, UMRA Archivist

FROM: Cabinets of Curiosity

RE: Annual Report 2024-24

Charge to the Committee (Briefly, one sentence)

Not a committee, this activity was member-generated to allow members to visit collections on the UMN campus and see behind the scenes what they hold and learn how they are used for research and teaching purposes.

Committee members (include any designated duties)

The coordinating team included Jan Morlock, Cathy Lee Gierke, and Sally Gregory Kohlstedt.

Activities (Number of meetings, location, number participating, etc.)

Four visits: Anderson Horticultural Library, Kerlan Children's Collection, Herbarium (2 visits), University Archives (2 visits)

Focus of activities and key outcomes/accomplishments of this committee this year

The visits highlighted the significant collections that help define the university's research and teaching missions with an average of 25 participants at each session and sometimes followed by an informal conversation at a local restaurant. These tours were so successful that most were over-subscribed and had a waiting list. We have worked to accommodate larger numbers with duplicated tours.

Policy issues or changes over the year? Why?

NA

Challenges or problems faced/solved? Innovations?

NA

Suggestions for future chairs/leaders

Follow the basic formula described in the UMRA Toolbox and allow for creative responses to the particular opportunities of each site.

What could UMRA leadership do to enhance your committee's work?

Continue to allow the organizers to be autonomous while reporting regularly on their activities.

Suggestions for what you and/or the organization you work with could do that would help UMRA move forward?

Continue to encourage member initiatives and innovative ideas in which the leadership is provided and outcomes are successful. This current practice is highly successful and adds to the dynamism of UMRA.