

DATE: August 6, 2025

TO: Organizational Continuity Committee Chair (OCC)

FROM: Jerry Rinehart, Chair URVC Leadership Council
Deanne Magnusson, Vice Chair

RE: **FY25 URVC Leadership Council Annual Report to UMRA**

URVC Overview and Mission:

Since 1987 the University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC) has served the University by matching volunteers with departmental and community projects. It is powered by volunteer staff who, on the one hand, work with site and project coordinators to identify needs; and, on the other hand, recruit appropriately qualified volunteers to meet those needs.

URVC's mission is to connect volunteers with service opportunities within the University of Minnesota and surrounding community in fulfillment of the URVC's core value, which is that volunteering is both a source of personal reward and a way of addressing the needs of others.

Charge: The URVC Leadership Council provides overall direction and guidance for the Center and the volunteer staff who facilitate URVC's efforts to meet its mission. Its vision is to *reveal UM Retirees and Community Volunteers as Vital Partners in Addressing University and Community Needs*.

Activities

As required in the bylaws, the Leadership Council met every other month [seven times via Zoom, and once in-person (May 2025)]. The Council meetings focused on key social and environmental factors impacting volunteer participation and community needs. These efforts were essential both in setting goals for the coming year and in identifying increased level of support needed to accomplish them.

The Leadership Council also continued reviewing volunteer participation and outcomes and spent considerable time on internal organizational and structural issues (see below).

University re-organization this year resulted in new central administration leadership for URVC—it now reports to the University's Vice-President for Marketing and Communication, Chris Gade. Rinehart and Magnusson met with VP Gade in June (via Zoom) and July (in person). [See "Outcomes/Accomplishments" below.]

Operational Outcomes This Year

As seen in the table included (*URVC Volunteer Service Report*), URVC facilitated the participation of 168 retirees in 70 projects (40 on campus and 30 in the broader community) this past year. These efforts contributed 6829 hours of volunteer service to the University and surrounding community, with an estimated value of \$ 260,595 (based on nationally accepted valuation of volunteer service hours).

We are particularly pleased, however, with the increased participation in the Post Doc mentoring program and health-related research projects. Environmentally focused activities and the Silver Gopher Service Corps continue to provide opportunities for UM volunteers to work as “teams” allowing participants to experience both social engagement and valuable community service.

Other Key Activities:

- Rinehart and Magnusson had two meetings with VP Gade during which he indicated a commitment to providing in-kind and technical support to help meet URVC communications and marketing needs. Gade also indicated he sees URVC’s activities as well aligned with his efforts to bring “good news” about the U to both internal and external audiences. At this point, we appear to have a designated Senior Communications staff member assigned to work with us. This arrangement will be pursued in FY26.
- Internally, the Council revised its Bylaws to 1) expand its membership from nine to twelve members, allowing it to bring additional talent and experience to its deliberations; and 2) change members’ terms of office from two, 3-year terms--to three, 3-year terms--upon a candidate’s successful re-election following each term.
- Nominations and elections were conducted in March-April 2025, resulting in re-election of Deanne Magnusson, Andrew Phelan, and Michelle Trudeau-Spanjers, and the election of two new members: Scott Elton and Don Lifto, bringing Council membership to 12. Late in the year, we had a resignation bringing the number down to 11.
- We continue to appreciate the excellent financial services and guidance provided to URVC by UMRA Treasurer Kristy Frost-Griep.

Suggestions for future chairs/leaders:

Establishing connections with new University administration leaders (e.g. in Marketing and Communications, and the Offices of the Provost and President) will continue to be important to raising URVC’s visibility within the U. An important component of these efforts could be to establish contacts/liasons with deans’ offices in collegiate units. This activity could be easier to accomplish with a senior University Vice President providing leadership in Marketing and Communication.



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URVC VOLUNTEER SERVICE REPORT

Summary	JUL 2023 - JUN 2024	JUL 2024 - JUN 2025
TOTAL NO. OF URVC VOLUNTEER MEMBERS CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN BETTER IMPACT	459	462
TOTAL NO. OF ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS (includes only reported research project volunteers)	173	168
TOTAL NO. OF ACTIVE VOLUNTEER PROJECTS	75	70
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STUDIES	20	20
UNIVERSITY NON-RESEARCH PROJECTS	32	20
COMMUNITY PROJECTS	33	30
TOTAL NO. OF SILVER GOPHER PROJECTS	8	4
TOTAL NO. OF NEW PROJECTS	19	15
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STUDIES	7	10
UNIVERSITY NON-RESEARCH PROJECTS	8	4
COMMUNITY	4	1
TOTAL NO. OF PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS	44	47
RECURRING OR SCHEDULED PROJECTS	25	21
ON-GOING OR UNSCHEDULED PROJECTS	11	18
RESEARCH STUDIES	8	8
TOTAL NO. OF REPORTED VOLUNTEER HOURS	7536	6868
VOLUNTEER ECONOMIC IMPACT (HOURS x \$38.16/HR 2025)	\$273,632	* \$262,083

**Value of Volunteer Time Report. April 2024. Independent Sector Nonprofits / Do Good Institute (University of Maryland). Minnesota Value = \$36.31/hr.*

FY25 URVC Roster

David Hunter

Jeanne Jacobson

Leslie Koidahl -*Secretary*

Deanne Magnusson-*Vice Chair/Projects Director*

Andrew Phelan

Jerry Rinehart-*Chair*

Lynn Slifer

Terry Smith

Michelle Trudeau-Spanjers

Diane Young-*UMRA President-Elect*

Kristy Frost Griep-*Treasurer (Ex officio)*

Newly Elected For Terms FY26-FY28 :

Scott Elton

Don Lifto