

(Draft) UMRA Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 22, 2021 11:00 a.m.
Zoom call-in

Present: John Anderson, John Bantle, Kris Bettin, Frank Cerra, Will Craig, Bill Donohue, Gary Engstrand, Cathy Lee Gierke, Cherie Hamilton, Greg Hestness, Eric Hockert, Jean Kinsey, Ron Matross, Kris Mortensen, Claudia Parliament, Chip Peterson, Donna Peterson, Jerry Rinehart, Barbara Shiels, Cathrine Wambach, Gloria Williams

1. Anecdotes

Frank convened the meeting at 11:00 and announced that he would have to leave the meeting early and that Jan would take over as chair.

Frank also reported that he, Bill, and Jan had met with Ole Gram in the Provost's office, at Ole's request, to discuss retiree amenities. The discussion arose because in the normal policy review process, the Faculty Emeriti Policy had come up for review. Gram told them he expects no big changes, but that there may be a need for an adjoining administrative policy. There is no corresponding policy for P&A, Civil Service, or Bargaining Unit staff. He said that if you have a umn.edu account, it is not likely to go away.

Bill added that it is possible the University will remove the umn.edu accounts from retirees [and others, like alums?], but it is not likely. Jan said that the amenities most likely to be scrutinized are those where the University is paying for a license and offering benefits that have financial implications. She agreed that Gram said it was unlikely the UMRA email address [umra@umn.edu] would be changed.

Jerry suggested that Frank or others talk with the U of M Foundation about this. He noted that the University tries to get students to keep their umn.edu emails as a way to keep them connected to the University. To take away the umn.edu email address from them would be self-defeating.

2. Review/approval of January Board Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. EC Draft Minutes

There were no questions about the draft 2/15 Executive Committee minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report

Greg reported that the checkbook balance is \$24,393 and that there has not been much activity in January. There have been no OIT charges yet. There were revenues of \$2,665 (some of which is dedicated for Zoom funding) and expenses of \$1,297, for a net gain of \$1,837. There have been expenses and revenues in February.

The Board unanimously approved Greg's report.

5. JOIE Editor

Will introduced Kris Bettin, approved as JOIE editor at the last Board meeting, and said she had hit the ground running. He asked her to discuss what is in the hopper.

Kris B began by saying she is ready to upload papers to JOIE and there are four submissions in the pipeline in various stages of review. One problem has been obtaining reviewers, so she is seeking to expand the pool in order that subsets of people can review articles, rather than asking all reviewers to review every submission. She would like to increase the visibility of JOIE in order to increase the number of submissions and will rely on the UMRA website and newsletter to help. She wants it to be clear that submissions are open to the entire University community (and she already has one submission from an alumnus).

Will said he appreciated how Kris B has clarified the purpose of the journal and what she is looking for; that should help increase the number of submissions. Kris said she will keep polishing the purpose so everyone knows it is a journal of public interest open to anyone at the University, retired or not. Most important is high quality. Will noted that one paper coming is a history of the Family Social Science department from Jan Hogan. The UMRA Board, he added, is a potential source of writers.

Gloria reminded Kris B that all materials related to the journal should be provided to her (Gloria) for placement in the Archives.

Kris B related that the journal had no provision for continuity; there was no documentation on procedures or anything else, so she has been keeping notes and will set up a Google account so the next editor can know what has been done. Frank told her that he would like to see her job description as well as the continuity information she is preparing. He observed that most journal websites provide information on formatting, topics, and so on. He thanked Kris for taking the position and thanked Will for his work on rejuvenating the journal.

6. Nominations Committee Report

Bill noted that he had distributed a memo to the Board about the Nominations Committee, an annual event. The Board must take action today to approve the appointment of the Nominations Committee. He provided the names of those proposed to serve:

1. Jeanne Markell
2. John Romano
3. Peggy Rinehart
4. Barbara Shiels, Board member
5. Jan Morlock, President Elect
6. Bill Donohue, Past President

Two members of the Board are leaving, creating two vacancies, Bill said. KaiMay Terry has said she is willing to stand for re-election. They also need to identify a president-elect; UMRA has a treasurer and secretary and both have indicated a willingness to continue to serve. If the Board approves the appointment of the Nominations Committee, it will develop a slate of candidates for positions to be voted on at the May UMRA meeting. He invited Board members to nominate individuals for open positions.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the membership of the Nominations Committee.

7. Summer Programming

Frank told the Board that this agenda item does not require decisions and will be brought back at the March meeting. He invited the Board to provide ideas for summer programming.

Jan reported that the Program Committee had talked about a recess over the summer, as has been the practice in the past. Operating virtually now, they are hearing sentiments favoring get-togethers over the summer, the character and frequency of which have yet to be determined. She noted that John Anderson had suggested more interactive sessions, and the Program Committee is open to proposals, anything from traditional webinars to more interactive sessions.

One reason to have a recess, Jan commented, is to spell people who do the production of the virtual events. Perhaps they should think of different kinds of sessions that would require different people and skills to produce them.

Gloria asked if these sessions would be in addition to the retreat. Jan responded that a retreat is held every other year; there was one in August of 2020 so the next one would be in the summer of 2022.

Cathy W asked if there is any chance UMRA could have an outdoor face-to-face event, perhaps in August, perhaps at the Arboretum or the St. Paul gardens. Most UMRA members might be vaccinated by that time. Cherie said that the Social Activities Committee is looking at a summer event at the Campus Club, which is re-opening on May 1; if the Board approves, they will plan summer events starting in June.

Jerry said it is worth considering taking the summer off. Zoom becomes too much for many and there could be burnout among those doing the work.

Jean said that it would not be necessary to have three meetings per month in the summer; she agreed with Jerry that the production people have worked hard and need a break. One event per month, however, would help keep people together. She said the Photo Club meets over the summer most of the time, so there are UMRA groups that do meet.

Jan said she would try to settle the issue of whether there should be summer events and if so, how many, by the time of the March meeting.

8. McNamara Space

Frank provided an update on the space in McNamara, occupied by three groups. Two issues arose, the lock on the door and the telephone. There was agreement to use a standard lock and key, with the three organizational presidents deciding who should receive a key. As for the telephone, there would be no cost to UMRA for relocating the current phone to a new location. Moreover, because UMRA has an EFS code, there will be no monthly charge, so UMRA can retain the telephone line.

Kris M asked if the suite number in McNamara would remain the same. Frank said that was undecided; he will let her know. Kris said it can be changed in the newsletter if necessary.

9. Organizational Continuity

Jerry recalled that the task force on organizational continuity has provided several reports to the Board; this one—distributed in advance of the meeting—is the conclusion of the reports. They recommend establishing the Organizational Continuity Committee (OCC) to bring together the history committee, a historian, the archivist, and others. Under the provisions of UMRA bylaws, the president appoints the committee. Jerry added that Frank believed it would be helpful if the

Board supported the proposal. They included the charge to the committee and distinguished the positions of archivist and historian. This would not be an active committee but would serve as a resource to help committee chairs and others get reports prepared and identify where they can be more efficient. He and Chip will continue as chairs until others can be identified to assume the roles.

Chip thanked Gloria Williams, who is rotating out of the historian position, for her work and her patience in gathering materials for the archives. Gloria asked that her name be added to the list of original task force members in the report (Jerry said he would do so) and asked if this would be the final report. The final report came to the Board a couple of months ago, Jerry reminded her, and today's proposal is action to establish a committee pursuant to the task force recommendations.

Gloria raised a question about the role of historian versus archivist and whether Julie Wallace preferred the title "historian." Gloria said she thought Julie Wallace was interested in undertaking or promoting work on UMRA's history. Chip said if Julie is indeed interested in the role of Historian as well as Archivist, there is no reason she could not occupy both positions. Chip indicated he would follow up with Julie to clarify.

Frank clarified that the OCC is a new committee and that the History Committee is disbanded. He asked Jerry and Chip to let him know when they need to be on an agenda and to send him the names of new members so he can appointment them to the new committee.

Jerry also thanked Cathy LG, who had been a key player in the work of the task force. Cathy LG reported that she had directed Kris B to Google Drive; it is not for toolkits and so on but it is a way to do collaborative online work. The UMRA archives webpages are more narrowly focused.

At this point Jan assumed the chair.

10. Committee Reports¹

10c. Program: Jan drew attention to the written report she had provided and reviewed the programs for the next three months. Barbara reiterated the Program Committee report point that Greg did a great program on February 9 on the history of policing in Minneapolis. She learned a lot from his talk.

10d. Workshops: Ron reported that the scheduled speaker lost his Internet connection just as the February 16 workshop was starting so it was rescheduled to

¹ There was no 10a or 10b on the agenda.

March 2. They had a record number of people sign up—114—and many of them were willing to sign up for March 2. On March 16 the presenter will be Erik Moore, the University Archivist and head of the Digital Conservancy, who will talk about how to spot treasures in family records and documents. April will have a talk about the mystery of the Minneapolis mega-murder and the speaker will be a national park ranger; it should be a lot of fun. May will bring Dr. Ann VanHeest to talk about keeping your hands and fingers healthy.

10e. PDGR: John B reported there is \$6,145 from crowd-funding; with the challenge grants, there is about a \$48,000 balance. The PDGR Committee meeting focused on increasing mentorship in the future and raising money since the program lost the University funding. A faculty member from Morris joined the Committee; he looks forward to a Duluth faculty member and would like another one from the Twin Cities. Jan suggested looking for a Twin Cities faculty member from among the new UMRA members.

10f. Communication and Outreach: Jean reported that the Committee has a meeting scheduled for March 4 and will take up a number of issues related to how to handle communication post-COVID. She called together an ad hoc group on February 10 to discuss communication and programming going forward and will bring recommendations to the Board later. The rock star of the Committee is Will; his suggestions about PDGR led to four articles in different publications.

[Will later clarified that there were five publications from his PDGR impact study and that the full report will be published in JOIE.] Gloria asked Will to submit this information to her for the Archives. Will said that it should be part of the C&O annual report.

Kris M noted that it was an article Will wrote for the newsletter summarizing the impact of PDGR that prompted the second \$10,000 matching gift was donated.

10g. Social Activity and Travel: Cherie said that John A had sent her a report on the interest survey indicating that one person was interested in the Social Activities Committee; she sent information to the person, who seems interested. Three others were interested in travel and she let them know of opportunities to participate.

Cherie later reported that the Portugal trip is still on hold and that she thought the price might go down.

10h. Membership: John A recapped how UMRA recruits new members, through the letter from the Office of Human Resources that UMRA provides. OHR

tells him how many such letters go out each month. The average last year was about 25 per month; September-November were 77, 77, 76, December was 159, and January was 510. The last is clearly the effect of the retirement incentive the University offered. There has been quite a bit of interest in UMRA membership (the first year is free): 39 in February, larger than usual because of the large retiree numbers in December and January.

UMRA held a virtual new-member event in October and have decided to do them more frequently. There was another one on February 11 with breakout rooms and 19 new members. The response was good and people indicated they'd had fun. After the event, John sent an interest survey to those who participated and those who had been invited; there were 19 responses. He said he was glad to know that Cherie had made contact with those who'd expressed interest in social activities and travel.

They plan another new-member event in May, because it is more likely people will be interested in joining UMRA soon after they retire.

Cherie asked if there are activities people expressed interest in that UMRA does not offer such that it should consider expanding activities? John A said that is the responsibility of the Board to determine.

John B asked if anyone had expressed interest in the PDGR Committee. John A said that none had done so.

10i. Regents Liaison: Jerry said he had nothing to add beyond the written report he had provided the Board. There has been much covered in the press, both good and bad. The alcohol advertising policy was very controversial. UMRA could recommend a change in its policy in that regard.

Bill asked if the Board plans to do a self-assessment or if it is occurring. Jerry said it has not been done but the Board is talking about it. Brian Steeves [Board of Regents Executive Director] asked if he should move forward on bringing in an outside consultant, but a self-assessment is difficult for a body that cannot choose its own members. So there will be more discussion; there was reluctance on the part of some to do a self-assessment. Is the worry that the Board would receive bad press from it, Bill asked? It appears that way, Jerry said. Bill observed that the Board has conducted a self-assessment in the past and he was surprised it would not do so now. Jerry subsequently added a correction to his report regarding this issue: Steeves indicated that this process (should it proceed) would likely not be exempt from open meeting/privacy laws.

The other major report was on policing and diversity issues. Some see the police as a problem, some see a lack of police as a problem. Included among a number of recommendations in the report were requiring body cams for campus police; adding officers and call boxes; establishing a campus safety oversight

committee; moving UMPD organizationally to the office of Finance and Planning. Students are concerned about the militarization of the police but they are always glad—if they get in trouble—when they are dealt with by the University police rather than Minneapolis police.

10j. URVC: Eric said he had no update this month.

Bill commented on the regent selection process (now going on) and reported there would be a legislative meeting (Joint Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee) to recommend four new regents to the legislature. The election will take place sometime after February 23.

Jan adjourned the meeting at 1:25.

-- Gary Engstrand

UMRA
February 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>1/1/21</u>	<u>2/1/2021</u>
Savings Account	\$6,972	\$6,972
Savings Certificate	10,243	10,243
Checking Account	<u>7,178</u>	<u>6,977</u>
Total Checking and Savings	\$24,393	\$24,192

REVENUE

 Sponsorship-Bakken \$1,000

EXPENSES

 Newsletter
 Editing and Production \$900
 Printing & Mailing 195
 Total Newsletter \$1,095

 TOTAL EXPENSE \$1,095

GAIN/(LOSS) (\$201)

- Checking balanced as of 3/1/2021
- Very quiet month of activity
- March is the end of Q3. I will do both March and Q3 reports.

Greg Hestness, Treasurer

- I. **President's Report:**
 - a. **Introduced new VP and Dean of Students, Dr. Calvin Philips . Position will have system-wide responsibility and report directly to the President**
- II. **Report of Student Representatives to Board of Regents (65 pages)-Primary areas include:**
 - a. **Promoting a Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive, and Prosperous Campus**
 - i. **Accountability across our University**
 - ii. **Increasing Representational and Student Diversity**
 - b. **Public Health at the University of Minnesota**
 - i. **Access to health services; geographical insurance gaps**
 - ii. **Recommend updating student health plans (SBHP)—graduate students have limited dental access/coverage; disability insurance for grad asst; retirement plans for graduate assistants.**
 - iii. **Research on racism in health care/access**
 - c. **The Avenues of Student Advocacy**
 - i. **Role of student government on each campus—noted lack of interaction of these organizations with the Board.**
 - ii. **Recommend annual student government audit and report to the Board.**
 - iii. **Current model of student reps to the Board is inadequate**
 - d. **Q & A -- Powell thanked all participants. Noted how extensive the report was (JR note: the 65 page report contains data for each of the five campuses included many previous presentations to Board over the past years regarding enrollments, graduation rates, student survey data, plus full written reports from each campus student government unit). Powell asked –what are the biggest opportunities?**
 - i. **MSA President Jael Kerandi—student annual forum; UMD Student Govt. Abdulla Ali (UMD student rep)—addressing accountability measures—renaming of buildings; MIAC resolution; health insurance coverage gaps**
 - ii. **Davenport: from your experiences, how do you transition from year to year with change over in student organizations; how do you have continuity of effort?**
 1. **Transition reports containing review of the past years efforts and key activities are essential**
 - iii. **Anderson: re: health services –should we explore further access to UM Fairview—for services, particularly for graduate students?**
 - iv. **Rosha: wants to make himself available for one on one discussion—individual role, not as Board. Would be happy to be involved in re-naming discussions**
 - v. **Sviggum: 2019 report on Campus Climate—noted analysis by specific identities/groupings and their respective feelings of support/belonging—he notes that the survey showed those with conservative political orientation were among those feeling most left out/unsupported. Kerandi—MSA et. Al. represent all students and**

- actively seek engagement of those with all political views. Ali—UMD also has forums for all students.
- vi. Mayeron: re: avenues for student advocacy and interaction with Regents. Good governance respects various constituents and respective roles—UM does seem to be collaborative, but recommendations in the report suggests current avenues are insufficient. Is this true? Kerandi—feels students have great relationship with administration; but limited interaction with Board and the interactions rests on students initiating it. Wants Board to be more proactive in engaging students.
(at this point the meeting moved to discussion with Michael Osterholm—notes below) Student report continued:
 - vii. Hsu—Regents should consider student voices more fully.
 - viii. McMillan—noted much congruity/alignment in student report and UM direction and leadership. Working toward definable outcomes. Q: how do student groups across the system get access to ideas in this report. Kerandi—feels MSA understands the importance of connecting to other campus orgs.
 - ix. Beeson: report is useful—data driven. Mental health issues are top priority—but not as much time on this topic in the report. Why? Jerandi—mental health has been brought up previously, wanted to bring topics that haven't been touched on as significantly.
 - x. Jerandi—in her closing comments attacked political involvement of Board members in Regents Selection process. Referred to Maroon and Gold PAC (which Mayeron, Beeson, Powell, McMillan(?) have contributed). This undermines the process. Question of Morality!
- e. American Indian Tribal Board agreement Amendments (for review today)
Michael Goh, Vice President for Equity and Diversity
Tadd Johnson, Senior Director of American Indian Tribal Nations Relations
 - f. Goh—reviewed history of agreement since its inception in 1981. Poor coordination, lack of consultation up to 2010. Agreement at that time was overly broad. 2018 Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs.
 - g. Todd Johnson: currently working across system to find tribal members to lead the campus based advisory board.
 - h. Q&A:
 - i. McMillan—pleased with prioritization of these issues;
 - ii. Mayeron—clarifying changes
 - iii. Hsu: he and Mayeron discussed this agreement in the Gov and Policy committee meetings; he feels the agreement could be stronger
 - iv. Her: Why are there five advisory boards vs. one system-wide board?
Goh—compliance with state statute. Concern about putting too much work on the Indian community with little support. Wants to minimize the work and maximize the impact. Goh—understands and appreciates

the concern. Believes the agreement's consistency with U's M'pact 25 strategic plan will help in carrying this out.

- v. Mayeron—clarifying changes in section dealing with responsibilities of the boards—"consulting with respective chancellors"—what about TC campus? Goh response—the language is to clarify that boards work with the leaders of their respective campuses.

- III. **Strategy at Rochester Campus: Lori J. Carrell, Chancellor, University of Minnesota Rochester . President Gabel explained that each campus will eventually present their response to UM Strategic Plan. Chancellor Carrell provided overview of UM Rochester's plan ("Bluff Top U" was the previous campus plan)**
 - a. **Growth in enrollments is key: undergraduates in core program; graduate students in "Partnership Graduate Professional" program.**
 - b. **Differentiation within higher ed system--intense focus on students and documentation of the process of helping students achieve success**
 - c. **Basic tenet: apply faculty's research on student learning to practice**
 - d. **Youthful campus—first graduates in 2013—following them closely.**
 - e. **Six Career Pathways (rather than majors): Patient Care; Resilience, Well-Being, Mental Health; Business and Leadership; Emerging Health Technologies; Public Policy and Global Health; Health Care Research and Discovery**
 - f. **Uncertainty regarding how pandemic is/has impacted student thinking about higher education—enrollment goal for 2020 was 1000 students, got 920.**
 - g. **Next GenMed—Google partnership in establishing learning platforms**
 - h. **UMR has efficient administrative structure—flat, nimble, reliance on centralized support from UM system and community partners**
 - i. **Q&A:**
 - i. **Powell—more detail on what credentials students actually get? Carrell-- Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, with pathways (see above). Senior/capstone year self-designed within the pathways—and working with "Success Coaches," focused on career objectives (e.g pre-med patient care experiences.) And a Bachelor of Sciences in Health Professions degree—offered in partnership with Mayo Medical School of Health –leading to certifications and licensure.**
 - ii. **Simonsen—noted growing population of second language students in his area (SW MN)—is there a focus at UMR on serving these students. Carrell—UMR has courses in Spanish, but not a department. UMR does have mixed population and seeks to support them.**
 - iii. **Davenport—how to build out the "good of the whole" without being spread too thin? Carrell—yes, many opportunities exist for collaboration in Rochester area. Communication with partners allows UMR to avoid duplicating what others are offering.**
 - iv. **Hsu—strongly supportive and appreciative of Mayo Clinic partnership. Recommends UMR to students frequently**

- v. **Powell—complimented Carrell on structure of presentation and focus on student outcomes. In the future would like to see six year plan for enrollments, finances etc. What should the Board be considering regarding the financial strategies. Carrell: “Bluff Top View” document presented previously has year-by-year financial plan - but that was pre-pandemic. It will be updated.**

IV. Dr. Osterholm

- a. **Kudos to UM for its response to the pandemic challenge**
- b. **We are now in eye of the hurricane. We’re feeling good, optimistic. But variant issues that arose in November actually put us in opening minutes of 1st qtr (not in late innings) of the game.**
 - i. **Eg England B117—total lockdown; variant spreading to Scandinavian countries; spreading to children. In US over 50% of new cases in Tx, FL are B117.**
 - ii. **Current case numbers make us feel good, but he feels next 6-10 weeks we will see substantial bump in infections, including children. Only 10% of population vaccinated so far.**
- c. **Concerned that 20% of 65+ have not had access to vax; moving to broader access before most vulnerable are vaxed is dangerous.**
- d. **Getting needles in arms is important, but we’ve done a poor job communicating about the years of research that has gone into the RNA approach, resulting in many conspiracy theories about its dangers.**
- e. **Feels he knows less about the virus today than he did a year ago.**
 - i. **Ref: Brazil variants and adaptability of the virus (Brazil is a “House on fire”—P1 variant)**
 - ii. **South Africa P531 – global cooperation vs. nationalism. Need international approach**
- f. **If we get population vaxed and if variants are addressed, then we will have a good summer and fall.**
 - i. **Walz opening schools, bars etc—timing is of great concern given the growth in variant infections in MN communities**
 - ii. **UM has done great job—no outbreaks in residence halls; layered approach has worked. Believes all college students will be able to be vaxed by end of May. Testing options are important to continue. Housing, Health, RecWell and Safety staff have done remarkable job during lock downs.**
 - 1. **UMN Medical Reserve Corp; CIDRAP**
 - 2. **Shout out to VP Cramer—for his leadership across campuses.**
- g. **Q&A—**
 - i. **HSU: international students and travel? Osterholm—remains to be seen.**
 - ii. **Simonsen: animal vaccines? Osterholm—not clear yet on how/when this might proceed.**

- iii. **Beeson: wondering about the new lessening of restrictions given where we stand. Are there false negatives with variants? Osterholm: yes, B117 does give a false negative in one area, but this is a “marker.” Virus gene sequencing hasn’t been done sufficiently in US. Referred to the Carver county outbreak—Good news is that UM epidemiologists are on top of this new variant.**
- iv. **Kenayana: will additional shots, boosters, be needed for variants going forward? Osterholm: referred to T cell research that may be able to take on the variants more effectively. And, Biden administration is committed to participating in global distribution of vaccines and research. It’s a production issue, not a value/political issue for current US leadership.**
- v. **Seasonality of the viruses? Osterholm: No connections found with seasons yet.**

**Notes from the UMRA Communications and Outreach Committee ZOOM meeting:
March 4, 2021
Report by Jean Kinsey**

Committee Members present: Jean Kinsey, Chair; Kris Mortensen, John Anderson, Becky Anderson, Will Craig, Claudia Parliament, Ron Matross, Jeanne Markell, Cathy Gierke, Ginny Hanson

Guests: Jan Morlock, Frank Cerra

1. Review accomplishments since the October 2020 meeting.
 - Facebook group established – Gary Engstrand
 - Alumni Association and other outreach - Will Craig
 - JOIE rejuvenation – Kris Bettin
 - Multiple email announcements for events – Kris Mortensen
 - Developed a team with expertise to run Zoom meetings – Virgil Larsen, John Anderson, Cathy Gierke

Jeanne M. reported that when recruiting for new board members, she was asked about how many paid staff UMRA has. When she was told none, the potential nominee was astounded because of the quality of the programming and operation UMRA presents. This “made our day.”

2. Web site discussion:

When the transition to Drupal 9 occurs will be the optimum time to make any desired design changes. There are some UMRA members with Drupal experience that may be willing to help with this transition.

There is a newly developed web page for new committees/interest groups to guide them in using the web page for communication with members. It accompanies the form with which to apply for a new interest group.

Action: As committee members we will review sections of the Website in March in order to give Cathy feedback on any discrepancies we find or suggestions for improvement. The list of assignments for each committee member is reiterated here. Please try to do this review in March; provide feedback to Cathy and copy me.

Sections of the Web site for each to review carefully:

Home - Jean Kinsey and Ginny Hanson

Events - Claudia Parliament

Member Benefits – Will Craig*

Serving U – John Anderson*

Newsletters - Becky Anderson

Governance - Ron Montross

Member Login - Jeanne Markell

* I switched these two around so that no one is reviewing pages they also developed. If there is any objection to this, just switch it back.

3. **Action:** Communicating with members and others with multiple media is a good thing. To this end we recommend that we post our events on our Facebook group page with a link to

our web site for registration. A person who might be responsible for this posting was suggested and will be contacted by Kris M.

4. We suggest that doing new member receptions quarterly is a good idea.

Action: The next one will likely be in April.

We reviewed the survey of interests conducted at the time of these receptions and suggested that a question differentiating between interest in attending monthly forums and workshops and planning monthly forums and workshops be added to the survey.

Ways to speed up the time between new members joining and getting their names on appropriate list serves and email lists was discussed. Discrepancies in the number of members between Cathy's data base and John's list serve and Virgil's member list will be identified by those parties.

Action: With the loss of our office in McNamara during construction, it was suggested that we (Kris) contact U of M mailing services to hold UMRA mail in some central place so that correspondence is not lost.

5. **Action:** Kris M. suggested that we send a printed newsletter to all new members for the first year of their membership. A motion was made, seconded and approved to go ahead with this.
Newsletters a produced 8 months of the year.
Records of newsletter circulation and eNews recipients and participants at Forums, Workshops and A.M. events provided by Kris M. There has been anywhere from 61 to 151 participants in our virtual events. We consider this good attendance.
6. We each expressed our opinion about whether we should continue virtual presentations after COVID-19 and we will likely go back to in person meetings at Coffman. A consensus is that we should continue to make our programs available online – Webinars or Zoom even after we have in person meetings. An important distinction was made between live streaming of events and after-the-fact webinar or other online availability. Live streaming (even if possible) would likely cannibalize live attendance and cut our in-person attendance below what we need to make room rentals and food service affordable.
7. Zoom may continue to be a good method for committee meetings and small groups. Several are very comfortable with Zoom.

Draft May 25, 2021 (time?) BD Meeting Agenda Items

1. Greeting and agenda review
2. Review and approve minutes from 5/20/20 meeting
3. Review and approval of changes to UMRA Bylaws
4. Nomination Committee Report
5. Elections
6. New President Introduction
7. Introduction of speaker
8. Speaker presentation
9. Adjourn

Zoom Polling Questions

1. Do you approve of the 5 20 20 meeting minutes?

Yes ___

No ___

2. Do you approve the changes to the UMRA Bylaws?

Yes ___

No ___

3. Do you approve the slate of officers and board appointments for 2021-2022?

Yes ___

No ___

If nomination from the floor:

4. Do you approve Ron Matross as President Elect:

Yes ___

No ___

5. Do you approve Greg Hestness as Treasurer

Yes ___

No ___

6. Do you approve Gary Engstrand as Secretary:

Yes ___

No ___

7. Do you approve the nominee

Yes ___

No ___

The Campus Club Needs Help

On March 5, 2021, I received a communication from Mary Ford, UMRA's representative to the Campus Club, regarding a letter she had received that was written by CC President Amelious Whyte after conversations with CC board members and Executive Director Ann Holt.

The CC is seeking input from some of its largest stakeholders—deans on the Twin Cities campus, development officers, the Retirees Association, and Regents professors—regarding a notification the CC received from the University stating that, due to the tremendous financial challenges at the University, the University's yearly subsidy to the CC will be discontinued at the end of the next fiscal year, on June 30, 2022, a subsidy the CC has received since 1978.

The CC needs to develop a new, sustainable business model and would like input from its important stakeholders, including UMRA.

The CC would like answers to the following questions:

1. How does the CC contribute to UMRA's efforts to accomplish the University's mission and vision?
2. What elements of the CC are important to maintain as the club considers a new business model?
3. What new or missing services could the CC provide that would further assist UMRA in meeting its goals?

The CC may use some of the responses to these three questions should there be need for continued financial support from the University under a new business model.

Until the changes brought about by the coronavirus pandemic, UMRA has been a major user of the CC for our monthly luncheon forums and workshops.

If you have suggestions/recommendations as you think about the three questions, please send them to Mary Ford at fordx045@umn.edu; she will collate them. Mary will be attending the UMRA Executive Committee meeting on April 19, 2020 when this CC request will be discussed and a response will be prepared.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Frank

To: UMRA Board

From: Nominations Committee

Re: Nominations for Board and Officers

The nominations committee was approved by the Board at its February meeting. The members are:

Jan Morlock

John Romano

Peggy Mann Rinehart

Barbara Shiels

Jeanne Markell

Bill Donohue, Past President and Chair

We began our work by seeking nominations and suggestions from the membership both on the website and in the Newsletter. We met on March 2, 2021 to discuss those who had been nominated or suggested regardless of source. We also determined to nominate the current Treasurer and the Secretary. They had just turned over last year and appear to be doing a fine job. We then contacted those who had been nominated for the Board to determine their level of interest.

On March 10 we met again to discuss the candidates and how to proceed. In our view we found a fair level of interest in the positions and we spent a good deal of time discussing the candidates. Happily, all the candidates were found to be well suited for the Board and the position of President Elect respectively.

There was a fair debate about whether the nominations committee should nominate more than one person for each of the available positions. Since we had more qualified candidates than positions available the thought was that we should nominate more than one person and let the election decide who got the position. It was argued that this often occurs in professional societies with no ill effect.

On the other hand, many felt that it was the job of the nominations committee to exercise judgement and select a person to be nominated for each position. Moreover, the Bylaws already provide that individuals can be nominated from the floor with the consent of the individual. In practice there have not been nominations from the floor and the slate is elected by acclimation.

We resolved this debate by following the past practice and agreeing to raise the issue for future elections with Board. The majority of the committee supports the idea that the nominations committee recommend one nominee for each position.

Accordingly, the Nominations Committee will nominate the following at the May 25 annual meeting for the term set forth (John Bantle will be nominated to serve the remainder of the Matross term):

Ron Matross, President Elect (2021-22)

Greg Hestness, Treasurer (2021-22)

Gary Engstrand, Secretary (2021-22)

Kai Mai Terry

Laurie Koch, Board Member (2021-24)

Diane Young, Board Member (2021-24)

John Bantle, Board Member (2021-22)

KaiMay Terry, Board Member (2021-24)

The Nominations Committee thanks all those people who participated in our nomination process and particularly their cooperation and good will. We believe that each of these nominees will be great assets to help the Retiree Association continue to be a vital force for our members and the University.

March 11, 2021

To: UMRA Board Members

From: Jan Morlock, Chair, Program Committee

Subject: Program Committee Report for March, 2021

The Committee met on Monday, March 8. This report includes recommendations from that discussion.

Consideration of summer program options.

Before COVID, it was the practice of UMRA to take a break from programs during the summer months. In April of last year, with the pandemic upon us, we went to an all-virtual format and increased our program offerings to three all-member events per month. *For Summer, 2021, we are recommending that UMRA again offer all-member programs to keep us connected with one another.* The Program Committee recommends:

- Offer one program per month over the summer, at least two of them virtual, with at least one program to be in the zoom **meeting** (rather than webinar) format to include a content presentation followed by **breakouts** for members to discuss and interact.
- Determine feasibility of an in-person, **outdoor** event as a summer social for members, likely for August. This would likely be a pre-paid, ticketed event to be held at a campus or community facility. A task force of the Program Committee has been charged to look at options and will report back in April.

Initial thoughts about transition to post-COVID programs.

*The Committee recommends that UMRA survey its members again **before we plan a return to in-person meetings.*** From the survey that we did in April, 2020 we know that a majority of members will be looking for a low public health risk before they are willing to meet again in person. Attending in-person meetings involves exposure to the broader public on campus as well as to other UMRA members.

Even after we are able to resume in-person meetings, UMRA may wish to keep some of its programs virtual, for engaging members who are out of the region or who may not be inclined or able to attend events on campus. This might include, for example, offering at least **January** and **February** programs online, while weather makes attending meetings more difficult, and while members may be traveling out of the region. Or in-person, all-member meetings may be less often than monthly, and **mixed** on the calendar with virtual programs.

Recommendation to merge the Program and the Workshop Committees.

These two committees have complementary missions and the two have been operating collaboratively anyway, for purposes of producing the best programs for the members. Ron Matross and Jan Morlock, the chairs of the two committees, concur in this recommendation.

*We propose that the President **merge the two committees** and their respective memberships to begin operating as one committee as of the start of the next program year.*

Status of remaining 2021 programs.

Committee members have come through with a strong lineup of topics and speakers for the remainder of 2021. The [link to Program Planning Worksheet is here](#). Most of the presenters are identified and confirmed, and Committee members are at work confirming the remaining speakers.

Thank you to members of the Committee: John Adams, Suzanne Bardouche, Bob Bruininks, Frank Cerra, Cherie Hamilton, Eric Hockert, Bill Donohue, Ron Matross, Jan Morlock, Marj Savage, Barb Shiels.

University Retirees Volunteer Center (URVC)

UMRA Board Report

March 22, 2021

The Volunteer Center's participation rate continues to improve with an increasing number of volunteers active in projects compared to last year's pandemic induced low point. Volunteer hours increased by 350% and number of active volunteers increased by 300% in January 2021 compared to June 2020 (the low point). However, these levels are still about 25% below the 5-year averages. We expect trends to continue in positive directions as the pandemic recedes and as our membership increases. So far this year it has increased by about 40 people to a total of 490 today which may reflect the increasing number of new retirees from the university.

Completed actions within the past few months include the following -

1. Completed Quick Start Manual (Randi Lundell – lead) to help on-board new URVC staff and Board members. This is a supplement to and subset of the more comprehensive 43-page Handbook Operations Manual.
2. Sent the URVC Annual Report to VP U Relations, President Gabel, and UMRA. Positive comments from Matt Kramer (U Relations) – URVC's parent organization and sole funding source. We plan to also send the Report to our volunteers as another way to maintain an active and transparent connection with them.
3. Development – Two URVC Board members (Al and Lucy Levitan) met with Bob Burgett (VP UMN Foundation) to explore fund raising possibilities. This was a positive discussion and we plan to continue the conversation.

Ongoing and continuing actions include the following -

1. Exchange URVC/UMRA Board membership – Discussions with Jan Morlock (incoming UMRA President) to formalize these positions.
2. URVC Membership – Established small committee to review and propose updates, if any, to URVC list of membership criteria.
3. By-Laws – Established a small committee to review and propose updates, if any, to URVC's By-Laws which were written over 30 years ago. This review will also work to harmonize the By-Laws and the URVC Operations Handbook.

3/17/21
Eric Hockert
Chair, URVC

4. Volunteer opportunities – URVC welcomes all suggestions for new volunteer opportunities that might be suitable for our membership i.e. primarily 65+ and retired. These opportunities can be either outside or inside the University of Minnesota.
5. Mentoring undergrad research – Deanne Magnusson is working with UMRA members to develop a program in coordination with the UMN Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) that could facilitate and make better known the opportunities for retired faculty to mentor student's research.

Nominations for URVC Officers

John Anderson agreed to Chair the URVC Nominating Committee with Jan Morlock and Lucy Levitan as the other committee members. If you have personal interest or comments on these positions, feel free to share them with John. Nominations will be reported to the URVC Board at its May meeting with the election to be held at the July meeting. The positions include Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Some of the current officers may wish to continue in their roles.

Re-Opened University

We hope to hold a volunteer recognition reception this Fall as we have in previous years that included a stop at Eastcliff.