

**UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)**  
**Monday, April 25, 2022**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Approved Minutes**

**In attendance (virtual):** John Bantle, Vernon Cardwell, Will Craig, Frank Cerra, Bill Donohue, Gary Engstrand, Cathy Lee Gierke, Cherie Hamilton, Greg Hestness, Laurie Koch, Ron Matross, Jan McCulloch, Jan Morlock, Kris Mortensen, Jerry Rinehart, Barb Shiels, Julie Sweitzer, Cathrine Wambach, Diane Young  
Regrets: Eric Hockert

Jan Morlock opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and asked for any changes for the agenda. There were none. Julie offered the March minutes, and it was noted that on page two, in the discussion of the professional development grants, the maximum grant should be \$15,000. Will moved approval, Laurie seconded, and all voted in favor. (The change was made in the minutes.)

**Treasurer's Report:** Greg reported moderate revenue and expenses in March. He has started but not yet completed the quarterly report and noted that expenses outran revenues each month. He is going to look for any patterns or concerns regarding expenses. Bill wanted to know if the newsletter costs were consistently as noted in the report (around \$1,071) but Greg and Kris noted there are other expenses such as mailing that are not reflected. Vern moved and Frank seconded approval of the report, followed by a unanimous vote in support.

**Annual Meeting:** Jan shared what she understands as the agenda for the day, and asked Ron to explain. Ron said Jan's agenda is correct and it will be a buffet because the Campus Club is not doing plated meals. The elections would be conducted in advance, with the ballot sent approximately May 16<sup>th</sup>. The May newsletter article on the election asked for any additional nominations. Cherie said that the nomination slate did not include the president and she thinks it should because new members and others don't know we have a president. Kris pointed out the article in the newsletter includes Ron's bio and explains that he was elected a year ago. Frank said Cherie had a cogent point and it was a good idea. Ron said he will add a statement to the ballot indicating he will be president and the president-elect on the ballot will serve the following year.

Ron turned it over to Diane, who explained that the host team has been planning the food, table setup, flowers, cards with the agenda, balloons for the Special Interest Groups' table, and nametags. She will check with Campus Club regarding having a sanitizer station. There is a reserved table in front for the invited guests, who will be hosted by board members. Jan noted that the invited guests were speakers and administrators in important roles regarding UMRA, including Bernie Gulachek from OIT and Matt Kramer of U Relations. Jerry volunteered to host Matt Kramer and Barb offered to host Deb Cran. Bill and Laurie offered to host. Cherie asked about inviting the new OLLI director, Kate Schaefer, which was met with general approval, and

Cherie will host her. Kris suggested Lynn Praska of UM Foundation should be invited. Bill said she had been honored at a previous meeting and agreed she should be included.

Jan summarized the business meeting, which she said would be an efficient 30 minutes. It will cover the reaffiliation agreement, MOU, Provost Croson's comments, election results, new president's comments, and finally recognitions. Bill suggested the MOU and Croson's comments go first, and Jan agreed. Jan will close the loop about the length of Croson's comments and whether Dean Coleman will have slides (she thinks yes).

Kris presented the Zoom/Hybrid team's work. There will be one camera, focused on the podium area. A Zoom team member will need to sit at the reserved table to help guide speakers to stay in camera range. She encouraged UMRA speakers to be descriptive of the setting to help online viewers. Someone will field local questions with microphones (Julie agreed to ask Char Greenwald). Bill asked about capacity and masks, and Kris answered 200 and optional. Kris then said Julie and Ron will need to be near podium at the reserved table, but it was later decided that Julie did not need to be. Registration will go live April 28<sup>th</sup>, and Cathy asked that online and in person registrations always be mentioned together. Kris said she placed the parking QR code on her phone, but Ron expressed concern that could lead to sharing it beyond UMRA membership.

**Reaffiliation with URVC:** Jerry reported the Implementation Team (Cathy, Will, Deanne Magnuson, Eric and Jerry) has met to identify areas needing change. He reminded us that nothing actually changes this year, which is intended for planning. They will look at bylaws, board membership and size, and how nominations occur, among other things. Jerry looks forward to being able to discuss ideas such as potential new volunteer partnerships, particularly with health care, that could help increase UMRA and URVC's presence on campus. Ron talked about increasing liaisons with colleges, and a potential Silver Service Corps. Diane said the UM Women's Club historically had a medical auxiliary. Kris asked if Vet Med used volunteers, and Jan encouraged us to look beyond the Twin Cities.

**Mission Statement:** Ron offered the language that he, Jerry and Julie had drafted, based in part on the need to include travel in the statement for coverage. They consulted with the board and the Communications and Outreach committee and made changes based on those comments. Will said he did not like it and it was too long. Bill said he supported it. He thinks the title should be centered and bolded. Barb asked whether the use of informational instead of educational was intentional, and Ron explained that it was. There was a motion for approval, which Frank seconded, and all but one voted in favor. There was one abstention.

**Regents:** Cathrine said that she, Bill, Jan and Ron had discussed plans to meet with the 4 first year Regents, as UMRA has done before. They proposed meeting with two at a time, in person, in late May, open to all UMRA members. They have contacted Brian Steeves to see if May 27 and/or 31 would work for the first session. They have the questions used in previous meetings and will review them and provide them in advance to the Regents. Laurie asked what we expect from these meetings? Cathrine said the goal is to get the Regents acquainted with UMRA and its value, and also to get to know them. Bill said that when this was done two years ago 20-30

people attended. He suggested that UMRA may want to propose a Regent's Policy on Retirees at some point and building relationships will be valuable. Cathy said we could use a free registration system if we are concerned about crowds.

**Expenditures:** Jan reported the Executive Committee had proposed and endorsed paying Sadie Brendalen and Kris Magnuson an additional \$100 each for the extra work involved in the April and May newsletters. Frank moved approval, Bill seconded, and all voted in favor.

**President's Report:** Jan reported that the Big Ten Retirees Association is meeting at Northwestern in August. She asked Julie and Kris to attend (Eric and Ron have conflicts, Jan has a tight schedule and doesn't know if she could fit it in.) She said UMRA traditionally covers the hotel, \$225 registration fee, and airfare or equivalent. Will moved approval of the expenses, and Gary seconded. Bill then encouraged the current president to attend and made a new motion to approve expenses for up to three people. Laurie seconded, and all voted in favor.

Jan said she will represent UMRA at a meeting of CLA emeriti May 4. Gary noted that the Campus Club annual meeting is at 4:30 in the West Wing the same day as UMRA's meeting and wondered about timing. Ron said we have the room until 3, and expect to be out by 2, so he's confident the Campus Club can handle it. Frank noted that the Campus Club board meeting is this Wednesday, and they should know by then whether the UM will provide support next year.

Jerry reminded the board about the May 12 social event celebrating the reaffiliation and reported that URVC will cover half of the anticipated \$400 to 500 in expenses. Bill and Laurie moved approval of expenses up to \$250 and Cherie and others seconded. All voted in favor.

Jan asked for any other business, and Kris encouraged board members to participate in the Forum on Tuesday. Jan **adjourned** the meeting at approximately 2:37 p.m.