

UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
Monday, January 24, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.
Approved Minutes

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

Jan Morlock opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and asked for approval of the November minutes. Frank moved approval, Jan McCulloch seconded, and all voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Greg discussed the November, December and quarterly reports. There was a net gain of \$2140 over the quarter, with little activity. He pursued the authorization granted him by the board in November to obtain general liability insurance coverage not to exceed \$800, and the actual cost was \$579 (invoice still to be received and paid.) Jan McCulloch moved and Jerry seconded approval of the report, followed by a unanimous vote in support.

Age-Friendly University: Jan Morlock presented the report from Lynn Anderson, who is UMRA's rep on the UM committee. Lynn is asking about UMRA support to promote the June 20 age-friendly university event, host a table with UMRA info, make a presentation, and contribute funds. Jan and Frank expressed their interested in the event. Cathrine said it was a good way to promote UMRA and suggested making a compilation video of UMRA speakers which could scroll at the table. John agreed it was a good way to promote UMRA and said he has 2,000 UMRA brochures from 3 years ago. Jerry said we should be working hand in hand with this group. Eric volunteered to be a second person (with Lynn) working on the event. Jan McCulloch moved and Ron seconded a motion in support of requests. Frank suggested the motion be modified to reflect general support for the event with a request for more information. Jerry seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Transition: Frank presented the recommendations from the task force. First is to reduce the number of meetings to two per month, with workshops on Zoom and forums returning to in person events in March. If members propose other events they will be referred to the program committee chair for consideration and possible referral to the Social Committee. In person events will comply with MN Department of Health and CDC requirements, and will require vaccinations and boosters. Ron reported that the Campus Club will be happy to host UMRA on March 22, and said we have until February 22 to commit to the event. In reality a decision needs to be made by February 10, the UMRA newsletter deadline. Campus Club has a new capacity limit of 86 for the West Wing. Staff is following UMN policy regarding vaccinations.

Jerry questioned the capacity limit and asked if there is a reduction in the room rent. The answer is no, they are still making the same size room available. Bill said the largest attendance

was 154, and he thinks March is too early. He favors May. Frank noted that the Executive Committee had discussed a survey of members. He notes New York's Omicron infections have dropped by 50% and a CDC study found that the vaccine/booster combo provides 90% protection from serious hospitalization. Ron said a survey could be sent tomorrow. Jan Morlock said a special Executive Committee would have to be called after the results are in, but that was doable. The March speaker, Tom Fisher, is expecting an in-person event. Cathrine asked if the meeting could be recorded for those who are not able to attend. The discussion indicated it was possible, but there might be additional costs. Kris raised concern about the capacity limit for the May annual meeting. Ron said we could try a hybrid in April, which would clarify any issues for May. You can vote by polling on Zoom. Cherie noted limits may change. Frank moved and Cherie and Bill seconded a motion to approve the Executive Committee making the decision about whether March is in person after reviewing survey results. The vote was all in favor. Ron then noted the average attendance is around 100 or slightly below, so 86 is not that much of a reduction. Kris said the limit could be a carrot to get people to contribute. Cathy Lee noted that for a hybrid meeting any site needs to be able to take the output from the central speakers and feed it back into the computer, which most can't do.

URVC: Eric summarized the rationale around the potential joining of URVC and UMRA. It would reduce confusion and help UMRA fulfill its service mission. It could complicate the organizational structure or restrain the current momentum. A primary issue is retaining the \$4,000 contribution from U Relations. Jerry added it is being discussed with both boards so everything is transparent. Volunteers' primary engagement is with the organization they are volunteering for, not URVC. He then thanked Will Craig for going to U Archives and obtaining 25 pages of relevant documents. A 1996 document discusses "URVC and its parent body UMRA." A 2004 statement of agreement between URVC and UMRA says "URVC has been and continues to be a committee of UMRA." Bill asked about signatures or any indication of specific approval, and Jerry said there was only mention that "central approved". The space rental at McNamara required evidence of insurance and U Relations signed for URVC, while UMRA had to obtain their own insurance. Eric noted Matt Kramer's support, and said that today's report is only an update, no action needed. Frank said he needs to see and review the written legal docs before any decisions, and asked whether sending the URVC funds outside of the U (e.g., UMRA) might require Regental approval? Bill said he thinks that, and insurance for the volunteers, can be worked out with the provost's office.

Regent visits: Cathrine asked whether the board wanted to arrange visits with the newest Regents sometime this spring. It is a two-way learning opportunity. There was general support, and Bill agreed to help arrange it. Cathrine suggested Rank, Ron and Jerry could be helpful, too.

Nominating Committee: Jan presented a proposed timeline for creating the Nominating Committee who will then prepare a slate of officers and board members for approval at the March 28 board meeting. Frank will chair it as immediate past president, and Jan asked members to get suggestions for the Nominating Committee to Frank by January 31. Bill recommended sending out a call for recommendations of people for the available offices now. Cathrine asked for a list of UMRA members, and John noted there was a director on the UMRA

website. Cathy Lee said there was a newer list and Jan said she would circulate it to board members. Bill moved approval and Jerry seconded it. The vote was unanimous in favor.

MOU with UMN: Bill reported on the meeting he and Jan held with Deb Cran that morning. It was very positive, and Deb thinks they can resolve virtually all issues. Bill is going to revise some items they discussed, and the provost will respond within two weeks. If successful, the plan is to sign the document in April and have it voted on during the May annual meeting, hopefully with the provost present.

Dues/Financial Assessment: Greg and John presented their review of FY 20 and 21, one pre-Covid and one full Covid. The main difference for the Covid year was the lack of expenses for in person event, but that was offset by the lack of revenue from those events. Newsletter expenses have increased because they have more pages now. There was no appreciable growth in the savings account or the cd, as expected. There was a small (\$1500) decline in sponsorships. They noted the couple rate has been challenged as unfair, but they aren't certain what the net impact would be if it is dropped. They don't see a compelling reason to increase due. An option is to increase luncheon fees if costs increase. The purpose of the savings and CD is not clear, so it similarly not clear whether they are adequate. Another question is whether UMRA wants to find a new source for professional development grants. Dues were last raised in 2018 and given that during the pandemic benefits are largely limited to Zoom, John favored reconsidering an increase next year. Jan McCulloch questioned whether a \$5 increase would really affect renewals.

Julie said she favored waiting a year for an increase as a five-year cycle is justifiable, and that the lunch events should be self-supporting. Kris agreed but added a concern about retention of members. John said it was partially the impact of adding a free first year membership, which brings in more people. Eric said the communications and membership committees are working on retention, and they noted that 70% of free memberships result in renewals. Jan McCulloch emphasized that the Zoom option is a positive thing and a benefit for those who find it difficult to gather in person. Cherie asked whether spouses have access to the same benefits, and no one was certain about that. Jan said she did not hear anyone proposing we raise dues now.

Eric noted that Kris and he are proposing to provide a paper copy of the newsletter to all members, at a cost of \$400. Kris said she needed to know whether that was approved by April 10, so no action was taken and the issue will be discussed at one of the next board meetings.

Jan adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:50 p.m.