

**UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)**  
**Monday, March 28, 2022**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Approved Minutes**

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

Jan Morlock opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and asked for approval of the February minutes. Julie expressed appreciation for Ron filling in as secretary and moved approval, Frank seconded, and all voted in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Greg reported sponsorships of \$500 from the UM Foundation and Bakken, as well as \$250 from the UM Bookstores. These were offset by expenses for memorials and the newsletter, as well as annual insurance premiums, resulting in a net reduction in assets. The combined savings and checking account balance is \$24,682. Laurie moved and Diane seconded approval of the report, followed by a unanimous vote in support.

**Nominations:** Frank reported that the committee had finished its work and that the Executive Committee had endorsed the slate of Eric Hockert, President-elect, Julie Sweitzer, secretary, Kristy Frost-Griep, Treasurer, Will Craig, Kate Maple and Russell Luepker, board members. There were many nominations which is a good sign for the organization. Several board members expressed support of the slate. Frank moved endorsement, Jerry seconded, and all voted in favor. Frank will contact nominees and Kris requested a photo from each.

**URVC:** Jerry reported that the work team, along with the UMRA Executive Committee and boards of both URVC and UMRA had developed a strong consensus that this reaffiliation was a good proposal. The main difference in the two organizations is that URVC recruits volunteers beyond the UMRA membership. URVC will easily fold into UMRA as a center, keeping its budget separate (although overseen by UMRA.) The financial contribution by U Relations and protection for volunteers were incorporated in the recent MOU between UMRA and UMN. Jerry thanked Will for finding several previous agreements in the archives. He is asking the board for approval, and URVC will vote the first week in April. Eric clarified that the votes will be included by April 11 and reported in the May UMRA newsletter. He thanked Jerry for the tremendous job he and the work team completed.

Frank said he supports this but wanted to be sure the UMRA treasurer oversees the budget, and the URVC finances will be reported through the UMRA treasurer. Jerry agreed and said URVC will be a subcomponent to the UMRA budget. He added that URVC board members will be appointed through the UMRA nominating committee. Cathy Lee asked when the website links should be updated and ready and Jerry said he had the options and would decide shortly.

Kris said the newsletter would go out the week of April 11 and Dee Anne Magnuson should be pulled in as she manages the URVC site.

Jan agreed with the vision of unitary treasury, and noted there is implementation work to be done, specifically reviewing documents of both organizations to make necessary changes, with a final vote in May 2023. She asked Jerry and team to continue as the implementation work group. Jerry agreed and said he would ask the team to continue. Jerry moved and Will seconded to approve the reaffiliation and charge the Implementation Group (there were 3 votes, all unanimous, as the motion was modified to become as stated in this sentence.)

**May Annual Meeting:** Ron reported that two teams are working on the event. The Zoom/hybrid team proposes that the election occur online in advance of the meeting. It will include an invitation for nominations from the 'floor', as required by UMRA's bylaws. The meeting will be a 'true hybrid' with two cameras (aimed at speaker and audience.) The broadcast will start with the business meeting, followed by the provost's remarks, main speaker Dean Coleman and a moderated Q and A. They have identified an expert to help prepare and present this first event but don't expect to need him in the future. There is a tech rehearsal Wednesday, and estimated costs should be under \$1,000. Frank moved approval of the costs, Laurie, Jan and Jerry seconded.

Diane reported on the host committee. There are two main functions, registration and welcome/engagement at the event. Char Greenwald and Diane Young are working on registration, Diane Gihl is the lead with the Campus Club, and Nancy Helm is leading communications and parking. They are working on how to provide the Special Interest Groups with visibility for sign-ups. The theme is "Ask Me" with dots on nametags indicating different aspects of involvement (SIGs, board, etc.) which are meant to prompt conversation. They anticipate some costs for nametags and printing, dots, flowers for the registration table, and clipboards for SIG signups. There was a discussion about whether UMRA has a printer, and the conclusion was no but URVC has one. Cherie asked about the SIG signups, and Diane said Diane Gihl was talking to the Campus Club that day (Monday) about several items including setting up a table inside where leaders of SIGs could recruit members if they wish. Diane G is also checking to see if the capacity limit of 86 has been lifted. Laurie asked about activities for those participating online, and Frank suggested you could flash info about the SIGs online. He amended his motion to authorize up to \$100 in host committee expenses, and the seconds agreed. There was some discussion of \$100 being insufficient and Jan said she would bring a floral arrangement. Cathy Lee was concerned about costs in the future for conducting hybrid events. Kris reminded all about the tradition of candy bars. Jan asked for a vote which was unanimous in favor.

**PDGR:** John Bantle reported that UMN agreed to fund professional development grants at \$15,000 per year, so there are applications for the next round available on the website. The committee voted to increase the maximum grant to \$15,000, hoping to increase applications. There were two resignations from the committee so they added Nancy Carpenter, retired

chemistry professor from Morris. Grants are open to any retired faculty or staff, not just UMRA members, and they are working on publicity.

**UMAA:** Will said the formal partnership agreement with UMAA was good for two years and would need to be renewed or modified as of September 2022. Activities include sharing videos of forums and participating in the Day of Service. He encourages member to report their volunteer activities in April on the UMAA site.

**Mission Statement:** Ron shared the current working draft of a new mission statement that he, Jerry and Julie developed. The revision was motivated by a need to include travel for financial reasons. Laurie said the draft was nice and short. Jan McCulloch asked about the goals in the previous (perhaps never adopted) version. Julie said they tried to keep the statement short and general, and to leave specifics, which will change more often, out. That said, the drafters looked at the previously stated goals in developing the draft and think they are incorporated in “learn, serve and connect.” Cherie thought the specific activities connect up through the mission statement. Will suggested using the first sentence only and wanted to see more on the benefits of UMRA activities to the University and community. Frank suggested combining the two sentences and said the draft meets all of his standards for a mission statement, although he agrees with Will’s desire for more about the benefits. Ron, Julie and Jerry will revise the draft after considering these comments.

**President’s Report:** Jan shared information on the Age-Friendly University event and said there will be need for more people to table on behalf of UMRA. She asked approval to invite Susan Hopp, president of the University Women’s Club, to join UMRA because of the overlapping membership and interests. The invitation was moved and seconded, with a unanimous vote in favor. Jan asked board members to look at the list of new members and reach out to anyone they know to welcome them. She invited board members to a celebratory event with URVC board members on May 12 (assuming the URVC vote is in favor.) Finally, Jan requested all board members plan to be at the annual meeting by 11:00 a.m. for the social time prior to the meal beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Jan **adjourned** the meeting at approximately 2:34 p.m.