

UMRA Board of Regents Liaison Tool Kit

July 2021

Jerry Rinehart, Current Liaison

1. The Board of Regents (BOR) website (<https://regents.umn.edu>) is a tremendous resource for meeting dates, materials, minutes etc. It includes video recordings of all public meetings and complete sets of materials reviewed by the Board. The Liaison's responsibilities include providing a report to the UMRA Board following each BOR meeting. Narrowing the report to key issues that may be of interest to the UMRA Board is a challenge.
2. In reviewing the current agenda and materials associated with each monthly meeting in preparation for the BOR meeting report, please note that the minutes of the **previous** Board meeting appear as the first 100 pages or so of materials—this includes all written updates and hand-outs presenters reviewed with the Regents. The materials associated with the **current** monthly meeting occurs after these lengthy minutes. (It took me a while to figure out why the dates on materials didn't match with the current monthly sessions—I had been looking at minutes and handouts of the previous month's session.)
3. Since I was appointed BOR Liaison during Zoom-only meetings, I did not have the opportunity to interact with Board members—something that I think will/should occur during the in-person meetings. There are breaks during the meeting that allow for interaction with either Regents or other UM leaders attending or participating. Such interactions enhance UMRA visibility as engaged members of the University community.
4. When it is time to appoint a new BOR Liaison, here is text you can provide to the UMRA President to invite a new UMRA member to the assume the position:

"On behalf of the UMRA Board of Directors, I'm writing to ask you to consider becoming our liaison to the University's Board of Regents. We feel your outstanding record of accomplishment and leadership among UM [faculty] would make you an excellent choice for this important role..."

The liaison's responsibilities include attending Board of Regents meetings (listed below for the current year) and reporting to UMRA Board on issues relevant to retirees. There are seldom opportunities to actually speak at these meetings, but interacting with participants at break-times can be very helpful in establishing a presence. Past representative John Adams indicates that a meeting with the Board Chair may be helpful, and follow-up meetings with a committee chair may be useful when the perspectives or concerns of UM retirees are important.

A review of Regents' meeting agendas and materials will help determine whether the Thursday committee meetings or the Friday full Board meeting is the more important if you cannot attend both.....I truly appreciate your consideration. Please let me know."

5. To facilitate the Liaison's efforts, it would be useful for the President of UMRA to send a note of introduction to the Board chair, indicating the Liaison's background at the U and the important role the retirees can play in supporting and furthering the University's mission. Below is the note I created to introduce then-liaison Terry Roe to the Regents Chair when I was the UMRA President in 2018-19.

Sent November 1, 2018, to Regents' Board Chair David McMillan, copied to Regents Secretary Brian Steeves.

"Chair McMillan:

This seems an opportune time to introduce the new University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) liaison to the Board of Regents, Professor Emeritus Terry Roe.

Prof. Roe retired from the Department of Applied Economics following a distinguished career in research and teaching in the areas of international development and growth, trade, and water economics.

He takes over the role previously played by Professor John Adams, and I'm sure you will find him a helpful and wise colleague. As you know, the 500+ current members of UMRA are committed to the success of the University, and our liaison plays an important role in keeping us informed of areas of mutual interest and concern."

6. Following each Board of Regents' meeting, the University's publication, *Brief*, usually includes an overview of key agenda items and/or major issues discussed. This can provide a useful guide to help the liaison create a UMRA Board update.
7. Additional materials for this Tool Kit may be added during the coming year.