

UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
Monday, October 25, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.
Approved Minutes

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

Guests: Tracy Ketchem and Lynn Praska from UM Foundation

Jan opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m., asking all members to introduce themselves.

UM Foundation report: Lynn Praska noted she is a Senior Planned Giving Officer and has served as the liaison for UMRA in UMF since she began in 2009. Tracy Ketchem reported on the latest Driven Campaign, a ten-year effort ending June 30, 2021. The campaign exceeded its \$4 billion goal, raising \$4.4 billion. Over 310,000 donors, including 16,135 current and former faculty and staff, contributed to Student Support, Research and Faculty, and U-Wide Initiatives.

590 UMRA members contributed \$32,800,501, based on 2021 membership data. Using the 2018 membership list raises the contribution total to \$33,949,161, meaning there are former UMRA members who contributed around \$1 million. The contribution total includes \$22 million in planned gifts, \$4.2 million in cash/credit contributions, \$3.4 in pledges (for example, a gift to be paid over 5 years), and the rest is IRA, securities, and in-kind (e.g., art or pianos) contributions. The designated uses for the contributions were \$11.6 for student support, \$8.1 million for faculty and staff, \$10 million for programs, \$1.1 million for research (which includes the professional development grants for retirees), \$1.0 million for outreach and community engagement, and \$752 thousand for capital items such as athletic facilities and the Pillsbury renovation.

Eric asked how much money is transferred to UM accounts from the UMF each year, and the answer (later confirmed by email) is around \$200 million each year, about 2/3 of what comes into the foundation. Bill asked how the UM avoids having the legislature reduce its allocation based on these contributions. Tracy explained that U Relations leads the effort to inform legislators about the need for multiple sources, and that it is an ongoing effort as new legislators arrive. Diane noted that in her experience with donors, they want to fund specific efforts towards excellence, not operating expenses like paperclips. Eric asked about volunteer activities in support of the foundation, and Tracy explained the unit-based committees that supported the campaign. KaiMay asked about the UM Arboretum Foundation, and the guests noted that is a separate foundation but is included as part of the U campaign.

At this point the guests signed off. Bill said it would be a good topic for a newsletter article, and Jan agreed. Gary said he'd post such an article on Facebook. Kris said she would get the names of UMRA members who served in volunteer roles for possible interviews.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes for May 24, 2021, and September 27, 2021, was made and seconded, and moved unanimously. It was noted that the minutes from the annual meeting in 2019 had not yet been approved, and it was agreed that needs to be done at the next annual meeting in 2022, along with the 2021 minutes. There are no known minutes from any 2020 annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Greg presented the September and quarterly reports. He said he filed the necessary state and federal papers to maintain UMRA's non-profit status and is in the process of billing sponsors. Gary moved approval, with a second by Jan, and the report was approved unanimously.

COVID Protocols: Jan introduced the topic by noting that while UMRA is not holding in-person membership meetings at the moment, some special interest groups have asked for guidance. The proposal is that full vaccination be required, participants should be ready to show proof of vaccination, and masks or other safety protocols recommended by the MN Department of Health (MDH) be followed. Gary moved approval, and Frank seconded the motion.

Eric asked whether UMRA should just follow MDH recommendations without any changes. He asked whether it was a HIPAA violation to ask about health status. Frank answered that MDH and CDC guidance are the same, and that we are required to follow MDH. UMRA is not asking about health status when asking about vaccinations, and it is not a HIPAA violation. He noted that this is for special interest groups only, and that the Transition Task Force will have additional recommendations. Jan clarified that it will be one policy in the end, but this applies to any in-person UMRA meeting or gathering until further notice. Barb said she supported proof of vaccination, agrees asking about vaccination is not a HIPAA violation because UMRA is not a health provider or other covered entity under HIPAA, and asked how UMRA would address the possibility of U requirements being stronger than UMRA's, if UMRA uses a U facility. Frank said UMRA would follow the venue requirements.

Frank clarified that full vaccination includes the booster. There was some discussion about whether the U was requiring proof of vaccination, and the conclusion was that the policy had changed and proof was now required for students and staff. It was agreed that vaccinations are not required for U events, however, such as athletic events. Cathrine asked how UMRA would verify vaccination status, and suggested that those leading in-person group meetings may need further guidance on how to implement the protocols. Cherie suggested UMRA include a statement that vaccinations are required in the invitation and do no more. Several members said showing proof has been easy at theaters and traveling. Frank said the proposal left that to the discretion of the event. Jan called for the vote, which was one opposed and the remainder in favor.

URVC Working Group: Jan introduced the proposed charge for the working group, which she drafted with Jerry. Jerry reported there were no significant roadblocks so far, but many details to work out. URVC has an 11 member board with much overlap with UMRA. John said as a former URVC leader, he thought a merger was a good idea. Frank asked about discussions with

U Relations about the \$4,000 in annual funding. Jerry said it had been mentioned in the meeting with Matt Kramer, and it will be again. Others shared their concern about losing funding. Jerry will argue that it aligns with U Relations' function, and added that UMRA should not be afraid of making an investment to reinvent its image and move forward, if needed. Frank asked if they would consider moving UMRA 'inside' the UM, the converse of the discussion to move URVC outside (and into UMRA). He said that when UMRA got the EFS string, UMRA was listed as an "outside supporter" and he recommended exploring what that means. Jerry noted that URVC is very independent from U Relations. Jan noted that this work is an exploration of possible actions, not an intent to merge. Frank moved approval of the task force charge, Laurie seconded it and the vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports: Jan noted time was short and asked if there were any driving points the chairs needed to make beyond their reports (included in the board materials).

Transition Task Force: Frank recommended reading the task force minutes and the full set of recommendations. Gary asked what the reference to "social needs" in item 6 meant. Frank explained it meant following the requirements of the venue, e.g., prohibitions on food, and said he would review terminology. Jan and Frank said there would be more information in November, when the recommendations are expected to be on the board agenda.

Travel and Social Committee: Cherie reported that she is working with Ron and 7 program suggestions will be handled by her committee as social activities. As for travel, the Portugal wine trip is scheduled for next May and 10 people are signed up.

Program: Ron said the forum and workshop speakers for 2022 are being confirmed now and that it's shaping up to be a good roster for 2022.

Membership: John will return in November for a report. 34 new members have joined since the last new member event, so he is holding another one on November 11 at 11 a.m. Bill asked for current membership numbers, and Virgil said he will provide that.

President's Report: Jan noted UMRA will host the Big 10 retirees 'association conference in 2026. Cherie has contacted 6 associations to get their mission statements, and Jan said UMRA may want to review its mission statement to confirm it accommodates travel as an activity for the organization.

Jan adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m.