

UMRA Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
Monday, May 23, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

In attendance (virtual): John Bantle, Gary Engstrand, Cathy Lee Gierke, Cherie Hamilton, Greg Hestness, Eric Hockert, Kathy Jenson, Laurie Koch, Ron Matross, Jan McCulloch, Jan Morlock, Kris Mortensen, Barb Shiels, Julie Sweitzer, Cathrine Wambach, Diane Young

Jan Morlock opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and asked Julie to present the April minutes. Julie noted that she will send the draft minutes out to attendees as soon as they are ready, rather than sending them to the chair who distributes them at the next meeting. Laurie moved approval of the April minutes, Jan McCulloch seconded, and all voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Greg presented the quarterly report and noted higher expenses due to preprinting costs. He looked at previous years and noted a pattern of spending down funds in the last two quarters, and little revenue as membership renewals tend to occur earlier in the year. Greg noted a need to address signators on the bank accounts, including the new president. Ron asked if he would meet with the new treasurer and Greg replied yes, and he would provide a transition document that had been useful for him. Ron said he'd like to join the meeting to discuss the options for charging for meals and the potential impact on the budget. Greg suggested they align it with the bank meeting to change signators. Gary moved to accept the report and Laurie seconded, followed by a unanimous vote in support.

Annual Meeting: Jan shared the agenda for the event. Diane encouraged the welcome hosts to move their guests into the West Wing and fill in the tables. Board members should arrive by 10:45 and lean into the "Ask Me" theme. Kris reported the tech team is prepared but cross your fingers, and warned of potential wires on the ground for cameras. Ron said wearing masks is left to individual judgment. Several board members noted they will wear masks when not eating or at the podium. Jean Kinsey will take photos.

Program Plan: Ron presented the proposed plan which include 6 in-person luncheon forums at the Campus Club, with the January and February forums held virtually. We will explore recording but it appears the hybrid model planned for the annual meeting will be too expensive to repeat regularly. Members will be charged the actual cost of the meal. There will be no parking reservations unless there is a demand, but there will be an all-year payment option. Workshops will be on Zoom, reflecting the survey results. Finally, there will be an event at Como Pavilion in August, and there is talk of a Jonathan Paddleford cruise.

Jan McCulloch asked if the Campus Club expects prices to go up? Ron agreed that would be good to know and we should check. Eric asked if the dates have been reserved yet with the Campus Club, and Ron said no but that follows the approval of the plan. Eric will serve as program chair for this coming year since he is the president-elect. Ron noted that the election results were unanimous, with 129 votes for officers and board members, and only one 'no' vote

for the 2019 minutes. Kris asked about anticipated attendance, as she thought there was a minimum to hold onto the West Wing. Ron thought it might be lower. He will consider that as they go forward with planning.

Website: Cathy Lee Gierke presented three issues. First, some members did not get the guest checkout option on PayPal when attempting to register for the annual meeting. Cathy will explore different vendors to avoid this in the future. Second, the software needs to be updated to reflect the smaller number of forums next year. The web team has determined they could leave the registration open rather than limiting it to a 30-day window before each event. This will allow people to register for one, some or all forums. They will still have a deadline for reservations and cancellations which is done manually.

Third, Cathy said the website redesign team has proposed listing newsletter and forum sponsors on the website. There will be a list with names and logos, and a thank you statement. They want to avoid crossing into advertising so there was a question about whether we needed a statement saying UMRA was not endorsing the product. After discussion the board had recommended that there was no need to do so. Jan McCulloch asked if we write letters of appreciation to sponsors? Kris said that Bev Moe manages the sponsorships and maintains the relationships. The sponsors are thanked in the newsletter and e-news. Cathy said the website will include a n URMA contact for future sponsors.

Resolution on reaffiliation with URVC: Jan Morlock stated that there was interest in a formal resolution acknowledging the reaffiliation, and read the resolution provided in the materials. Gary moved approval of the resolution, and Laurie and Jan McCulloch seconded. Eric asked where we would post this? Jan said the agreement and this resolution would go on the website. Eric noted that Jerry and the reaffiliation team are now reviewing the bylaws and any other changes needed for implementation. All voted in favor.

Social Activities/Travel: Cherie reported she had explored options for a Jonathan Paddleford trip, and asked Jan Morlock if the speaker was confirmed. Jan said yes, Pat Nunally, who created the River Life program within the Institute of Advanced Study, is willing to speak about the river, its people and environment. Cherie said there were weekday and weekend cruise options with various prices, but they appear to end by late September. Decisions will be made soon. Cherie discussed a presentation by the new director of the Weisman Art Museum. Members said that should be coordinated through the program committee as it is more than a social event.

As to travel, Cherie said that OLLI is partnering with UMRA on a trip to Morocco in November, and one to Greece in May 2023. They are adding some activities such as a cooking lesson and winery tour to reflect member interests. There is a trip to Glacier National Park in May 2023, traveling on Amtrak. She is resolving issues with OLLI as they have different provisions regarding guests and liability issues.

Finally, Cherie noted her appointment as liaison with AROHE ends soon, but she has been asked to continue on the nationwide travel planning group and the nominating committee so she will discuss it with Ron. She asked when annual reports from committee chairs were due? Cathy said end of August.

Civil Service/PDGR: There is no civil service committee report as Bev Moe could not be present. John Bantle said that the PDGR applications will be open as of October 1. There is an opening on the committee. Jan Morlock offered to post the grant opportunity on Facebook.

Senate Committees: Jan Morlock said that Terry Roe has been the UMRA rep on SCFA, the U Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. Terry is very interested in continuing for another year. Ken Larson has completed his term as UMRA representation to the Retirement subcommittee, and Andy Whitman is interested in replacing Ken. Jan moved to appoint Terry and Andy, Jan McCulloch and Cherie seconded, and all voted in favor.

Meeting with new Regents: Cathrine reported she had just received a response on the request to meet with two new Regents on May 31. Regent Farnsworth can meet by Zoom at 10, and Regent Verhalen is available in person at 11. Cathrine (and others) have been unable to find a free room and the available options charge \$150. Jan Morlock suggested the Campus Club meeting rooms but those require food and drink catering. Ron said he was inclined to hold both meetings by Zoom. Cathrine suggested they could be together. Cherie asked if we should hold off and do it later when there was more advance notice. Kris was concerned that low turnout for a Zoom meeting would look bad. Gary and Laurie agreed. Jan Morlock said she saw this as a “bird in hand”, with at least 4 UMRA members ready to attend. Cathy said a notice could go out quickly. Jan will moderate, and Cathrine said the Regents had already been provided with questions. Ron thought it was a ‘go’ if they could be scheduled together. Cathy noted that if the Zoom meeting was a webinar, you don’t see the audience so the number of attendees wouldn’t be known. Attendees can still comment and ask questions. Kris recommended asking attendees to register.

President’s Notes: Jan noted there had been a question from Bev Moe about whether SIG participants needed to be UMRA members, but Bev had resolved her issue. Jan thought it was a question that should be resolved, however, in the next year. Eric suggested John Anderson and the membership committee should have a role, and perhaps it could be assigned to them to consider and recommend. Jan agreed.

Jan **adjourned** the meeting at approximately 2:35 p.m.