

UMRA Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2022
12:00 p.m.
Campus Club West Wing
Approved Minutes

In attendance: Approximately 75 to 80 people attended in person, and 19 or 20 virtually.

Jan Morlock convened the meeting at approximately 12:10, after members went through a buffet line. She thanked the host team of Diane Young, Nancy Helmich, Diane Gihl and Char Greenwald for organizing the event. Jan McCulloch was thanked for providing flowers. Jan acknowledged the special guests in attendance, specifically Dean John Coleman, Provost Rachel Croson, Deb Cran, Sara Danziger, Vice President Bernie Gulachek, Vice President Matt Kramer, UMF Planned Giving Officer Lynn Praska, and OLLI Director Kate Schaefer.

Elections: Jan reported that the results were unanimous and welcomed new board members Russell Luepker and Kate Maple, and returning board member Will Craig. The new officers include Eric Hockert as president elect, Kristy Frost Griep as treasurer, and Julie Sweitzer returning as secretary. Jan thanked departing board members/officers, Frank Cerra, Gary Engstrand and Greg Hestness. (The 2019 and 2021 annual meeting minutes were both approved in the voting as well.)

Jan noted that while UMRA is not an arm of the University there is a bond. UMRA members have been vigorous in their support of the U, with over \$31 million in contributions during the last capital campaign. She noted the new MOU with the UMN, and thanked Bill Donohue for leading that effort, Provost Croson for representing the U and Deb Cran for helping to administer its renewal. She introduced Provost Croson, who executed the new MOU. Provost Croson committed to maintain our close cooperative relationships in furtherance of our missions and maintain the timeline for renewal of the MOU. Provost Croson acknowledged the contributions of UMRA members as individuals and as an organization, particularly in outreach on the campus and in the community, as well as communications with legislators. She noted she started March 30, 2020, at the beginning of the global pandemic and as a consequence this has not been the job she anticipated. She looks forward to transitioning from a pandemic provost to a regular provost, and says the U is better for the commitment of UMRA members who continue to do work that matters – to the University and our communities, serving as ambassadors for our institution.

Jan Morlock returned to the podium and said that UMRA runs on the energy of its members. COVID caused many retiree associations to fold, at least temporarily. She thanked and provided a gift to Virgil Larson, John Anderson, Kris Mortensen, and Mary Koppel for their roles in keeping UMRA in business via Zoom. Events were at least as well-attended as before. The program committee, led by Ron Matross, and website team, led by Cathy Lee Gierke, were thanked as well. Bill Donohue and Frank Cerra helped make it happen as well.

Ron Matross then took over the gavel as new president. He asked why we agree to do this kind of activities and answered, "because you meet great people." Ron said Jan is one of those great people, and displayed a Word Cloud of words UMRA members used to describe Jan. They included thoughtful, committed, warm, responsive, and more. Ron thanked Jan for leading UMRA through challenges, supporting programming, reconnecting with UMRA's sister organization URVC, and renewing the MOU with the university. He provided a thank you gift of a Guthrie gift certificate and a framed version of the Word Cloud.

Ron asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Laurie and seconded by Jan McCulloch. He **adjourned** the meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m. The Forum, with speaker Dean John Coleman, followed.