

Report to UMRA from the liaison to the Regents
By Cathrine Wambach

In my role as liaison to the Board of Regents I review the Regents' meetings and report the results to the UMRA Board. The process I used included these steps:

1. Check the calendar for the dates of the Regents' meetings
2. A few days before a meeting read the agenda and view the Docket materials. The materials are generally reports on university functions that the Regents ultimately oversee. They tend to be more complete than the verbal reports given at the meeting.
3. After the meeting I view selected portions of the meeting to see how the Regents respond to the presentations.
4. When I prepare my report to UMRA I start with the official news release describing the meeting which is published in Brief. Then I add additional information from the Docket materials or meeting that I think the UMRA Board would find interesting.

In addition to reviewing the meetings, I look for reports in the local press on the Regents. This year there were many reports because of the controversy over the plan by Fairview to be acquired by Sanford Health. There were also reports on the Regent selection process and the qualifications of candidates. Finally the press covered the resignation of the U of M president and appointment of an interim president.

The next person to assume the liaison role may want to attend some meetings in person. I don't think it is necessary, but could be interesting if the person likes coming to campus. The Board may also want to schedule a zoom meeting with some of the new Regents.