The issue of a fee increase was discussed. The fees of $15 for an annual membership and $100 for lifetime membership have not been raised since UMRA was established. The increase in lifetime memberships combined with the obvious fact that the fees are exceptionally low and the limited current account resources arising from this situation, provides the impetus for a fee review. In addition to enhancing the ability of UMRA to pay its modest expenses, a part of the fee increase will support an UMRA-named bursary. A sub-committee of three will review the issue and report to the next meeting.

There was some concern that pre-2004 retirees are being surprised by notices advising them that their supplementary health benefits are ending at age 75. This information is being provided to them at least six months in advance and is also clearly stated in any information provided by the university. Nevertheless, UMRA will provide additional reminders as appropriate.

The 2013 United Way campaign generated just over $168,000 in donations from retirees.

As of February, there are 621 URMA members of record. It is worth noting that the new UMRA members are not all recent (that is, within the past year) retirees; approximately 60 per cent of these new members have been retired for several years.

The next meeting of the UMRA executive was set for Thursday, May 8, 2014.