



**Minutes of the UMRA Annual General Meeting
543-544 University Centre
October 5, 2013**

Present

Members: S.Andrich, L.Brockman, JL Chodkiewicz, D.Cooley, J.Cooper, G.Divay, M.Doyle, N.Fetterman, J.Goldstein, S.Holborn, B.Johnston, H.Larimer, C.LeBlanc, D.MacEwan, B.Macpherson, J.Mann, G.Martens, P.Newman, S.Onyshko, J.A.Paterson, D.Punter, S.Sealy, H.Senyskiw, M.Shojania, D.Sitar, M.Stothers, T.Thomas, E.Unrau, L.Weinberg, J.Zushman

Associate Members: C.Goldstein, P.Newman

Guests: J.Newman

Regrets: G. Baureiss, R.Britton, G.Cabezas, R.Fonseca, B.Johns, A.Segall

Jay Goldstein called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion (Sitar/Paterson) that the agenda be approved with the addition, under New Business, of Status of surviving spouses/partners of retirees. **Carried**

2. Approval of the Minutes, 2012 AGM

Motion (Chodkiewicz/Leblanc) that the minutes be approved with the correction on the 4th line of the Ad Hoc Retiree Centre Committee Report "...on a design of the entire campus including the 120 acres." **Carried**

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Reports

Jay indicated that no motion is required to receive reports if only factual information is being provided.

a. President

Jay Goldstein reported that this past year has been a relatively routine one. He chaired meetings of the Executive Committee, and attended meetings (as an ex-officio member) of UMRA's Benefits and Pensions, Communications, and Endowment Fund Committees. He met with the program coordinator of Extended Education's Lifelong Learning program as the UMRA representative, and, along with Betty Johns, met with the retirement specialist in Staff Benefits to get an update about pre-retirement information and post-retirement help made available by the University. This year we sent material for the AGM to our membership via email. In 2012 our expenditure on printing, postage and supplies was \$560; this year we spent only 1/7th of that

amount (\$80). We have email addresses for approximately 90% of our Members and a majority of our Associate Members. Those members without an email address were mailed the material. He thanked Archie Cooper along with Carol Goldstein for preparing the material for the AGM. He also thanked the Executive Committee members with whom he served during his four year term. He looks forward to serving as Past-President when Ed Unrau assumes the presidency.

b. Vice-President

Ed Unrau reported that he attended the 11th national meeting of the College and University Retirees Associations of Canada (CURAC) that was held in June, 2013, in St. John's, NL. Thirty universities were represented. The session titled "Sharing Best Practices" was most useful. While some focussed on post-retirement "perks", others described what they were doing to show that retired staff still have an energy level of potential benefit to the university community. Ed thanked Jay Goldstein for being president for the past four years, as well as the members who agreed to join the Executive Committee.

c. Treasurer

Marjorie Doyle reported the income from members' dues was \$3,355.75; interest on chequing account = \$0.34; and investment income = \$204.52 for a total income of \$3,560.61. Expenses were \$557.14 for the 2012 AGM and \$75.00 computer-relate expenses, for a total of \$632.14. The closing cash balance @ June 30, 2013 was \$4,910.97. Total investments were \$16,254.32. Our largest investment of \$9,603.04 gained \$889.04 from June 30, 2011 – June 30, 2012. We rolled over our term investments but are not getting any great interest on them. This year we negotiated with the university to cover 50% of the cost of sending a representative to the CURAC meeting; otherwise we did not have sufficient funds to cover the full cost. Jay said that looking ahead we will have to decide how we want to use our investments. The thought was to have some type of UMRA scholarship/bursary but we don't have enough funds to do that right now.

d. Membership Committee

Archie Cooper presented statistics for 2012-13. There were 180 lifetime Members (up 11.1%) and 92 annual Members (down 27.6%) for a total of 272 Members (down 5.9%). There were 305 Associate Members (up 24%). Our total membership was 577 (up 7.9%). The decrease of members in the annual category has implications for the UMRA budget as the fees from these members are used for operating expenses; fees from the Member-Life category are invested. She asked members to forward any changes in address, telephone number and e-mail address to retirees@umanitoba.ca. Archie said that Jay will be taking over responsibility for the membership database. The question was raised if there would be any financial obligation on UMRA related to the creation of a retiree centre. Jay wasn't aware of any. Jay thanked Archie, who was resigning as committee chair, for her 6 years of service and said that Jean Paterson has agreed to chair the committee. Jean said there will be a sign up sheet at the door for volunteers who wish to join the committee and another for suggestions on how to enrich the value of members in a variety of different ways.

e. Communications Committee

Bruce Johnston said the committee met twice with discussion regarding the content of the March and October 2013 issues of the *Retirees' News*. The committee is always glad to get any news

you might wish to forward. He thanked all committee members for their work on the committee and in particular Sheila Andrich for serving as editor since 2008 as she is stepping down this year. Gene Walz has agreed to serve as the next editor. A suggestion was made to include parking information in the *Retirees' News*. Bruce pointed out that the University covers the cost of printing and distributing the newsletter and they also reserve the right to make changes, presumably for space. This made it difficult for Sheila as editor but it was out of her hands. Jay also thanked Sheila for her years of service.

f. Benefits and Pensions Committee

Betty Johns was unable to attend the meeting and Jay reviewed her report. The committee met in April 2013 and focused on supplementary health benefits, particularly on the differences between active staff members' benefits and those of retirees. This was tabled until information on the cost of premiums for both active members and retirees can be obtained. They also discussed York University's Retirement Planning Centre. A motion was made and passed that the Executive Committee of UMRA establish a committee to investigate the possibility of creating a similar centre here. This motion was presented to the Executive Committee in August and a subcommittee has been formed. An article was published in the March 2013 newsletter responding to questions about supplementary health benefits. A member who has had problems with Great West Life regarding his supplementary health coverage advised retirees to make sure they were using the correct account number when submitting claims forms.

g. Interest Groups Committee

Dennis Cooley said that the committee has come to a state of abeyance. Given UMRA's limited resources, the wide dispersal of members, and related programming across Winnipeg, it is uncertain what the Committee can accomplish. For example, Pembina Active Living facilitates a garden club, exercise club, yoga, meditation, line dancing, golfing, movie nights, art classes and lectures. Other organizations sponsor offerings which we do not want to replicate. Dennis raised the issue of what the goals of the committee should be. Instead of an interest group committee it might be a special events committee which puts on one-time activities of particular interest to retirees. Ed Unrau, incoming President, said he has some ideas about the committee's role. Jay said that some of our members might be interested in giving a talk in their area of expertise. Dan Sitar said this is a large opportunity for retirees to provide to the outside community with the expertise through volunteer services. Jay thanked Dennis and gave him full credit for trying.

h. Ad hoc Retiree Centre Committee

Lois Brockman said that the successful bidder(s) of the international competition for the visioning of the development of the entire Fort Garry campus, including the golf course lands, will be announced after November 4, 2013. This bid will include the site of the first project planned, namely, a mixed-use multi-generational development. We are encouraged to have our general/broad proposal included in the package of information given to the design teams in this competition because an integral part is a Retirees' Resource and Meeting Centre including a Retirees' Residential Centre. For up-to-date information you can go to the UMRA website which has a link to Campus Planning. If you have specific ideas of what you would like to see in a centre and a residential facility please talk to Lois or send her an e-mail. One member suggested including a library.

i. University of Manitoba Endowment Fund (UMREF) Committee

Doug MacEwan presented the report of the UMREF Committee. Since 2011 a great deal of work has been done to establish an UMRA endowment fund. A committee was formed which developed an umbrella model with details such as terms of reference, etc. listed on the UMRA website. Terms of reference were developed for a general bursary to be known as the *University of Manitoba Retirees Bursary*. Terms of reference are also being drafted for a general scholarship. Following Senate approval these will be listed on the UMRA website. The committee will monitor the performance of UMREF. Doug has agreed to undertake a fundraising campaign directed to all University of Manitoba retirees to encourage donations. He has personally committed funds for the establishment of the Douglas and Elizabeth MacEwan Bursary, which will be included under the UMREF umbrella. He hopes that other individual will follow his lead. Information about the endowment fund will be appearing on our website.

j. Nominating Committee

Lois Brockman thanked Jay Goldstein for leading UMRA over the past four years and he will continue to serve as Past President. She also thanked members whose terms have not expired as well as the ex-officio members of the Executive who chair the committees of UMRA. Lois announced that John Long will tentatively serve as chair of the Interest Group Committee, and gave special thanks to Archie Cooper for chairing the Membership Committee.

Jessie Vorst has resigned as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee sought nominees for vacated positions on the Executive Committee and confirmed the willingness to be re-appointed of those members of the Executive whose terms expire.

MOVED (Nominating Committee/ LeBlanc) that the following members be elected/re-elected to the Executive Committee:

1. Ed Unrau, to be elected as President, for a two-year term;
2. Dan Sitar, to be elected as Vice-President, two-year term;
3. Marjorie Doyle, to be re-elected as Treasurer, for a one-year term;
4. Dennis Cooley, to be re-elected as a Member-at-Large, for a two-year term;
5. Rudy Schilling, to be re-elected as a Member-at-Large, for a two-year term; and
6. Spencer Sealy, to be elected as a Member-at-Large, for a two-year term. **Carried.**

5. New Business

a. Status of Surviving Spouses/Partners of Retirees. Lois Brockman raised the issue of surviving spouses/partners of retirees not receiving sufficient information about their benefits, membership status, newsletters, etc. Lois suggested setting up an ad hoc committee to investigate this matter. Jay said that the Benefit and Pensions Committee will be asked to review benefit matters as they relate to surviving spouses/partners. Any change to benefits for survivors would have to be approved by the University Staff Benefits Committee and then the Board of Governors. Any specific issues or concerns you may have about retiree benefits should be sent directly to the our Benefit and Pensions Committee. The Membership Committee will be directed to look into how we can keep contact with survivors.

Sheila Andrich said there is a problem keeping in touch with survivors of retirees and that this should be addressed formally.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.