



Minutes of the UMRA
Annual Meeting
543-544 University Centre
Oct 21, 2017

PRESENT: G. Baureiss, Ernie Bridges, Dennis Cooley, Marjorie Doyle, Jay Goldstein, Carol Goldstein, Roberta Goodman, Irv Gusal, Bruce Johnston, Marilyn Klimczak, Linda Kostiuk, Connie LeBlanc, John Long, Gail Mackisey, Janice Mann, Janet Sealey, Hedy Senyskiw, A. Majid Shojania, Daniel Sitar, Ed Unrau,

REGRETS: Lois Brockman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Marjorie Doyle / Daniel Sitar

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for AGM October 2016

Dennis Cooley / Jay Goldstein

BUSINESS ARISING

to be covered later

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- UMRA's continuing interest in the UofM and desire to be informed on policies. Trying to resolve issues of special interest to us. Encouraging reception from Human Resources in three meetings during the year with Mark O' Riley.
- The annual three-minute theses presentations have been well received. UMRA is funding the second prize of \$500.00. The sponsorship will increase attention for UMRA and show we have a stake in the educational life of the university. The UMRA retirement fund has passed \$15,000 and now provides an annual bursary for a graduate student.
- Retirees have made major contributions to the United Way in 2016. Their donations (\$232,000) toward the university total of \$595,000 represent almost 40% of the total amount raised.
- Thanks to the executive for continued interest in retiree affairs and life at the university.
- Motion of thanks to the outgoing President for long, good, and often inconspicuous work.
- (Jay Goldstein / Bruce Johnston)

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Fields phone calls from members, including those seeking computer help. The calls are not received centrally or immediately, and get rerouted, so some delay in response is inevitable.
- Working to update voice mail and e-mail addresses for retirees.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report 2016-17

July 31/2016 to August 31, 2017

INCOME and FINANCIAL ASSETS:

Assiniboine Credit Union:

Current Account Balance as of Sept 1/2016	\$20,738.99	
Income: Membership renewals	4,110.00	
Bank Interest	6.36	
Current Account Balance as of Aug 31/17	\$24,855.35	
Plus BMO Mutual Fund Investment, current value		22,603.23
Total Financial Assets		\$47,458.58
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EXPENSES:

CURAC Conference Expense – 2017	600.46	
BMO Investment – Jan 20/17	10,000.00	
Honorarium gift cards for 3MT Grad students/Spring Reception Apr/17	100.00	
Donation to University of Manitoba Retirees Endowment fund	1,000.00	
Membership renewal notices/printing/ postage	50.10	
Total expenditures for past year		\$11,750.56
Net financial assets as of September, 2017 ASSET		\$35,708.03

Marjorie Doyle suggested we reset our year to July 1

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Summary of Membership Data: October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017

Table 1: Membership by Category

	N	%	Net Change
Member (Lifetime)	265	37%	12
Member (Annual)	103	14%	1
Subtotal	368	51%	13
Associate	352	49%	12
Totals	720	100%	*25

Table 2 New Membership by Category

	N	%
Member (Lifetime)	11	31%
Member (Annual)	14	40%
Subtotal	25	71%
Associate	10	29%
Totals	35	100%

- annual members have option to pay for a two-year term at reduced rate
- two-year members will be reminded every second of due fees
- to contact the membership committee:

UMRA
 c/o Learning & Organizational Development
 137 Education Building
 University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 2N2
 retirees@umanitoba.ca

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (Gunter Baureiss)

- Unresolved production problems for the Retiree News. Moving in stages as far as possible toward a more fully digital publication that will reduce cost and work. Print and digital versions will be out this fall. Incomplete e-mail list limits the move for now at least.
- The "In Memoriam" feature is now operating well.
- We have a new link, "Important Reminders," on the website.
- The committee has been assembling, for different mailings, three e-mail lists: one for all members of UMRA, one for all Winnipeg members of UMRA, and one that add to "all members" the names of lapsed UMRA retirees and those who have supplied their addresses.) We do not have addresses for some recent retirees, as they have not been assigned new email addresses. E-mailing the Newsletter reduces mailing costs and speeds distribution.

PLANNING AND RETIREMENT PLANNING (Janet Sealey)

- The committee has compiled what planning services are available at other universities and at employers such as MTS, the City of Winnipeg, and Manitoba Hydro. It has also canvassed campus unions (AESES and UMFA) for information and advice. It recommends that the university hold retirement-related seminars, post a FAQ section on the Human Resources web this fall. Is seeking ways to clarify and improve the information available on retirement planning. The university administration has agreed to meet with retirees, and to support seminars, in an effort to seek improvements.

BENEFITS AND PENSIONS (Kenneth Mount)

- Comparisons of medical benefits at various universities indicate that the UofM benefits are reasonable.
- Retirees are ineligible for University out-of-country travel insurance.
- Dental coverage meets the needs of about 88% of the participants.
- Returns on the UofM Pension Plan investments did not keep up with inflation. From 2000 to 2015 a loss of 31% purchasing power for retirees within the programme.
- Staff Benefits offers helpful information on financial planning for those nearing retirement.
- Staff Benefits does not yet have information on the health of the pension plan.

ENDOWMENT (Ed Unrau for Lois Brockman)

- Good will created by establishing our new scholarship, which we can advertise in ways we cannot with our bursary. The funds are open to donations and welcome them.

NOMINATIONS (Jay Goldstein)

- The Committee continues to seek an additional candidate (who must be a member) for a Member-at-Large position. If a candidate has not been found prior to the AGM, UMRA's Constitution (Section 4.2.1) gives the executive committee authority to fill the vacancy.
- The Nominating Committee presents the following motions for approval by the membership:
 - That Dan Sitar be elected as president
 - That Janet Sealey be elected as vice-president
 - That Connie LeBlanc be re-elected as a member-at-large
 - That Jay Goldstein be elected as a member-at-largeJay Goldstein / Janet Sealey

NEW BUSINESS

- We lost the battle for free gym membership for retirees (as did the faculty Recreational Studies).
- Thanks to the UofM for its fabulous 150th anniversary day of celebrations.

ADJOURNMENT

Marjorie Doyle / Gail Mackisey