

**Minutes of the UMRA Annual General Meeting  
543-544 University Centre  
October 13, 2012**

**Present**

**Members:** P.Aitchison, G.Baureiss, E.Bridges, L.Brockman, D.Cooley, J.Cooper, R.Currie, M. Doyle, N.Fetterman, J.Goldstein, R.Gordon, M.Gregg, S.Holborn, R.Johnson, C.LeBlanc, B.Macpherson, J.Mann, P.Newman, S.Onyshko, J.A.Paterson, D.Punter, R.Rzeszutek, R.Schilling, H.Senyskiw, D.Sitar, M.Stothers, E.Unrau, J.Vorst, W.Willborn, B.Zakaluk, J.Zushman

**Associate Members:** C.Goldstein, J.McDonald

**Regrets:** S.Andrich, R.Fonseca, B.Johns, D.MacEwan

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

**1.Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion** (Johnson/Sitar) that the agenda be approved as circulated

**Carried**

**2.Approval of the Minutes, October 15, 2011 AGM**

**Motion**(Cooper/LeBlanc) that the minutes be approved.

**Carried**

**3.Business Arising From the Minutes**

a. Membership list on the website

At the 2011 AGM a motion was passed to post our membership list on UMRA's website. This has been done.

b. By-Law 1.6 Endowment Fund Committee

The 2011 AGM approved the creation of an Endowment Fund Committee. On November 24, 2011, the Executive Committee adopted By-Law 1.6, making the Endowment Fund Committee a standing committee and setting out the committee's terms of reference.

**4. Reports**

a. President

Jay Goldstein's report was circulated with the agenda. UMRA has achieved the University's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefit for retirees and their immediate family members. Information about the program and how to access it is in the September 2012 *Retiree's News*. In January, 2012, a notice was sent to the membership about the change in our membership categories and the creation of the status of Associate Retiree by the University. A link to the Associate Retiree application form is on the UMRA's website and the form is being given to new retirees by Staff Benefits. Two Members have applied to become Associate Retirees and both have been approved by Human Resources.

A new by-law was passed by the Executive on May 24, 2012. By-Law 6. Travel Policy details expenses for travel which the Association will reimburse. Thanks to Marjorie Doyle, UMRA's Treasurer, for drafting travel policy guidelines which became the basis for the by-law.

UMRA has had a representative on the Advisory Committee of Extended Education's Lifelong Learning (LLL) program. We have publicized their activities via our website, e-mail lists, and the *Retiree's News*. We received a proposal from them to formally affiliate. After careful consideration the Executive Committee voted to maintain our present relationship.

Thanks to the Executive Committee Officers for their work this past year and to Carol Goldstein for assisting with the AGM mailing.

In response to a question about how to contact another retiree Jay said that our policy is to forward a contact request to the member and then it is up to the member whether or not to respond.

b. Treasurer

The Treasurer's report was circulated at the meeting. Marjorie Doyle said that the auditor's report was not available because the auditor was ill. A net income of \$5,702.92 and a cash balance of \$1,982.49 were reported for the year ending June 30, 2012. CURAC expenses were our biggest expense @ \$1,090.50. We save on mailing costs by sending the AGM material only to Members. Our policy in the past has been that all life Memberships be put into a GIC or interest bearing account. Last year \$1,700 was put in a GIC. Our investments earned interest of \$276.32 between June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2012. We re-invested for two years but have the option of taking them out at one year.

c. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee report was circulated with the agenda. Archie Cooper reported that our membership list has been updated on a regular basis, and that membership statistics are reported at each meeting of the Executive Committee. The number of members has grown: we had 535 members as of September, 2012, representing a 6.6 percent increase overall. In order to keep the records up to date, Archie asked that members notify us of any changes in their mailing and/or e-mail address.

d. Communications Committee

The Communications Committee report was circulated with the agenda. Ernie Bridges reported on behalf of Bruce Johnston. The Committee met twice primarily to generate items for the *Retirees' News*. The Committee is responsible for the *Retirees' News* (edited by Sheila Andrich), UMRA's e-mail lists (managed by Ernie), and our website (Janice Mann is our Webmaster). Copies of the *Retirees' News*, summaries of Executive Committee meetings, a link to CURAC and an In Memoriam page are available on our website. This year 20 messages were sent out by e-mail.

e. Benefits and Pensions Committee Report

The Benefits and Pensions Committee Report was circulated with the agenda. Jesse Vorst reported on behalf of Betty Johns that the committee met twice and focussed on tuition fee remission, the EAP and supplementary health and dental benefits. They noted that supplemental health and dental insurance for the spouse of a retiree ceases thirty days after the death of the retiree. Staff Benefits has been asked to include this information in its publications on retirees' benefits. June Stewart will continue as UMRA's representative on the University's Staff Benefits Committee, with David Singer as the alternate representative. Since persons retiring on or after July 1, 2004, pay for half of the cost of their benefits, the committee will be looking into whether those retirees' benefits are comparable with those of active employees. Information on UMRA's website about non-financial benefits for retirees has been updated.

A newly retired member outlined the problems he has had getting his medical/dental coverage information, plan numbers and cards. He also was not made aware that the University's supplementary health plan does not provide medical coverage outside of Canada for retirees. Jay asked him to send UMRA a synopsis of the problems he has encountered so that the chair of our Benefits and Pensions Committee chair can look into the matter. We will bring to Barb Hanchard's attention the need for information about benefits and pensions being made available earlier through pre-retirement briefings. Another member mentioned that the lifetime maximum of \$25,000 for supplementary health claims excludes many things. We will see if the University provides individuals with a statement of lifetime maximum usage remaining and whether the \$25,000 cap is for each person or for a family.

f. Interest Groups Committee

The Interest Groups Committee report was circulated with the agenda. Dennis Cooley reported that several new UMRA members are willing to participate in the committee's work. The committee will meet to consider what directions to take, among them to revivify a photography group. The committee hopes to circulate to UMRA members some ideas for possible interest groups.

g. Ad Hoc Retiree Centre Committee Report

The Ad Hoc Retiree Centre Committee report was circulated with the agenda. Lois Brockman reported that the Committee has been working with the Campus Planning Office and is focussed on the inclusion of meeting facilities for retirees and a retiree residence. An open International Design Competition will be launched in January, 2013, that will focus on a design of the entire 120 acres. The Campus Planning Office is holding open house sessions for the neighbourhoods which may be affected. A member expressed concern that persons living in the affected neighbourhoods are not being notified of the open house sessions. Lois will check into this. It is anticipated that the award of the Area Master Plan will be made in October, 2013.

h. Endowment Fund Committee Report

The Endowment Fund Committee Report was circulated with the agenda. Lois Brockman reported on behalf of Doug MacEwan. The Committee is working on development of procedures for the promotion of contributions to the University of Manitoba Retirees Endowment Fund (UMREF). The major task is to develop information on UMRA's website which will describe the fund's purpose, operation, types of awards, how donors are recognized and how it relates to the University Investment Trust (UIT). An announcement will be sent out when the information becomes available. Your suggestions are welcomed and you are invited to consider becoming a volunteer to assist the Endowment Fund Committee to achieve its objectives.

i. United Way Retirees' Campaign Report

The United Way Retirees' Campaign Report was circulated with the agenda. Brian Macpherson reported that the final Giving Summary for the 2011 campaign shows that the total contribution from Retirees has reached just over \$126,000. This is a substantial increase from 2010 and makes up a significant portion of the overall University of Manitoba campaign total. The United Way was able to use the retirees' mailing list which decreased the volunteer time and effort required to bring the message and pledge form to everyone. A special thank you goes to Lois Brockman and Rudy Schilling for follow-up phone calls to donors. Preparations for the 2012 campaign are underway.

j. Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee Report was circulated with the agenda. Lois Brockman reported that the committee had polled the Executive Committee individuals whose terms expire in October, 2012, regarding their willingness to stand for re-election.

**Motion:**

- i. that Jean Zushman be elected as Secretary for a second two-year term, and
- ii. that Connie LeBlanc be elected as a Member-at-Large for a further two-year term, and
- iii. that Dan Sitar be elected as a Member-at-Large, and
- iv. that Jessie Vorst be elected as a Member-at-Large.

**Carried**

Lois thanked all members who have contributed to UMRA by serving on our committees.

## **5. New Business**

Two amendments to UMRA's Constitution were proposed by the Executive Committee. Jay Goldstein noted that constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority of voting Members present to carry.

a. To make the language in Article 2 (Purposes) more gender-inclusive, the following motion was made. [NB. additions are underlined, deletions struck out.]

**Motion** (Executive Committee):

That Article 2.1.3 be amended as follows:

"2.1.3 to encourage and promote a spirit of ~~fraternity and unity~~ fellowship among the members of the Association, and to provide a means for continuing the associations which members enjoyed as employees of the University;" **Carried**

b. Currently, elected members of the Executive Committee are restricted to serving two terms in the same position. The original reason for having a two-term limit was to prevent positions from being monopolized year after year by the same people. Experience has shown that the actual problem is finding people willing to serve as a Member-at-Large or an officer. The Executive Committee feels that the two-term limit is unnecessary. Removing term limits for members of the Executive Committee would put UMRA in line with a majority of members of CURAC. The term of office of elected members of the Executive will remain unchanged, so that Members-at-Large and officers who wish to remain in their positions will face re-election every two-years.

**Motion** (Executive Committee):

That Articles 4.2 and 4.2.1 of the UMRA Constitution be amended as follows :

"4.2 Elected members of the Executive Committee shall serve for a period of two years, and may be re-elected. ~~with the following provisos:~~

~~4.2.1—No elected member of the Executive Committee may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms."~~ **Carried**

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.