



Highlights of the UMRA Executive Meeting

February 16, 2017

- **President:** The report of the Retirement Planning sub-committee was given to Mark O'Riley and we are now waiting on a response. Discussion with Mark O'Riley included the need to provide information on the U of M staff benefits website regarding the surviving spouse's need to obtain health insurance outside the university plan. Also discussed was improvement to the extended health benefits for retirees in that they should be similar to those provided to regular employees. Mark agreed there should not be too much of a differential between the benefits of the two groups. It was noted that CURAC had signed a travel agreement with MEDOC. The information on the plans available had been circulated to Executive Committee members but should also be placed on the UMRA website. Jay Goldstein and Ed Unrau have recommended John Mundie for a CURAC award. The President's attendance at a CURAC conference is normally a cost sharing arrangement with the University of Manitoba and UMRA. The President indicated he believed UMRA needed to be represented at the next conference where it is expected John Mundie would receive his award. Gunter Baureiss has agreed to chair the Communication Committee. The spring reception will be held on May 8, 2017. Dr. Barnard will attend and three of the 3M students will present their research. Motion made that each student be presented with a Sobey's gift card valued at \$25.00.
- **Vice President:** One voice mail message had been received regarding a computer issue and this was resolved immediately. It was noted that graduate students are still available to help members with computer problems at a cost of about \$20/hr.
- **Treasurer:** On January 19, 2017 Jay Goldstein, Dan Sitar, Ed Unrau and June LaRonde met with a representative of BMO regarding the transfer of \$10,000 from Assiniboine Credit Union to mutual funds at BMO. We are now waiting to see how BMO applies the money to our account. In addition BMO was updated with the names of the new incoming signing authority on the fund. The balance of funds at Assiniboine Credit Union is \$12,420.65 and the balance at BMO is \$12,195.89. On January 25, 2017, an internet fraud email message was received. The message made reference to the UMRA account and the name of the President and Treasurer in an attempt to secure some funds. Of course the message was immediately identified as a bogus email.
- **Communication:** The newsletter is being worked on and Ed Unrau has had a discussion with Mark O'Riley regarding the publishing schedule. The 'In Memoriam' column problems have resolved and a new link is to be created. Improvements to the UMRA website are being discussed such as improved picture taking.
- **Pension/Benefits:** MEDOC is now available via CURAC. The RTO product should be of interest to those people who retired pre 2004.
- **Membership:** We currently have 698 members in UMRA. Since October 1, 2016 there were 8 new members. Of the 100 people up for renewal, 39 people renewed for 1 year, 48 people renewed for 2 years and 3 became lifetime members. Unfortunately 8 people did not renew and 2 people resigned.
- **Endowment Fund:** The endowment funds have now doubled. The UMRA \$1,000 donation was appreciated by the University, and may be one of the rare occasions when group like UMRA has directed money to an endowment fund. The University will be looking into matching funds from the provincial government's scholarship program. The first offer of the UMRA bursary will likely be in 2018. It was noted that retirees should be aware that they can direct their donations to specific funds and that they can ask the development office for information on the existence of particular funds, such as UMREF.
- **United Way Campaign:** The campaign is now over. There was one disgruntled employee who did not receive a receipt but this has been remedied. Mark O'Riley will be asked to provide a breakdown of contributions by regular employees versus retirees.
- **Next Meeting:** Thursday May 11, 2017