

Proposed Revisions to the UMRA Bylaws Adopted October 24, 2019

1. ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Shortly after the meeting last year a small group was charged with considering potential changes to the membership eligibility criteria specified in the bylaws. The group included UMRA board members and UMRA members-at-large. Their key recommendation was to permit membership by current employees who are eligible for retirement from U-M but have not yet done so. The impetus, in part, is to assist on the transition into retirement by encouraging them to consider all the implications of retirement, beyond just finances and health insurance.

2. ARTICLE V. 5. Meeting Options

One of the myriad changes the COVID-19 pandemic brought about was the inability to hold meetings in the classic face-to-face style with everyone in the same room. An alternative process was implemented by the board for its regular meeting schedule. Using the Zoom meeting tool, face-to-face meetings were continued, using electronic technology. While the current bylaws do not specifically prohibit such electronic meetings, the board believes it is desirable to more explicitly allow them. This new language was created to better reflect our new societal realities.

3. ARTICLE XV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

During the discussion of bylaw adoption last October, a member noted that there was no provision for parliamentary procedures guidance. This new article was drafted to fill that void.

4. Closing sentence of the Bylaws

Excerpt from Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition:

“In general, the constitution or the bylaws – or both – of a society are the documents that contain its own basic rules relating principally to itself as an organization, rather than to the parliamentary procedure that it follows. In the ordinary case, it is now the recommended procedure that all of a society’s rules of this kind be combined into a single instrument, usually called the bylaws ...” RONR, (11th ed.) p. 12, ll 8-14

Note: pages 12 to 14 provide the argument that there should be a single document (bylaws) rather than two (bylaws and constitution).

To be consistent with this recommendation, the final sentence was added to clarify that the UMRA bylaws supersede and replace the UMRA constitution for operational rules and regulations.

The Proposed Process

Adoption of the revisions to the bylaws requires a majority vote of eligible association members who participate in the Annual Member Meeting (scheduled this year for October 8, immediately prior to the regular program). A quorum minimum of thirty members must participate.

A board member will lead a discussion of the document and ask for a motion to approve. A single vote, up or down, will be conducted.

The board recommends approval of the changes as proposed.