



## Retirement Association

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

### 2019-20 Report

Partnership & Engagement  
John Dowling and  
Charles Reed, Co-Chairs

Members: John Dowling (co-chair), Charles Read (co-chair), Dale Burke, Mary Czyszczak-Lyne, Chris Kleinhenz, Diane Kravetz, Bill Richner, Jim Stratton, and Sandi Haase (ex-officio)

In October, 2019, the Committee arranged a discussion with the UW Foundation and the UW Alumni Association (for October 21), but this event was canceled because of lack of interest among our members. Over the year the Committee worked on three projects aimed at establishing partnerships that would benefit both UWRA members and the affiliate organization. Contacts were made with the following: 1) PROFS and ASPRO, 2) the UW South Madison Partnership, and 3) the Division of Continuing Studies. The results of these discussion were productive.

1) **PROFS and ASPRO.** At a meeting (November 14) with Terry Warfield, Michelle Felber and Jack O'Meara it was agreed that PROFS would inform the UWRA about actions under consideration by the state legislature that affect retirees via a link to be published in *The Sifter* and on our website. Such notification is solely to provide information to our members, not to advocate. An article on this collaboration with PROFS appeared in the March *Sifter*. Here are some of the useful ways the Committee and PROFS might engage:

- sharing links to the monthly legislative update in the *Sifter*;
- possibly sharing the end of semester all faculty message with UWRA members;
- tying in some manner into the state budget presentation during the next biennial budget process in spring 2012;
- a future candidate forum;
- periodic liaison meetings;
- possible connection through the Vice Provost for Faculty and Staff and the Retirement Issues Committee.

No contacts with ASPRO were established.

2) **The UW South Madison Partnership.** The leaders of this project—Merry Farrier-Babanovski (Assistant Director) and Brenda Gonzalez (Director of Community Relations)—met with the Committee on November 12 to discuss possible collaboration and volunteering opportunities.

3) **The Division of Continuing Studies.** At a meeting on October 28 with Jeffrey S. Russell (Vice Provost for Lifelong Learning and Dean of Continuing Studies) and Hope Simon (Associate Dean for Administration and Finance) various forms of collaboration with Continuing Studies were discussed, including the following: Madison Friends of International Students; Morgridge Center for Public Service; VolunteerYourTime.Org; the Visiting International Student Program; The Odyssey Project; and the All-In Milwaukee Scholars at UW-Madison. After further discussion the Committee decided that the Visiting International Student Program would be the best fit with our members, for we believe that a

number of our members may be interested in getting to know international students and to help them in their acclimatization to Madison and the campus. We discussed this manner of collaboration with Martin Rouse (Associate Dean/Director, Adult Career and Special Student Services). This program offers short-term (2-4 week) non-credit programs for international learners from around the world in all terms. They often need individuals with expertise and interest to deliver short lectures on a range of topics (business, the Wisconsin Idea, English, the sciences, American culture, etc.), and these become part of the program. Another feature is the connection they attempt to create between students and local residents at events that are part of the program, as, for example, day trips to Devil's Lake, Chicago, etc. where the students have the opportunity to practice their English. One possibility is for UWRA members to offer to speak in non-credit courses on topics appropriate to their interests and expertise. The program would also like to have volunteers who are simply willing to come to their social events (e.g., marshmallow roasting at Picnic Point, Chinese New Year celebrations, etc.). On a related note it appears that the Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) sometimes does not have enough volunteers for its wonderful Thanksgiving sharing program, and our members might wish to consider this opportunity.

**The Strategic Planning Exercise.** This project began in earnest in the winter, and one of the areas involved partnerships and engagement. UWRA members who were active in this aspect of the project were Joan Gillman, Chris Kleinhenz, and Jerry Kulcinski. Initially the following items emerged as focal points for this group (and for the P&E Committee): Student Internships and Projects with the goal being to explore ways to engage students in projects that benefit the University, such as marketing, accounting, technology, or communications, and to accomplish this by investigating possible partnerships with the University, Foundation, and/or Alumni Association. Some of the ideas raised during this exercise focused on the establishment of student internships/projects with the Business School (auditing procedures, organizational management), the Medical School (gerontology studies), the School of Journalism (the Sifter). Later in the spring, Jerry Kulcinski met with Jeffrey Russell (DCS) about some cooperative ventures and student internships in particular, and they discussed the management of funds associated with these possible projects.

Of course, with the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, most if not all of these plans and projects were postponed until such time when the Committee will be able to act on the various projects noted above, most of which require that interested parties move freely and interact profitably with others.