Proposed Revision of the Constitution and Bylaws of the UWRA

The UWRA has evolved in various ways since it was formed, and its current structure and operations have diverged from the constitution in a number of ways. Apart from a few cosmetic changes, the main items of change are summarized below. The Board will be happy to field questions at the AGM or via email in advance of the meeting.

Who is a member? The HR definition of retiree is quite narrow and technical, and (understandably) is focused on who receives a UW pension or is eligible for one in the future. Board discussions suggest a much more inclusive approach; if the person has had a significant connection with the university via employment, marriage, etc. and wishes to join, why would we object? To that end, article 1 of the bylaws has been revised.

Composition of the Board The current text of article 3.1 of the bylaws refers to positions no longer applicable, and does not mention others. There has been some confusion or discomfort about whether ex-officio members should participate in discussions or vote. There is also merit in having an additional member-at-large to provide flexibility in assigning roles or providing time for a new member to learn about what various roles entail. Article 3.1 of the bylaws has been revised to respond to these concerns.

Election of the Board For various reasons the current prescription for Board membership has not been followed very closely. In addition, a member could serve on the Board indefinitely. Despite our difficulties in attracting Board members, forcing some change in membership over time seems desirable and is consistent with "good governance". Article 3.2 of the bylaws has been revised accordingly.

Nominations Committee The current version of the constitution refers to this committee but there is no description of its composition. Article 3.3 of the bylaws is new.

Dealing with Changes in Roles of Board Members Rather than having the roles of the various members of the Board appear in the by-laws, we propose to include a pointer to the webpage containing that information.