

Faces of Risk Management:

William Hustedt

The best way to tell the story of URMIA and the growth of the profession is through the voices of our members. In this series, we explore our history through our members' own stories, photos and memories.

William Hustedt recalls earliest efforts to bring together risk managers in higher ed

As a founder of what is now URMIA, some background may be helpful, enlightening, and even amusing to share what things were like in the beginning. It also illustrates how career paths can evolve.

Starting out as an examiner of insurance companies for the Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner, I soon moved into their Funds Division. While in the Funds Division, I learned the person who had handled the insurance for the University of Wisconsin - Madison Campus had died and work was piling up. I approached the university and soon moved on to UW-Madison in July of 1962. After being there a year, I felt the need to talk to others like myself who had to handle exposures found in a university.

There were no lists or even any names. This was further complicated by the fact that I was not allowed to attempt any direct contact, except through the top business office of our campus. Permission was granted in October of 1963 for me to write to *College & University Business* asking if there existed an organization of insurance persons at the education level. None existed.

The April 1965 issue of *College & University Business* had an article written by Rodney Pyfer about a new insurance plan for the University of Pennsylvania. Finally I had a name of a person with insurance responsibilities for a university. An exchange of correspondence started with Rodney, including the idea of insurance persons getting together.

During this time, my university responsibilities expanded to a system of four four-year campuses, an adult continuing education unit and some two-year campuses. This caused me to be even more persistent with our business office about contacting other insurance managers in the Midwest. My business manager finally sent a letter to his associates in the Big 10 and the University of Notre Dame seeking names of persons who had insurance responsibilities at their respective campuses.

William Hustedt was the risk manager at the University of Wisconsin and was one of the founding members of the University Insurance Managers Association (UIMA), which later became URMIA.



UNIVERSITY RISK MANAGEMENT &
INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

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By agreeing to keep my business officer continually informed (so he could inform his associates), I was then allowed to contact these individuals. All this eventually lead to the first meeting on April 12, 1966. The Eastern Group met in June 1966. As the saying goes, the rest is history.

While I was hired away from the university in 1967, I was invited to be a guest speaker at the first joint meeting of the Midwest and Eastern groups. This took place at the University of Pennsylvania in 1969. Later that year, I returned to UW-Madison to work on a master's degree. On finding that the insurance position was recently vacated, I agreed to head the office on a part-time basis while attending graduate school. Then in 1971 as the two university systems merged into 13 four-year campuses, 13 two-year campuses, and Extension (adult continuing education), I again became full-time, but now with UW-System Administration.

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EARLY DAYS OF UNIVERSITY INSURANCE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

(Subsequently University Insurance and Risk Managers Association and now University Risk Manager and Insurance Association)

Comments by Bill Hustedt

At the annual meeting in New York, outgoing president Charlie Emerson asked that I put together my recollections of the early beginnings of URMIA. That is the purpose of this document.

A better job could be done if my files were available but they were sent to Charlie in 1980 and are not yet returned.

I believe it was in the Fall of 1963 after I had been on the university job for a little over a year that I felt there must be others like me whereby a sharing of experiences would be a valuable exchange. I went to the Business Manager for assistance on how I could contact my colleagues at the Big Ten universities and some other selected midwest universities (who had been logical contacts for the Madison campus). Immediately I was told that to do so, permission would have to come from each of the Vice Presidents to make such a contact. The reason was that the chief business officers of midwest NACUBO felt they were the only ones who could meet without special permission of them.

On approaching the University of Wisconsin Vice President, I was given permission with names and addresses to contact the vice presidents of the Big Ten universities, along with Missouri, University of Chicago, and Marquette. In order to get permission to write to my counterparts on their respective campuses, I had to assure the Vice President that after the first meeting, nothing further would be done about getting together without giving a report to the Vice Presidents on our intent for future activities. It appeared their concern was they did not want subordinates making decisions that might affect their respective campuses. In this early period of rapid growth, the Business Officers were quite protective of their decision-making authority. As a result, the first meeting was held on the Madison campus in early 1964.

A report of the meeting and its success (as expressed by all those in attendance) was sent to all of the Business Officers with a statement of purpose and intention to meet twice a year, assuming this met with the Vice Presidents' approval. Even though some Vice Presidents reluctantly gave permission, it was granted for participants. My own Vice President was very encouraging but did give a word of caution. He indicated that when he was an internal auditor, a similar group was started but had since grown so large that the annual meetings were too general to be of value to all but the smaller and newer members. He cautioned that our group have some control over its size so it is to keep the discussion not only timely, but valuable.

During that same year, I had contact with Rodney Pyfer of the University of Pennsylvania about a blanket insurance program he had arranged for his university. During the discussion it was learned that a group of eastern universities were in the process of establishing meetings similar to the one that had already taken place in the midwest. Rod and I kept in close contact thereafter regarding the respective groups. This resulted in an invitation for me to meet with the eastern group at Rutgers in May 1967.

Part of my report to the eastern university group was that our organization felt it should be formally organized with a Constitution and Bylaws which, in fact, had been adopted and were in place. The eastern group, on the other hand, felt they wanted to continue very informally, which it was my understanding they did until merging the east and midwest into one organization. The eastern representatives were informed the midwest group was made up of basically the Big Ten and Big Eight universities, together with Marquette and the University of Chicago.

Many of the same officers and committees of UIMA still exist in URMIA. For example, we had a president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, eight directors, and committees for arrangements (the individual who would host and be responsible for the next meeting), program, (this individual was, in effect, a vice chairman of arrangements because they worked with the arrangements chairman and would be come the arrangement chairman for the subsequent meeting), membership, Constitution and Bylaws, finance, public relations and internal communications, and nominating.

Early in our meetings it was decided that in addition to having a specific program, the host was to arrange a tour of his (there were only male insurance managers at that time) campus facilities in order to get a better idea of the exposures at the respective universities.

After experimenting with several alternate times and meeting days, UIMA settled for Board meetings on Sunday nights, extensive meetings Monday through mid-morning on Wednesday.

Original members and their institutions are as follows:

James R. Gallivan
University of Illinois

Ray Archer
University of Minnesota

Morris C. Barker
Indiana University

Robert Marriott, Sr.
University of Missouri

Fred Doderer
State University of Iowa

Alban Weber
Northwestern University

Charles Mullens
Marquette University

Merrill Pierson
Michigan State University

William Miller
University of Michigan

and myself, representing the
University of Wisconsin

Charles Reddy
University of Notre Dame

James Roesch
Ohio State University

Thurman Brown
Purdue University

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