

**McMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 27, 1998**

The Eleanor McKay Room, Moulton Hall  
3:00 p.m.

**I Welcome**

The Chairman, J. McCutcheon extended a warm welcome to the 55 members and guests present, and to MURA's Honourary President, Dr. Arthur Bourns.

**II Minutes of the 1997 AGM - May 21, 1997**

It was MOVED by J. Evans, seconded by J. Baby that the Minutes of May 21, 1997 be approved.

CARRIED

It was pointed out that under Article 4.03 of the Constitution notice to members of the Annual General Meeting shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior to the date on which the meeting is to be held by sending such notice by mail to all members of the Association to their last known address shown in the records of the Association. Such notice should appear in the MURAL well in advance of the AGM.

**III President's Report**

John McCutcheon (Chair) outlined the benefits of MURA which include not only the camaraderie of continued socializing with past and present friends, but also special events such as bus trips, the Xmas Lunch, the upcoming BBQ and the Annual Dinner at Canterbury Hills which will take place this year on September 15th. The Association also represents the interests of retirees on various University committees such as the Pension Trust and Pension Review committees. MURA also has a voting seat on the MUFF committee which assesses proposals and allocates grants from the fund to worthwhile projects which benefit all constituencies of the University community. MURA continues to have a close interest in fringe benefits and retiree options and it is hoped that communications between the University, its employees and retirees will improve in the near future.

The complete text of the President's report will be included in the June/July issue of the MURAL.

#### **IV Treasurer's Report**

The Financial Statement from May 1, 1996 - April 30, 1997 plus the Financial Statement from May 1, 1997 - April 30, 1998 were circulated to those present by the Treasurer, D. Haisell, who MOVED, seconded by S. Curtis that the Financial Statement for the period May 1, 1997 - April 30, 1998 be accepted.

CARRIED

#### **IV Pension Trust Report**

This report was presented by Gerry King, MURA's voting member on the Pension Trust Committee, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. J. Evans, on behalf of MURA, extended a vote of thanks to Gerry for his services on this committee.

Bob Tangney of Human Resources advised that financial information relating to the Pension Trust Fund is on the Web, but that there will in future be an increase in communications to retirees on this subject.

#### **V Pension Working Group**

J. Evans reported for the Pension Working Group and stated that legislation allows legitimate administrative costs to be charged against the Pension Fund. A Memo of Understanding between Administration and Pension Plan member groups detailing the base level of these expenses has been signed. He also stated that he had received the proposed amendments to the Pension Plan Text to meet concerns of the Department of National Revenue.

#### **VI Trips/Special Events**

J. Baby circulated the Special Events financial statement for the period May 1, 1997 - April 30, 1998 to those present. A question was raised from the floor regarding the use of the balance of funds remaining in this budget, to which Joy replied that monies are required for "up-front" payments for trips and events.

It was MOVED by J. Baby, seconded by M. Hubley that this report be accepted.

CARRIED

#### **VII Benefits Review**

M. Maggs presented the report for this committee, which included the following items:

##### **i) Communication of Benefits Changes and Options**

The main item outstanding in the benefits area is the communication of the changes and options first mentioned in late 1996. This formed the main agenda item at a meeting with Human Resources on March 31st of this year. A further meeting to

discuss and draft letters regarding changes and options will be held at a later date. The plan is for Human Resources to send information to various groups over the summer, have open information sessions in early fall and to then have retirees decide on which option suits their particular circumstances. Margaret stated that even then the information may not be complete as some items are still under negotiation, eg. "devices" such as hearing aids and needles.

ii) Hospital Coverage

This item was discussed at the March meeting with Human Resources and concerns were raised regarding hospitals and Sun Life semi-private coverage. Evidently one or two cases were reported where retirees were not granted the semi private coverage to which they were entitled, but both cases had been satisfactorily resolved by Human Resources.

Concern was expressed over forms to be signed by retirees or their relatives at point of entry to hospital. There had been instances where retirees or their relatives had been requested to sign forms authorizing payment for additional services which they neither wanted or needed. Human Resources had been in contact with hospitals about this matter and intend to include a warning regarding such forms together with other benefit information .

iii) Ivor Wynne Centre

Margaret had met with Debbie Marinoff to confirm the benefits and services available to retirees at the Centre. A note regarding these benefits has appeared in the MURAL

iv) Miscellaneous

A question regarding survivor benefits for spouses of retirees who remarry or marry after retirement was raised to which Margaret advised that only the spouse at the time of retirement is eligible for survivor benefits.

Members were advised that the \$10,000 out of province medical coverage is per family member not per family.

2The T4 forms sent to some members were for taxable benefits - tuition assistance and/or insurance benefits given as part of the Window agreements.

It was MOVED by M. Maggs, seconded by C. McMullen that this report be accepted.

CARRIED

### VIII Membership

The membership report was circulated to those present by G. Keech who MOVED for the acceptance of this report.

CARRIED

### IX Constitution Amendment

*it was moved by JEV*  
The Chair had received a request from a retired faculty member of a B.C. University requesting Associate membership in MURA since he had recently moved to Dundas. Council had tentatively approved such category and the Chair MOVED, seconded by D. Clifford that the following amendment be included in the Constitution:

Article 3 - Membership

Item 3.03 Associate Members

(c) The holder of a pension from another University on whom Council has bestowed Associate Membership.

11.01 It was then pointed out that changes to the Constitution required prior notice which was not given. The above motion was then withdrawn and will be reintroduced next year when proper notice will be given.

### X MUFF Committee Report

This report was given by the Chair who indicated that these funds are provided by surplus pension monies that would otherwise be taxed by Revenue Canada. Such funds are used for ongoing projects such as the beautification of campus grounds and buildings, or as suggested by the campus community. These funds may also be used to bolster decreased bond or investment income.

XI Nominating Committee (C. McMullen replaced the Chair for this item)

The Nominating Committee is made up as follows:

Chair - J. Evans

V. Morrison )  
                  ) Council  
• M. Hubley )

W. Mousley )  
                  ) Non-Council  
J. Walker )

<sup>proposed</sup>  
The Executive Council for 1998/9 consists of the following:

Honourary President - Dr. A. Bourns  
Past President - J. Evans  
President - J. McCutcheon  
Treasurer - D. Haisell  
Secretary - D. Matheson

There are three vacancies on Council for the following members whose terms have expired.

J. Baby - M. Maggs and M. Welton

The Chair advised that J. Baby and M. Maggs have agreed to nomination on Council and that G. Raymond is nominated to replace M. Welton

It was MOVED by C. McMullen, seconded by D. Clifford that this slate be accepted.

CARRIED

## **XII New Business**

a) J. Evans thanked M. Welton for her time and efforts on Council over the past several years.

b) A query was raised regarding the proposed new entrance to the University, to which the Chair responded that MURA has not as yet formed a uniform opinion. Evidently a new entrance is required by the HSR, otherwise service to the campus may be suspended. It is feared, however that a new entrance will make campus less pedestrian than at present. The Chair advised that there is a Westdale neighbourhood group engaged in discussing this matter at present.

## **XIII Adjournment**

There being no further business, it was MOVED by M. Maggs, seconded by J. Evans that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Members and guests were reminded that the BBQ following today's meeting will take place at the President's House.

*Dorothy Matheson*