

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday May 29th, 2002 at 3 pm, in Chester New Hall B 107

1. Welcome

Frank Drieman welcomed everyone to the meeting and particularly thanked Dr. Arthur Bourns, our Honorary President, Mark Haley from Human Resources and Karen Belaire, Vice President Administration, for coming.

There were approximately 65 people present.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM

Motion: that the minutes of the 16th AGM held on May 30th, 2001 be approved as printed (Dora Haisell/John McCutcheon carried)

3. President's Report

Frank Drieman said that the highlights of the past year were the office improvements, which included new computer equipment and furniture, and the successful "active" membership drive. He thanked the Council members for their hard work and expressed regret that Stan Hambleton, Gerry Keech and Anne Sinclair were not able to be present due to recent or impending surgery. The full text of Frank's report will be published in the next issue of MURA newsletter.

4. Treasurer's Report

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report presented by Jessie Dunlop be accepted as printed (Doug Clifford/ Brian White carried)

5. Auditor's Report

Motion: that the Auditor's Report presented by John McCutcheon be accepted as printed (John McCutcheon/Helen Barton carried)

John made a special point of congratulating Jessie Dunlop and Anne Sinclair for the excellence of their work

6. Pension Trust Committee

Frank Drieman presented his report and mentioned that there will be a 2.55% increase in pensions for those covered by the Salaried Staff Pension Plan effective July 1st, 2002. The full text of his report will be published in the next edition of the MURA Newsletter.

7. Excess Pension Surplus Report

Jack Evans read a recent e-mail from Simon Ouellet and Les Robb outlining some reasons for the delays. Distribution of the money might start between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. In the meantime interest is now accumulating on the money at a reasonable-rate: The full text of Jack Evans report will be published in the next edition of the MURA Newsletter.

8. Membership Report

Motion: that the membership report presented by Bonnie White be accepted as printed (John McCutcheon/Marju Drynan carried)

9. Trips and Special Events Report

Mavis Hubley presented the report and thanked MURA members for their support.

Motion: that the Special Events Report prepared by Anne Sinclair be accepted as printed (Marju Drynan/Helen Barton carried)

10. Nominating Committee Report

Mildred McLaren (on behalf of Gerry Keech) read the Nominating Committee Report. She explained that, after the report had been published in the MURA Newsletter, Herb Jenkins had unexpectedly resigned one year before the end of his term of office. She therefore asked for nominations for a person (preferably a faculty member) to replace Herb Jenkins for a one year term. There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion: that nominations be closed (Roman March/Jack Evans carried)

Motion: that the Nominating Committee Report be accepted as printed (carried)

11. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution – proposed membership definition and membership status

Helen Barton presented the proposed amendments which had been published in the MURA Newsletter and were also available for all members present to read.

Motion: that the proposed amendments to the constitution be approved as printed (John McCutcheon/Brian White)

The following questions were raised regarding the proposed amendments:

- (a) Re. Article 9.01, clarification was sought as to which data base (MURA, University, or CIBC Mellon) constituted the "correct address". In the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that the removal of the word "correct" would not negate

the intent of the amendment

(b) Re. Article 3.02, clarification was sought as to which date was meant by "...retirement date". The proposer of the amendment (Helen Barton) agreed that clarification was needed, since she was aware of at least four definitions contained in the Pension Plan text. After further discussion it was agreed that the substitution of "date of retirement" for "retirement date" more clearly addressed the intent of the amendments;

(c) Re. Article 2.01 of the Constitution (Objectives) while acknowledging that the proposed amendment to the definition of membership more clearly met the objective of Article 2.01 (d), a question was asked whether this was also true regarding 2.01 (a), (b) and (c). After a short discussion, no change to the proposed membership definition was made.

Subject to the deletion of the word "correct" in Article 9.01 and the substitution of "date of retirement" for "retirement date" in Article 3.02 the motion above was carried with one abstention.

12. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution – Indemnification

Helen Barton presented the proposed amendment, which had been published in the MURA Newsletter and was also available for all members present to read. She explained that MURA was covered by the University's liability insurance and read a letter from the Assistant Director, Risk Management confirming this. It was agreed that a copy of this important letter, dated April 4th 2002, be attached to the minutes of this meeting. There was considerable discussion about the phrase "out of the funds of the organization" but no decision to delete.

Motion: that the proposed indemnification clause in Article 9.01 be accepted as printed (Jack Evans/ Margaret Maggs carried)

13. E-mail access update

Helen Barton outlined the e-mail and internet access services which are now available for retired McMaster employees. She had put together a small handout containing explanatory notes, a copy of the policy and an application form for those interested in this benefit.

14. Honorary Membership for Jack Evans

Frank Drieman presented Jack Evans with a certificate of Honorary Membership, which had been conferred by the Council as a signal honor for his unusual and outstanding contributions to the Association. Jack accepted this unexpected honor in gracious words of thanks.

15. Adjournment

Helen Barton moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 4.30 pm. .
(Secretary's note: The reception in Celebration Hall was attended, by 38 ticket holders.)

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Frank Drieman
President