

McMaster University Retirees Association

These are the minutes (approved by Council provisionally on June 14th, 2006) of the twenty first Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday May 23rd, 2006, at 2:45pm, in Convocation Hall. There were approximately forty eight persons present. The meeting was preceded by a light lunch and an interesting and informative presentation given by Detective Sergeant Doug Cousens of the Ontario Provincial Police.

1. Welcome to members and guests

Brian Ives welcomed all members and also Michele Leroux and Jeff Chuchman from McMaster University Retirement Support Services. He introduced Wendy Thomas as the newly appointed Secretary, who is replacing Averil Thompson.

2. Motion to approve the agenda

Motion: that the agenda for the AGM on May 23rd be approved (Geoff Evans/ Gabriele Erasmi - Carried)

3. Motion to suspend MURA Constitution, Sections 4.05 and 4.06

Brian explained that recent changes in funding had virtually eliminated the old distinctions between "active" (fee paying) and "inactive" members and consequently the above sections, which apply to a quorum and voting, are no longer relevant.

Motion: that sections 4.05 and 4.06 of the MURA Constitution be suspended (Gabriele Erasmi / John McCutcheon - Carried unanimously)

4. Approval of the minutes of the 20th AGM, May 25th, 2005

Motion: that the minutes of the 20th AGM held on May 25th, 2005, be approved as circulated to those present (GeoffEvans/ Gabriele Erasmi - Carried)

5. President's Report

Brian Ives reviewed the highlights of the year and the many initiatives which had been taken by this Council, often through its proactive standing committees and liaisons. Two of the highlights were the establishment of MURA representation on the Hourly Pension Plan Committee and a new funding agreement, which eliminated the need for a distinction between "active" and "inactive" members.

Activities included trips, a Christmas lunch at the Schwaben Inn and a special arrangement to attend a Valerie Tryon, Suzanne Shulman concert followed by lunch at the University Club.

The membership as at March 16th, 2006 was as follows:

Affiliates 43; Clinical Faculty 105; Faculty (MUFA) 549; Hourly Employees 286; Management Group 134; Staff (formerly MUSA) 568. **TOTAL MEMBERSHIP = 1685**

Brian gave sincere thanks to all the Council members for their dedicated work in making good things happen.

6. Treasurer's Report

Beth Csordas presented her report, which reflected the new funding arrangements and also new expenses in connection with our involvement with CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada).

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report, which had been distributed to those present, be approved (Joan Parker/ Margaret Jenkins - Carried)

7. Auditor's Report

Bob West presented his report and commended Beth Csordas and Anne Sinclair on the excellence of their work.

Motion: that the Auditor's Report, which had been distributed to those present, be approved (John McCutcheon/ Mildred McLaren - Carried).

8. Trips Report

Anne Sinclair gave a brief overview of trips past and trips to come, including the Bermuda cruise for May of 2007.

Motion: that the Trips Report, as distributed to those present, be approved (Geoff Evans/ Joan Parker - Carried)

9. Report on Pensions

In the absence of Les Robb, Roman March gave a brief report on the McMaster University Salaried Pension Plan.

Motion: that the Report on the Salaried Pension Plan be approved (Mildred McLaren/Gabriele Erasmi - Carried).

Cliff Andrews, the MURA observer on the Hourly Pension Committee had to leave the meeting early, so could not make his planned brief comments on the Hourly Pension Plans. The report on both the Salaried and Hourly Pension Plans will be published in the next edition of the MURA news.

10. Motion to change the Constitution

Helen Barton explained the need for many changes to the Constitution, most of which resulted from the change in funding and the consequent end of the distinction between "active" and "inactive" members.

Geoff Evans asked a question about the status of clinical faculty in relation to MURA and their status as to whether they have paid fees or not. Helen replied that the Constitution ensures that all people who retire from the University are MURA members. Membership is not dependent on who paid fees. The issue of voluntary contributions will be dealt with in the coming year, but no action will change the MURA membership criterion.

Motion: that the Constitution be amended as outlined in the documents provided to all members present (Helen Barton/ Joan Morris - Carried unanimously).

11. Nominating Committee Report and Election of Council

Mildred McLaren presented the Nominating Committee Report.

Brian Ives asked whether there were any nominations from the floor and there were none.

Motion: that nominations be closed (John McCutcheon/Helen Otrrosina - Carried)

Brian Ives declared that those nominated in the report are now duly elected.

Brian thanked those retiring from the Council - Gabriele Erasmi, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White for their special contributions to the work of the Council. He also thanked Michele Leroux and Jeff Chuchman for their unstinting support and service to the retirees in general and the Council in particular.

12. Any Other Business

(a) George Hanas thanked the Council for organizing an interesting AGM this year.

(b) Marilyn Elliot proposed a vote of thanks to Averil for her ten years of service as Secretary of MURA.

13. Adjournment

The meeting ended at approximately 3:45 pm following a motion to adjourn by Gabriele Erasmi.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Brian Ives
President