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MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Wednesday, February 14, 1996
at 1:30 p.m. in GH-B109

PRESENT: J. Baby, J. Evans (Chair), D. Haisell, M. Maggs,
D. Matheson, J. McCutcheon, W. McMicking,
V. Morrison, A. Thompson, J. Walker, M. Welton,
B. White, J. Wiley
REGRETS: C. McMullen, W. Mousley

I Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was MOVED by J. ^{Walker} Evans, seconded by D. Haisell that the minutes of the January 10th meeting be approved with the following amendments:

Page 1 - item ii - 3rd line should read 'faculties'.

Page 3 - under Trips - Line 1 - the number 58 should read 78.

CARRIED

The Chairman welcomed John McCutcheon as a new member of Council.

II Business Arising

i. Bill 26 Hearings

M. Maggs reported that she had attended the January 19th Hamilton hearing held at the Convention Centre, re the scope and terms of this Bill. The Chair thanked Margaret for attending these Hearings. Among other submissions, Margaret reported, were submissions from the United Senior Citizens of Ontario, the Steel Workers Retirees and Senior Tenants of Hamilton.

ii.

Council welcomed Bob Tangney who had agreed to appear at today's meeting to advise us on the proposed health related changes being enacted for seniors by the Provincial Government. Bob stated that changes re drug coverage are due to take place on June 1st, 1996 with rules to be clarified by late May. A possible dispensing fee of \$2 for everyone could be implemented, plus income testing at the Provincial level, which means that individuals earning \$16,000. gross per annum or family incomes of \$24,000. gross per annum could be affected by a \$100 deductible clause. Bob also advised that coverage does not change for retirees aged 64 or 65 and added that the University may agree to continue to pick up any balance over and above OHIP.

Since the Ontario Drug Benefit Plan (ODB) drug costs are regulated, Generic drugs cannot be priced lower than 75% of the cost of a brand name drug, thus ensuring competitive rates. Bob assured Council that details regarding changes for June 1st will be made available to Council, and it was suggested that these details could be published in the MURAL.

The issue of the CPP was raised, but Bob was of the opinion that the government was 'scaremongering' and that if CPP costs were to rise, the University budget would be affected.

Regarding the Benefits Committee, Council was told that this committee has not as yet met, and although material has been accumulated, no dates have been proposed for meetings.

A discussion ensued regarding hourly, support staff and faculty retirements and the University decision to not replace positions. Evidently one retiring faculty member equals the cost to the University of three support staff.

Bob commented that in his opinion the University is not receiving maximum benefits for current costs, eg. hospital room rate costs at present are:

- \$150 per day charge for the McMaster plan
- \$100 per day charge for the Dofasco plan
- \$ 85 per day charge for the Westinghouse plan

Council was advised that a Vision Discount card was available in the Personnel office for anyone interested. Regarding insurance, Bob stated that Johnson Auto and Housing Insurance Co. provided good rates and a program could be set up through Canada Trust for payments by retirees.

The Chair thanked Bob for his time and assistance.

III President's Report

i Pension Ad Hoc Working Group

Jack Evans stated that meetings of the Pension Ad Hoc Working Group Committee are still in abeyance. Council was advised that excess pension surplus (as defined by National Revenue rules) has been placed in a separate account and it is proposed that it be directed to a Futures Fund. A new committee consisting of A.L. Darling, Dr. A. Szathmary, Dave Wartman, Wayne Lewchuk, M. Van Oosten, Dave Clark, and J.P. Evans has been set up to consider the proposal, which, if approved, would have voting MURA membership. Jack had also spoken to the incoming President of the Faculty Association suggesting that retirees would favour an annual report detailing the status of the University Pension Plan.

With respect to the CPP issue, Jim Walker volunteered to check the CARP Newsletter for any mention of this item. Kent Jenson is the local representative of the Association and will be contacted as well.

ii University Centre Space

The Chairman had received a questionnaire with reference to space in this Centre and read his response to Council.

Members were advised that the telephone local for the new office is 23171.

iii Nominating Committee

Terms on Council end for: Bill McMicking (1966) 96
Averil Thompson (1966) 7
Joan Wiley (1966) 0

It was MOVED by B. White and seconded by J. McCutcheon that the Nominating Committee include the Past President of MURA who will act as Chair plus four regular active members (2 from Council and 2 from the membership). Item 8.2 in the Constitution will need to be amended by substituting "Past President" for "President."

CARRIED

It was MOVED by J. Walker and seconded by J. Baby that the Nominating Committee be made up as follows:

J. Walker (Chair)
W. Mousley
M. Maggs Margaret
M. Hubley Maris
O. Tynowski Olga

IV. Treasurer's Report

Dora Haisell reported a balance of \$4,018.31 with outstanding mailing costs of approximately \$2,400, leaving a balance of \$1,628.31.

It was MOVED by M. Welton and seconded by J. Wiley that the \$1,000. certificate due March 9th be renewed for a period of one year.

CARRIED

It was suggested that the BBQ expense should be added to the budget. Dora suggested that a \$10 BBQ charge per person could be split 50/50 with MURA paying \$5.00 and attendees paying \$5.00. This proposal was approved.

V. Portfolio Reports

- Visitation

Brian advised members of the death of Ian Nelson and thanked those who had attended the funeral.

A card will be sent to Eve MacPherson.

Charlie Cook had been contacted by Jim Walker who stated that Charlie is having difficulty breathing.

- Trips

Art Gallery - February 22, - 33 tickets sold

Stage West - March 20, - 24 out of 42 places committed

Pennsylvanis April 16-19, - to be cancelled

Windsor - May 1-2, - only 6 committed so far. A day trip rather than an overnight trip was suggested at a cost of approximately \$55. per person including lunch. Agreed.

Council suggested future events might include:

- a) Colour Cruise in September
- b) MURA participation in Mohawk events
- c) Elora Gorge
- d) Seagram Museum

- Benefits Committee

M. Maggs had nothing further to report

- Courier Contact

Veronica advised that the Editor of the Courier has a list of MURA events, however to date no information re MURA has been published in the Courier.

- Membership

Jim Walker had nothing to report at present

- MURAL

Averil requested that information for the next issue be in her hands by March 13th.

W.U. advise re date. ? APRIL 3

- AGM/BBQ - May 15

John McCutcheon will arrange for the Divinity College space, including the Head Table and chairs for guests, coffee, etc. The President's Office or Housekeeper will be contacted re the availability of the grounds at the President's House for the BBQ.

A representative from the Office of Human Resources will be extended an invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting.

VI. Other Business

Carol Stonehouse, the MURA Scholarship winner had sent a letter of thanks to MURA.

The Citizenship Committee had forwarded certificates to Jim Walker to be distributed to the volunteers from Council.

A letter concerning Second Stage Housing had been received from Joan Field, who has requested information pertaining to this organization be published in the MURAL. It was agreed by Council that MURA would be setting a precedent by advertising an off-campus organization, and it was therefore

MOVED by B. White, seconded by M. Welton, that advertisements in the MURAL be limited to information and/or functions relating only to McMaster University.

VII NEXT MEETING: MARCH 13, 1996 at 13:30 1:30 pm