

McMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the Council Meeting held Wednesday, May 14th, 1997
at 1:30 p.m. in Gilmour Hall B109

PRESENT: J. Baby, J. Evans (Chair), D. Haisell, S. Hambleton,
M. Hubley, J. Maas, M. Maggs, D. Matheson, J.
McCutcheon, C. McMullen, V. Morrison, A. Thompson,
J. Walker, M. Welton, B. White

I. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of April 9th, 1997 were approved with the following amendments:

Page 1 - 1997 should be inserted after April 9th
in the **MINUTES** title

Page 2 - Para 2. The word 'decentrifification' should
be changed to read 'decertification'

II. Business Arising

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a) The computer E/Mail address is MURA
b) The Thode Memorial Service has been held and it is hoped that former President Dr. Arthur Bourns will replace Dr. Thode as Honourary Chairman of MURA
c) President's Newsletter

III. President's Report

i) Pension Matters

There has been a sign-off on the revised Pension Trust Committee which will go forward to the Board in June. The Chair reminded Council that MURA will have voting privileges on this committee. He also stated that there is agreement in principle on the funding buy-out package at an approximate cost of 4.2 million.

The Chair indicated that there were four items included in the buy-out:

Pre 1983 retirees are to receive a 50% indexing for CPI. Our group of post 1983 receives 75%.

The memory period for indexing goes from two to three years.

Post-retirement survivor and death benefits increased from 5 to 7 years. (This will benefit new retirees)

A bridge benefit to commence at later of age 60 or Rule of 80 with benefit level of \$20 per month of service earned up to 1/07/97 to a maximum of 20 years. (This benefits all members who retire under Rule of 80 in future).

Pre-retirement death and termination benefits to increase with 2% interest on balance at 30/06/96 but is subject to the total package not exceeding 4.2 million.

The Chair asked Council if this body can approve the above package on behalf of MURA members, but the consensus was that all members of the Association be balloted.

Suggestions were made that perhaps the surplus could be placed in some type of foundation or that the one-time out-of-Province health insurance limit be raised.

The chair circulated the second instalment of a Pension Plan Primer to Council, along with a letter from the MUFF Committee.

ii) MUFF Committee

John McCutcheon reported on this committee which had been established to deal with interest arising from surplus pension funds, which funds rise or fall according to the amount of principal involved and the interest rate.

In the letter from A.L. Darling re MUFF, Item 1 was raised in Council and read as follows:

..."allocations should be made to enhance activities that are consistent with the University Mission and enhance the overall quality of life of those involved with the university..."

Council members discussed several areas where clean-up or beautification is much needed, e.g. plastic garbage containers should be replaced by cement holders. Additional cork bulletin boards should be available throughout campus buildings. Averil Thompson suggested that Council as a group submit to Mr. Darling a request for overall campus beautification. M. Maggs and J. Evans agreed to work on a letter of recommendation.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Dora Haisell circulated the Treasurer's Report (Sheet 1) which indicates a balance of \$3,846.57 as of May 12, 1997 plus a draft report for the AGM for the 1996-1997 fiscal year (Sheet 2). It was MOVED by Dora and seconded by Brian White that the proposed financial statement be presented to the AGM.

CARRIED

Averil Thompson requested a separate line for the Newsletter and Postage and a separate line for Photocopying.

V Portfolio Assignments

- Visitations

Jack Maas reported he had sent a get well card to A. McConnell and a sympathy card to Fergie Cook's daughter, Mrs. Lovelace.

Dora read a note from Jean McCallion advising that Bill is in the chronic care ward of MUMC.

- Trips

Joy Baby stated that a Shaw Festival trip is being considered for September, however no date has been set. Joy also reported a balance of \$1,045.28 as of April 30, 1997 in the Special Events Account.

The Canterbury Hills dinner on September 16th was discussed with a view to inviting a Guest Speaker for this event. John McCutcheon suggested Ralph Spence who is an authority on Flags and Heraldry and Council agreed this would be an interesting topic. John volunteered to follow up on his suggestion.

- Benefits

Margaret Maggs had no report at this time, however she and Jack Evans will review draft communications to retirees received from Benefits.

- Courier

Veronica was pleased to state that the AGM and BBQ announcement had appeared in the April 23, 1997 edition of the Courier

- Membership

Carm McMullen distributed membership figures to Council and noted that 1997 ACTIVE memberships have increased over the previous year. He also pointed out that the mailing list should be updated.

The Chair suggested, and it was agreed by those present that persons in the "Survivor" category should not be charged to attend the BBQ.

- MURAL

There would be a charge of \$50 for sorting and delivery to the Po.
Averil Thompson reported on bulk mailing. The MURAL is eligible but an agent would have to be hired to sort out the mailing. She was also told that envelopes would have to be arranged in postal code sequence. These two factors would seem to discourage the idea of bulk mailing.

Averil discovered a significant increase in cost between coloured and plain paper (\$8.90 per M for white, and \$17.40 per M for coloured), therefore the MURAL will be printed on white with a note of explanation from Averil included. Material for the June/July issue of the MURAL is requested to be in Averil's hands by June 11th for mailing on June 23rd. *Now June 20*

- AGM and BBQ

The Chair requested a lectern and table be set up in the Eleanor McKay Room of Moulton Hall prior to the annual meeting. He also advised that the following will give reports:

Gerry King - Pension Trust Committee
M. Maggs - Benefits Committee
J. Walker - Nominating Committee
J. Evans/ A. Thompson - Constitutional changes
J. McCutcheon - MUFF

Stan Hambleton advised that the President's house has been offered in the event that rain should occur on the date of our Annual BBQ. Donna McGreal of the President's Office has been invited to attend. Stan stated that parking is available outside Matthews Hall.

VI. Other Business

i) Communications

Jim Walker had received a call from CARP re their meeting on May 29th at 7:30 p.m. on Car Insurance for Seniors

Book store credit will no longer be available on University ID cards. *

Welcome Day will occur on August 8th

A letter was received from Roger Trull acknowledging MURA's donation to the Gwen George Fund

ii) President's Comments

Jack Evans congratulated Council members on their work over the past two years. He stated that originally the Association was formed as a social group but had changed to pro-active in order to obtain voting rights on various University committees. He also commented on the changing University milieu which could mean that by the year 2,000 we as retirees may not know anyone in Administration at McMaster. A letter was read prepared by Grant Smith on retirees issues and how there is a different view of retirees by on-campus staff from the views of actual retirees. Jack pointed out that Council has responsibility for leadership and that Council needs more active people to help with the work to be done.

On behalf of Council, Carm McMullen thanked Jack for his guidance and hard work during his two-year term of office.

VII. The next meeting will be held on June 11th, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. in Gilmour Hall B109

1pm

Dorothy Mameson
Secretary