

McMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday February 9, 2000, at 1.30 pm, in Gilmour Hall Room 204

Present: Gerry Keech (chair), Frank Drieman, Jack Evans, Dora Haisell, Stan Hambleton, Mavis Hubley, Margaret Maggs, John McCutcheon, Veronica Morrison, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson, Jim Walker and Brian White

Regrets: Joy Baby and Herb Jenkins

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, January 12, 2000, be accepted as previously circulated (Jack Evans/John McCutcheon Carried)

2. Correspondence

- a) MUFF - Gerry Keech had received a letter from Paul Donohue^s, (Interim) Vice-President Administration, outlining financial support totalling \$1,040,000, which has been allocated as follows for 1999/2000: conference support \$200,000, information technology leadership \$75,000, improvement of working conditions \$250,000, electronic library \$200,000, improvement of grounds and planting of trees \$100,000, scholarships for children of salaried pension plan members \$100,000, support for athletics and recreation \$80,000 and upgrading of lounge \$35,000.
- b) MUSA certification
Gerry Keech had also received a letter from Paul Donohue^s concerning MUSA's application for certification as a union. The question of disputed votes has been settled and the certification process is progressing.
- c) Daily News Web Site
This is now available at McMaster.

3. Treasurer's Report

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report for January 2000 be accepted as printed (Dora Haisell/Jack Evans Carried)

Two term certificates (GIC's), one for \$2,500 and one for \$1,000 will mature on March 3, 2000. It was agreed that \$2,500 of this money should be re-invested.

Motion: that upon maturity the \$3,500 from two GIC's be deposited in the MURA general account and that, prior to March 31, the Treasurer time the reinvestment of \$2,500 of this money to take advantage of any increase in interest rates (Dora Haisell/ Brian White Carried).

Jack Evans

4. Portfolio Reports

- a) Membership - Gerry Keech reported slow progress in updating the data base.

- b) Visitation - Stan Hambleton reported that he had sent several cards. John Williamson is due to have a quadruple bypass operation.
- c) Events - Mavis Hubley reported that Joy had made arrangements for a trip to Stratford on May 19 to see *Fiddler on the Roof*, at a cost of \$52.50 for the bus and theatre tickets only. Plans are being made for a visit to the Shaw Festival to see *The Doctor's Dilemma* on September 26. It was agreed that the fall dinner would be held on Tuesday September 12, but not necessarily at Canterbury Hills. Mavis will make further enquiries re price and possible alternative locations.
- d) MURAL/Courier - Veronica Morrison reported that Courier will be publishing some MURA information in the next issue. The copy deadline for the March-April issue of the MURAL will be Wednesday March 8. A new feature "Letters to the Editor" will be included.
- e) AGM/Buffer - Jim Walker said that Wednesday May 24 has been confirmed as the date for the buffet at the President's House. It was agreed that Mrs Link would be asked to provide the buffet and that the cost to retirees would remain at \$5 per person for this year.
- f) Benefits - Margaret Maggs will seek clarification from Human Resources on a number of points and in particular whether retirees had been sent written confirmation of their individual choices regarding change of plans. John McCutcheon raised the question of reduced OHIP coverage for chiropractic treatment and whether the Major Medical Plan assistance might be increased. Frank Drieman will contact MUSA regarding this matter.
- g) Pension Matters - Jack Evans distributed copies of a report on Pension Surplus given by A. L. Robb in December 1999 to MUFA and explained it to the Council. The need for about 95% support of all plan members eligible to vote has prompted the recommendation of a "Cash Settlement". In the words of the report:

"The agreement we had reached was quite complex and failed to benefit every individual in a equitable manner. Cash is simple and a reasonably equitable form for distribution is available. The cash may come in tax sheltered form but the essential thing is that it can be taken as cash."

[Please read the report for more details]

5. Slate for New Council

According to Article 8.02 of the constitution, the nominating committee shall consist of the Past President, who shall act as chair, and four other regular active members of the Association, two of whom shall not be members of the Council. The following persons were suggested as possible candidates for the two non-Council positions: Helen Barton, Jackie Lazenby, Mildred McClaren and Gordon Raymond.

Motion: that the nominating committee consist of

1. John McCutcheon, Chair
2. Jim Walker, Council member
3. Brian White, Council member

and two non-Council members to be selected by the above.

(Jack Evans/Dora Haisell Carried)

Veronica Morrison, our current Vice-President, confirmed (as she had previously indicated), that she did not wish to become President as she felt that it would be better to have an academic in this post.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2000, at 1.30 pm in Gilmour Hall, Room 204.

7. Adjournment

Frank Drieman moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 2.45 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Gerry Keech
President