

McMaster University Retirees' Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, December 13th, 2000, at 1.30pm, in Gilmour Hall Room 204

Present: Gerry Keech (chair), Joy Baby, Frank Drieman, Jessie Dunlop, Jack Evans, Dora Haisell, Mavis Hubley, Margaret Maggs, Veronica Morrison, John McCutcheon, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson, and Bonnie White

Regrets: Herb Jenkins ~~Stan Hambleton~~

↑
~~Absent: Stan Hambleton~~

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

At the request of Margaret Maggs, it was agreed that the following addendum be added as a second paragraph in section 5. Guests:

Two questions were asked concerning retiree benefits and the recent union certification:

(1) Will retirees who retired prior to MUSA certification keep the benefits they had at retirement by the use of grandfathering?

Karen Belaire said yes in principle to this. It was pointed out that there had already been a case where grand-fathering had not been used (Ivor Wynne fees). This was perhaps the result of a misunderstanding and the situation has been corrected. A future problem may come up regarding parking benefits. Karen Belaire asked if we wanted something in writing about this and we said "Yes".

(2) Will retirees who retired after certification be in danger of having their benefits negotiated away?

Mark Haley said "No - MUSA has authority only to negotiate on behalf of current employees". It was noted that a letter sent by John McCutcheon on June 4th, 1999, had not been answered. There was general concern about the slowness of responses from Human Resources and Jack Evans mentioned two years in the case of the benefits package.

Karen Belaire said that this was "totally unacceptable".

Motion: that, subject to the addition above, the minutes of the meeting held on November 8th, 2000 be approved as previously circulated (Jack Evans/John McCutcheon carried)

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Insurance findings and waiver

Gerry Keech read the following letter, dated November 13th, 2000, from Ron Angus, Assistant Director, Risk Management, regarding general liability insurance.

"I have checked with McMaster's insurer regarding the extension of the University's liability coverage to MURA. The insurer has advised that all clubs and associations sanctioned by the University are included under existing coverage. Since MURA is a recognized association endorsed by McMaster University, this memo is confirmation that general liability insurance is in place for the officers of MURA and for the organizers of MURA activities.

If there is ever need to confirm that coverage, a certificate of insurance can be generated by the insurer on request. Please contact me if the need arises and this office will assist in obtaining the necessary information."

Jack Evans pointed out that a waiver of liability is still needed and read a sample waiver from Nature newsletter. Joy Baby distributed another sample which seemed to the Council members somewhat intimidating. John McCutcheon agreed to draft a "third" waiver incorporating some good features from each.

(b) Revised Budget

Motion: that the revised budget for the year ending April 30th, 2001 be approved as printed (Dora Haisell / Joy Baby carried)

3. Correspondence (e-mail from Human Resources)

Gerry Keech had received a pensioner home address file, a home address file for 390 people who had opted for a deferred pension and a letter confirming that these files can only be used for the purpose of pension surplus.

4. President's Remarks

Gerry Keech has been working with Bonnie White and Human Resources trying to reconcile our records with the Human Resources data base. He thinks that our data base is somewhat amateurish (e.g. no ID numbers) and the operation is clouded by the fact that our classifications are not exactly in sync with those of HR.

Jack Evans pointed out that our constitution in Article 3.02 defines a regular member "as any person who is in receipt of a University pension". This definition would exclude the

currently significant number of retirees who have elected to defer their pensions, as well as the survivors with benefits only. Consequently he suggested that we consider defining a regular member as "any person who at the time of retirement from McMaster University qualifies for a University pension". This notice of motion needs to be discussed at our next Council meeting in January and, if endorsed, will be presented for approval at the next AGM in May.

5. Pension Surplus and MURA Involvement

The joint letter from the University and MURA has not yet been sent to those in receipt of a University pension despite Mark Haley's expectation that this would be done by November 23rd. The suggestion that the letters should be sent to retirees by registered mail has been turned down by the University as too expensive. Packages from the Toronto law firm to the retirees are still due to be mailed in February 2001. Information/Study groups are planned for the same month.

6. Portfolio Reports

(a) Trips / Special Events

The trip to Toronto to see the Famous People Players on December 7th, was a great success. The Matisse Exhibition trip for Thursday January 11th, 2001 has been over-subscribed.

(b) MURAL

It was agreed to have a "Mini MURAL" mailed to active members in January 2001. This would include information about upcoming vacancies on the Council and an invitation to contact the Nominating Committee regarding names of possible candidates. Also included would be advance notice of the new membership donation proposal and a reminder about the Stage West outing in March.

(c) Christmas Lunch

Bonnie White reported that 82 people attended.

(d) Benefits - Margaret Maggs

Bob Tangney has left the University and John Bowman is on indefinite sick leave. The Hotline has been discontinued. Laura Marks is looking after retiree benefits.

(e) MUFF

John McCutcheon reported that \$10,000 is immediately available to MURA for the purchase of a new computer and some office furniture.

7. Other Business

(a) Margaret Maggs asked that Human Resources be reminded (?by Gerry) of the long-awaited benefits brochures for non-teaching staff.

(b) Recent deaths: Dr. E.A. Behrens Mathematics
Mrs Pat Harrison Library
Dr. Anatole Volkov Nuclear Physics

(c) Jack Evans suggested that we rely less on memos and e-mails and more on personal contact (with good supporting documentation) in our dealings with Human Resources. In this connection clear, concise, relevant minutes of Council meetings will be most helpful.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday January 10th, 2001, in Gilmour Hall, Room 204.

9. Adjournment

Dora Haisell moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Gerry Keech
President