

McMaster University Retirees' Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, March 14th, 2001, at 1:30 pm, at the home of Veronica Morrison, 179 Orchard Drive, Ancaster

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

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Page 1 Section 2(a) add comma after "my heirs".

Page 3 Section 4(a) change Dr. and Mrs Peter George to Dr. Peter George and his wife, the Reverend Allison Barrett.

Motion: that, subject to the changes above, the minutes of the meeting held on February 14th, 2001, be approved as previously circulated (Joy Baby/Mavis Hubley carried)

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Letter to VP's - Gerry Keech had successfully sent this by e-mail.

(b) Copy for the next edition of the MURAL

On a motion by Jack Evans, the discussion moved to item 4(b) on the agenda, the "Revised Member Definition", as set out in the minutes of our meeting of January 10th, 2001.

Motion: that Council will not propose an amendment to the constitution regarding the definition of a regular member at the present time (Jack Evans/Joy Baby)

Consequently, the next edition of the MURAL will not include a proposal to redefine regular membership. Jack Evans then moved that we return to the discussion of the other items in the "Business Arising" section of the agenda as printed.

(c) Nominating Committee Report

Joy Baby, Dora Haisell, Lynne Hopkinson and Brian White have been assisting John McCutcheon in seeking suitable nominees. Marju Drynan, Marilyn Elliot and Mildred McLaren have agreed to be nominated for a three year term of office and Helen Otrosina has agreed to stand for a one year term (replacing Jessie Dunlop). After some discussion, it was agreed that John would invite Mildred McLaren to stand as Vice President in the hope that another person (possibly Helen Barton) could be found for the three year position. Dr. A.N. Bourns has agreed to continue as Honorary President.

(d) Speaker for Annual Dinner - Jack Evans is working on this.

(e) AGM Barbecue Gerry Keech has invited Dr. Peter George and his wife to this event.

3. Correspondence (e-mail)

(a) Ken Blackwell

Ken is protesting his ineligibility to share in the excess pension surplus. He has asked that MURA act on behalf of those who withdrew their money from the plan. Gerry Keech read from a letter received from Mark Zigler stating that people who withdrew their monies are not considered members or former members of the plan and are not entitled to share in the surplus.

Ken Blackwell also requested MUFA to take up the cause. Gerry Keech read a copy of the letter MUFA sent to Ken Blackwell denying support. Gerry was asked to write a similar letter to Ken Blackwell.

(b) Steve Link, a retired faculty member from Psychology, had written an ill-tempered letter about the excess pension surplus arrangements. The Council agreed that Gerry check with MUFA and respond in accord with whatever action MUFA had taken. The response should be neutral.

4. President's Remarks

(a) Identification of Active Members at the AGM

It was agreed that those who were eligible to vote would be given a coloured card. Gerry and Bonnie will produce a list for use at the AGM.

(b) Agenda and reports for AGM

Gerry Keech distributed a draft agenda for the AGM which included the various reports and the names of those who are responsible for them. It was agreed that those present should receive proposed changes to the constitution in writing and some copies of the whole constitution will be available.

(c) Auditing of Accounts

It was agreed to have "in-house" auditing this year and John McCutcheon and Jessie Dunlop volunteered to do this job.

5. Treasurer's Report

Dora Haisell presented the Treasurer's Report.

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report for the period December

31st, 2000, to February 28th, 2001 be accepted as printed
(Dora Haisell/Jack Evans carried)

6. Excess Pension Surplus Update

Jack Evans reported that the ballots are being returned reasonably well - approximately 70% as of March 13th. Problems with returned to sender packages marked "Not known at this address" are gradually and painstakingly being resolved. In early April there will be a need to follow up on ballots which have not been returned. Joy Baby has very kindly agreed to coordinate a group of telephone volunteers.

7. Portfolio Reports

(a) Membership

Gerry Keech and Bonnie are continuing their time-consuming task of updating the records so that Bonnie will soon be able to look after this on her own.

(b) Stan Hambleton had sent some cards. Thank-you notes had been received from Mavis Hubley and Brian White.

(c) Trips/Special Events

Joy Baby reported that various trips are being planned including Toronto Harbour (June 7th), Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake (September 18th) and Xmas Lights at Simcoe. Dinner at the Chamber of Commerce has been booked for Tuesday September 11th, 2001.

(d) MURAL/COURIER

The MURAL has to be mailed no later than March 31st and therefore Veronica needs copy as quickly as possible. It will include a welcome to new members by Gerry Keech, information about forthcoming events, the Nomination Committee's Report and items to be discussed at the AGM. In view of the MUSA strike, Veronica will make arrangements for printing in Ancaster and Averil will purchase self adhesive 47cent stamps. Envelope stuffing may be done at Veronica's home. There will be one insert.

(e) Annual Buffet

Stan Hambleton suggested that we should publicize the menu in advance so that so that people will not come expecting the lavish spread enjoyed in recent years at the President's house. The cost per person will be \$10.95, as agreed at the February 14th meeting.

(f) Benefits - Margaret Maggs had nothing to report.

(g) Pension Trust - Frank Drieman said that no meeting had held.

(h) MUFF - John McCutcheon had nothing to report.

(i) MUSA Liaison - the strike continues. However, the two sides have reached an out of court settlement on how long the picketers may keep vehicles waiting.

8. Other Business

(a) Dora Haisell said that MUSA representatives had approached her to explain their position and to seek help on the picket lines from retirees. She distributed information which she had been given by MUSA.

(b) On behalf of the Council Jack Evans thanked Veronica for her most kind hospitality.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday April 11th, 2001, at 1:30 pm in Gilmour Hall Room 204.

10. Adjournment

Joy Baby moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3:40 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Gerry Keech
President