

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday February 13th, 2002, at 1:30 pm, in University Hall Room 317

Present: Frank Drieman (chair), Helen Barton, Marju Drynan, Jessie Dunlop, Marilyn Elliot Mavis Hubley, Gerry Keech, Mildred McLaren, Helen Otrosina, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson, Bonnie White and Jack Evans

Regrets: Stan Hambleton, Herb Jenkins and Veronica Morrison

1. Welcome

Frank Drieman welcomed everyone.

2. Update on the Pension Surplus Distribution

Jack Evans reported that mailing of the "package" has just commenced and should be complete by the end of February. Each package should contain an update on the approximate amount for which the retiree is eligible, an information booklet concerning options and a document for recording chosen option(s) to be completed and returned no later than April 30th, 2002. Tax sheltering through additional voluntary contributions to RRSP's or RRIFs may be an option for some retirees. This a University operation and any questions should be referred to the appropriate members of staff.

3. Contribution Holidays for the University and Active Memembers of the Pension Plan

Frank Drieryan pointed out that many retirees had never enjoyed the benefits of a contribution holiday and wondered what might be done to compensate for this. After some discussion abput the "real world", it was suggested by Jack Evans that an increase in the death benefit might be an improvement which all would eventually "enjoy". Frank Drieman will pursue this matter.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday January 12th, 2002, be approved as previously circulated (MarilynElliot/Mildred McLaren carried)

5. Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

(a) MURA office - Frank reported that this was now in pretty good shape but the old desk has to be found a new home. He thought that some software was needed. for the new computer and the consensus was that any software definitely required should be bought. Fortunately there is about \$7,000 available according to Frank.

(b) MURA account number - Frank said that we now have account # 0 - 10239 - 1375 and three people have signing authority on it - Frank Drieman, Jessie Dunlop and Mildred McLaren. The monthly itemized statement will be sent to our Treasurer's home address.

(c) Access to the University internet - Frank understands from Human Resources that this is being put into place and does not anticipate any problems.

(d) The regular checking of the message machine seems to be working well. However, it is important to avoid duplication of effort and, when a Council member is dealing with a particular message, it should be deleted from the machine.

6. Correspondence

Frank had received a letter from Student Financial Aid regarding the MURA Gerontology scholarship. The scholarship has remained at \$400 for ten years and he felt it was time for a review.

Motion: that the scholarship be increased from \$400 to \$600 (effective this year 2002) (Marju Drynan/ Jessie Dunlop carried)

7. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop presented her balance sheet and also her statement of income and expenses for the nine months ending January 31st, 2002, showing a balance of \$4,589.07.

8. Portfolio Reports

(a) Membership - Frank Drieman will write a reminder letter to those members who still owe their active membership donation for the calendar year 2002.

(b) Christmas Lunch - Bonni White had talked with Peter, owner of the Schwaben Inn, who understood our concerns and hoped that things would work out better next time. Frank plans to have a plain chat with him in September regarding our Service expectations at the Christmas lunch.

(c) Trips/Special Events

Mavis said that plans were going well for the Stanton House trip September 25th - 27th, 2002. Thirty seven people have booked so far for the spring outing on March 27th and more could be accommodated on the 55 seater bus. Anne Sinclair reported that the "My Fair Lady" trip to Stratford on June 19th is proving very popular.

9. Nominating Committee

Gerry Keech will chair the Nominating Committee. Frank Drieman and Mildred McLaren volunteered to assist him as Council members and together they will find two non-Council members to complete the committee.

10. Reception/for New Retirees

There will be a reception for new retirees on April 22nd, from 2:30 to 5pm, in the Great Hall of the Faculty Club. Frank Drieman indicated that each member of the Council would be receiving an invitation from the President's Office.

11. Indemnification of Council Members

Helen Barton said that both the Faculty Association and the Part-timer Students' Association have the fairly standard type of wording which the Council presented to the AGM for approval last May. She will ask the McMaster University Risk Manager for a rather stronger letter to support our position regarding liability.

12. Constitutional Review

Helen Barton presented a constitutional review with the main emphasis on the definition of a regular member of MURA. Each person present was given a copy and, after some discussion, it was decided to present the following wording for approval at the AGM this coming May. Changes are highlighted:

ARTICLE THREE - Membership

3.01 MEMBERS

Members of the Association shall consist of regular, associate and honorary members.

3.02 REGULAR MEMBERS:

Any person who has retired from 'McMaster University ,who, while in the employ of theUniversity, was eligible to become a member of a University pension plan, and whose retirement date from the University would have qualified that person to receive a pension from that plan

3.03 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- (a) Any person who is the spouse of a Regular member
- (b) Any person who is the surviving spouse of a former regular member
- (c) The holder of a pension from another University on whom Council has bestowed Associate membership.

3.04 HONORARY MEMBERS:

Any person upon whom the Council confers honorary membership as a signal honor for unusual contributions to the Association.

3.05 MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

- (a) Any members who pays the annual fee shall be designated as Active for that calender year.
- (b) Non fee-paying members shall be designated as Inactive.
- (c) New Regular members shall be designated as Active without payment of the annual fee until the end of the calendar year following the calendar year of their retirement

3.06 Use of the membership mailing list shall be limited to the Association and the University.

ARTICLE NINE - Official Publication.

9.01 The ~~MURAL~~ MURANews (The McMaster University Retirees' Association Letter) shall be the official publication of the Association. It shall be published from time to time and a copy of each issue shall be mailed to each regular Active member of the Association whose address is on file at the time of publication. The Council may by resolution change the name or mode of publication of the official publication.

Additon to 9-01:

The issue of the MURAL announcing the AGM and the one reporting the outcomes of the AGM shall be sent to all members of the Association whose correct address is on file, except those who have requested "no mailings". The council may approve a general mailing of issues with information critical to all members and of overall benefit.

Motion: that Articles 3.02 and 3.03 be ammended as printed above for presentation and approval at the AGM in May (Helen Barton/ Mildred McLaren)

Motion: that Article 3.05 be amended as printed above for presentation and approval at the AGM in May.

9.01 approved also according to Helen.

13. Priority for Active Members on Trips?

There was some feeling expressed at the last AGM that Active Members should be entitled to priority when booking trips. This could, of course, be reflected in a bylaw made by the Council in accordance with Article 10.01 of the Constitution, However, Helen Barton's proposed wording for a bylaw was not adopted. There was some discussion about other ways of addressing the concern and one suggestion which seemed of interest was to charge \$5 extra for inactive members. No definite course of action was determined..

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, March ,13th., 2002, at 1:30 pm in University Hall, Room 317.:

15. Adjournment

Marilyn Elliot moved the adjournment and at the meeting at approximately 3:40PM.

Averil Thompson,
Secretary

Frank Drieman
President