

McMaster University Retirees' Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday June 13th, 2001, at 1:30pm, in Gilmour Hall, Room 204

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

Regrets: Stan Hambleton, Herb Jenkins and Mildred McLaren

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Frank Drieman welcomed everybody and introduced the new members of Council.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

In 3(a) change Simon Oullet to Simon Ouellet and in 3(b) change Karen Bellaire to Karen Belaire.

Motion: that, subject to the changes above, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday May 9th, 2001 be approved as previously circulated. (Mavis Hubley/Gerry Keech carried)

3. Minutes of the AGM on May 30th

Add the following two paragraphs to the end of the MUFF Committee Report item 11: "Included in external space is \$40,000 for new trees and additional seating (benches and tables) as proposed by MURA."

"With the advent of the distribution of the pension surplus rebate program, the MUFF program terminates. There may be one further meeting to consider distribution of any unused funds. If so, there will be a report next year."

Motion: that, subject to the amendment above, the minutes of the AGM held on May 30, 2001 be endorsed as previously circulated for approval at the next AGM in 2002 (Anne Sinclair/Helen Barton carried)

The Secretary will provide amended minutes for Council Members.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Discussion of the definition of MURA member

Gerry Keech referred Council members to articles 3.02 and 3.03 of the MURA Constitution, which define regular and associate members, and raised a few questions for consideration over the summer. One key question is whether a regular member should be

defined as a pensioner or as a retiree. Gerry Keech and Helen Barton will review the Constitution for consistency and clarity. In the meantime, Averil will ensure that each member of the Council has a copy.

(b) Reconsideration of the constitutional amendment regarding indemnification of Council members which was withdrawn at the AGM

The first part of the amendment was as follows:

“Every officer of the Association and Member of Council, his/her heirs, executors and administrators and estate and effects respectively shall, from time and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Association from and against:”

Frank Drieman thought that changing “out of the funds” to “from the funds” would solve the problem. Following some discussion it was agreed that at some point we should seek legal advice. In the meantime, Helen Barton will find out how the McMaster Association of Part-Time Students handles this matter and Gerry Keech will do the same with the Faculty Association.

(c) Access to the University Internet

There was some discussion about the suggestion that all retirees should have the opportunity for access and many questions were raised about the feasibility of this. It was decided that the matter needed more study.

5. Correspondence

Members of the Council and those who left the Council in May have received personal invitations to a lunch at the President's House on Tuesday June 26th, from 12 noon to 1:30pm.

6. President's Remarks

Frank Drieman questioned whether there should be an extra charge for non-active members taking part in our trips/special events, as was suggested at the AGM.. After some discussion, it was agreed that this suggestion could result in bringing the number of participants below the required minimum to make the trips/events feasible. The suggestion was therefore rejected.

7. Treasurer's Report - Jessie Dunlop

Our balance in the Credit Union on June 12th, was \$4,445.51. However, the bill for the BBQ attended by 49 people (approximately \$745) had not yet been received.. We were reminded of the importance of completing the “blue slip” when booking for an outing and the desirability of paying by cheque rather than by cash.

The MURA office is in great need of a spring clean. The old typewriter is to be discarded.

8. Portfolios

- (a) Assignments: Membership - Marju Drynan, Gerry Keech and Bonnie White
AGM/Annual Buffet - Stan Hambleton and Mavis Hubley
Trips/Event - Mavis Hubley and Anne Sinclair
Christmas Lunch - Bonnie White
MURA/Courier - Veronica Morrison
Benefits - Marilyn Elliot
Cards and Visits - Stan Hambleton
Pension Trust Committee - Frank Drieman
MUFA liaison - Herb Jenkins
MUSA liaison - Frank Drieman
University Relations - President, Vice President & Past President

(b) Portfolio Reports

- Trips/Special Events - Fall Dinner September 11th, at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
Please call Anne Sinclair as soon as possible if you plan to attend.
We have to guarantee a minimum of 30 for the meal.
- MURAL/Courier Veronica needs all copy as quickly as possible for the post AGM
edition. Jack Evans' Excess Pension Surplus Report should be
included but he will not be back from vacation until June 21st.

9. Any Other Business

Gerry Keech suggested that it was time to clarify some grey areas:

- (a) The period of grace for the payment of fees for new members and on-going members

Motion: that a new member will receive all copies of the MURAL until the AGM in the year following the year of retirement and at this point they would be required to pay a fee to maintain this privilege (Gerry Keech/Anne Sinclair carried)

With regard to on-going active members, there is no official period of grace but members in arrears as of March 1st, will receive a notice indicating that payment is required if they wish to continue as active members.

- (b) Name of fee

It was agreed that we change the name from Voluntary Annual Donation to **Active Membership Fee.**

- (c) Mailings of the MURAL

It was agreed that at least two full mailings of the MURAL are essential each year to communicate with members - one prior to and one following the AGM.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 12th, 2001, at 1:30 pm, in Gilmour Hall, Room 204.

11. Adjournment

Gerry Keech moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3:45 pm.

Averil Thompson.
Secretary

Frank Drieman
President