

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday April 9th, 2003 at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 303

Present: Frank Drieman (chair), Helen Barton, Marju Drynan, Marilyn Elliot, Erica Giese, Mildred McLaren, Carm McMullen, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Jessie Dunlop, Mavis Hubley and Gerry Keech

1. Welcome

Frank Drieman welcomed everyone to the meeting in the Student Centre.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was noted that the planned communication between retirees and Helen Otrosina (as recorded in 3 (a) AGM) did not actually take place.

Motion: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, March 12th, 2003 be approved as previously circulated (Marilyn Elliot / Helen Otrosina Carried)

3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) AGM May 28th, 2003 - Helen Barton and Helen Otrosina

Helen Barton volunteered to put the AGM package together once she had received the agenda, the minutes of the previous AGM and various reports, including the Membership Report. The President's Report, the Benefits Report and the Pension Trust Committee Report will be given orally and then published later in the MURA news. Copies of the updated Constitution are to be available for pick up at the meeting.

(b) Laser printer for the MURA office

There was a discussion on the most suitable type of printer but no decision. It was agreed that we needed input from Gerry Keech and printer purchase will therefore be put on the agenda for the meeting on May 14th.

(c) MURA web site - Helen Barton and Marju Drynan

A meeting had been held to discuss this from 12:45 to 1:30 (immediately prior to the regular Council meeting). Marju had circulated notes on "Phase One" indicating the bare bones type of information which might be covered bearing in mind the useful example provided by the Queen's University web site. Marju will be putting together further information for consideration at the May meeting. In the meantime, Helen and Marju had permission to spend as they saw fit on software and some professional help.

4. Correspondence

(a) Frank Drieman had written to the Development Office informing them of the recent decision to increase the annual scholarship to \$1,000 and the prize to \$250.

(b) Helen Barton had received an enquiry from Roy Adams, a faculty retiree, asking whether information about his provincial NDP candidacy for Hamilton West might be published in the MURA news. The Council has no established policy on this and it is not addressed in the Constitution. However, the consensus was that Helen should convey the answer "No" in her own careful language. In the meantime the development of a thoughtful policy on the content of the MURA would seem to be needed.

(c) Frank had been asked whether MURA would support the nomination of the Pension Surplus Committee for the President's Award. As the closing date for nominations was only two days later Frank said "Yes" on behalf of MURA without consulting the Council. Unfortunately, it appears that Jack Evans would not be recognized as the President's Award is designed for those employed on the McMaster payroll and not for retirees.

5. President's Remarks

Frank Drieman reported that he had enjoyed a dinner with the President, Dr Peter George and twenty four other guests on March 18th, in honour of student award donors.

6. Portfolios

(a) Membership - Bonnie White reported that 392 letters had been mailed to retirees who needed a reminder regarding payment of their active membership fee.

(b) Trips and Special Events - Anne Sinclair said that she already has 32 people booked for the Orillia BBQ, Cruise and Theatre on July 2nd. She will be on vacation from May 22nd to June 12th, but will hand in her AGM report before leaving.

(c) Cards - Helen Otrosina said that she had sent three cards since the last meeting.

(d) MURA news - Veronica said that she plans to publish the next edition in June and would appreciate having copy promptly after the AGM on May 28th.

(e) Pension Matters - Frank Drieman is pushing to have guaranteed cost of living increases but is not hopeful of success.

7. Any other business

Frank will try to book a suitable meeting room in the Student Centre for future meetings.

8. Next meeting of Council

This will be held on Wednesday, May 14th, in the Student Centre Room 230.

9. Adjournment

Erica Giese moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 2:45 pm.

Averil Thompson, Secretary

Frank Drieman, President