

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 12th, 2003, at 1:30pm in University Hall Room 317

Present: Frank Drieman (chair), Marju Drynan, Jessie, Dunl.op, Marilyn Elli.ot, Erica Giese, Gerry . Keech, Mildred McLaren, Carm McMullen, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Helen Barton and Mavis Hubley

1. Welcome

Frank Drieman welcomed everyone and explained that he had agreed with Cheryl Soderlund from the McMaster Development Office that a short presentation would be made to the council at approxiamtely 2PM.

2. Approval of the minutes

Motion: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday January 8th, 2003 be approved as previously circulated (Erica Giese/Gerry Keech carried)

3. President's Remarks

Frank said that he had been invited t.o the Eighth Annual Graduate Students Recognition Day on Tuesday March 4th, in the evening. .

4. Development Office Presentation

Claudia Russell, assisted by Cheryl S.oderlund and Michelle Black, gave each .of us a f.older containing information about the many ways in which MURA could help to provide increased scholarship support to students. . The University now considers \$1000 as a minimum (We currently give a total of \$600 - one scholarship of \$400 and one prize of \$200 t.o students in Gerontology). Frank Drieman thanked the staff for their presentation and said that we would study the information provided and discuss it at the next meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) AGM - May 28th, 2003

Helen Otrosina said that the arrangements were well in hand and there was nothing new to report at this time.

(b) Posit.on and Portfolio Descriptions

Comments and suggestions were made.on this first draft and Averil will follow up as needed with Council members t.o pr.oduce the amended booklet.

(c) MURA web site

Marju Drynan distributed a document entitled "First Phase of the MURA Website" and there was some discussion concerning immediate objectives, general standards, content characteristics - initial phase, and proposed initial content. Marju stressed the importance of having an easily remembered name for our web site, as the title MURA is so easy to forget. Veronica and Gerry are both going to put out some feelers with a view to finding a suitably qualified person to assist

(d) Establishment of the Nominations Committee

Gerry Keech hopes to have his committee established and working shortly.

(e) Meaning of the phrase "the same office" in the last sentence of Article 5 .06 of our constitution. Frank Drieman had sought advice from Jack Evans, who explained that in this context there are three elected "offices" - the office of President, the office of Vice President and the office of Councillor. Consequently, it would be possible for a person who had served two consecutive terms in one office (eg. Councillor) to be nominated for and elected to another office (eg. President).

6. Correspondence

Frank said that he had received a note from Professor Dooley about the Funeral Society of Hamilton, which he thought would be of interest to our retirees. He gave it to Veronica for publication in the MURA news and said that he would write a short introduction.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop was concerned that the membership donations for 2003 are coming in rather slowly and, so far, only \$4,215 has arrived. Frank said that a reminder will be put in the the next edition of the MURA news in which memories would be jogged regarding the annual \$15 donation. A few weeks later personal reminders will be mailed to those members who have not renewed their active status.

Jessie reported that we have \$744 in the Credit Union and \$12,699 with ING direct, where we are receiving approximately \$29 per month in interest at the present time.

8. Portfolios

(a) Membership - Bonnie had nothing special to report.

(b) Trips and Special Events - Anne reported a mishap on the Lion Kiitg trip when a retiree fell as she was approaching the bus. Despite much blood and a possibly broken nose, the lady insisted on seeing the show, which she greatly enjoyed. On the return journey she was met by her son who took her to hospital. There was no question of MURA liability.

Anne has organized a special trip to Orillia for BBQ, cruise and theatre on Wednesday July 2nd, 2003, at a cost of \$78 per person. Early bookings are strongly advised!

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

(d) MURA news - Veronica said that she plans to have the next mailing in the second half of March..

(e) Pension Matters - Frank Drieman said that, due to the sinking value of investments, the partial pension contribution holiday will cease for all active members of the McMaster University Pension Plan for Salaried Staff effective July 1st, 2003. The University's intent regarding its own contributions is not clear at this point. This changed situation means that any benefit for retirees, in lieu of the partial pension contribution holiday enjoyed by active members of the Pension Plan, is now dead in the water.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, March 12th, 2003, at 1:30 pm in University Hall, Room 317.

10 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:40 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Frank Drieman
President