

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday May 14th, at 1 :30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 230

Present: Frank Drieman (chair), Helen Barton, Jessie Dunlop, Marju Drynan, Marilyn Elliot, Gerry Keech, Carm McMullen, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson, Bonnie White and special guest from Human Resources Michelle Leroux

Regrets: Erica Giese, Mavis Hubley and Mildred McLaren

1. Welcome

Frank Drieman welcomed everyone and introduced our special guest, Michelle Leroux, the newly appointed Manager- Retirement Support Services.

2. Approval of the Minutes

On page one line one the year should read 2003 - not 3003.

Motion: that subject to the correction above, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday April 9th, 2003 be approved as previously circulated (Carm McMullen/Helen Otrosina Carried)

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Annual General Meeting - Wednesday May 28th, 2003

The draft agenda was approved, subject to the deletion of Pension Trust Committee Report and the substitution of Salaried Pension Plan Report. Averil gave Bonnie the name tags for the Council members and it was agreed that, as people arrived, they would be invited to write their own "Hello" stickers to be provided by Veronica Morrison. Gerry Keech gave Helen Barton a copy of the updated Constitution so that copies would be available for pick- up at the meeting by those interested. Helen Barton will get an appropriate number of handouts made once she has all the reports so listed on the agenda. Helen Otrosina said that all the necessary arrangements had been made for the lunch beginning at 1 pm.

(b) MURA web site

Frank circulated the MURA Website working session notes for April 9th, 2003 which outlined the way in which the content for the first phase of the site is to be grouped. under the following headings:

welcome statement, membership information, officers and portfolios, MURA News, activities, events and contact us.

Marju and Helen Barton said that they were interested in recruiting a few experienced volunteers to work on the web site.

(c) Laser Printer for the MURA office

Gerry Keech spoke briefly about the advantages of a laser printer and a decision was made to purchase one. Helen Barton volunteered to shop for one at the McMaster Bookstore with Bonnie White. (Appropriate software for the production of the MURA News in the office might also be bought soon.)

(d) Booking of meeting rooms

Frank said that he had booked Room 230 in the Student Centre for all the regular Council meetings (from September 2003 to June 2004). The Council meeting on Wednesday June 11 th, 2003, will be held in University Hall Room 317. There will be no charge for the bookings.

4. President's Remarks

Frank was planning to speak at the AGM on several topics including e-mail access, the excess pension surplus and the proposed MURA web site. The increase in the scholarship awards was suggested as a matter of interest to the retirees. Averil would provide Frank with some relevant background information.

Frank said that he had enjoyed being President and thanked everybody for their support.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop gave each member present a copy of her two reports (Statement of Income and Expenses and Balance Sheet). which showed comparisons with the April 30th, 2002 financial situation. It was agreed that these comparisons were of interest and should be included in the handouts for the AGM.

Jessie said that she and Bonnie had a very difficult April due to the large number of retirees sending cheques in response to Frank Drieman's "reminder" letters. She strongly recommended that the reminders be mailed earlier and that retirees should be alerted to the importance of prompt payment in the MURA News in December if possible.

6. Portfolios

(a) Membership

"Bonnie said that almost 280 retirees had paid up as a result of Frank's reminder letter. It had been very difficult to cope with such a load in a short time and she thoroughly supported Jessie's suggestions.

(b) Trips/Special Events

Anne Sinclair presented her report and apologized for the fact that she would not be able to present it at the AGM, as she would be on vacation in Britain at that time. She outlined some of the upcoming trips and advised people to book early. Anne had talked with the manager at "No Frills" (a most charming young man) and it seems that we are assured of parking on the perimeter at least for the near future.

(c) Cards

Helen Orosina had sent several sympathy cards.

(d) MURANews

Veronica Morrison hopes to have the next edition mailed by the end of June and asked that she should be given copy promptly after the AGM.

(e) Pension Matters

Frank Drieman has withdrawn his request that the Pension Trust Committee look into the possibility of giving retirees some benefit in lieu of the partial pension contribution holiday which has been enjoyed by those still employed. He felt that the current status of the pension funds would not support such a benefit.

Retirees are due for a small pension increase of .66% retroactive to January 1st., 2003 and, according to our guest Michelle Leroux, this might be paid in the near future but not in June.

7. Any Other Business

(a) Marilyn asked Michelle whether there was any news of the long awaited booklet on benefits. Some booklets have been published for other groups but ours is not yet ready for printing.

(b) Marju Drynan stressed the importance of including retirees who are members of the Pension Plan for Hourly Rated Employees. Frank will mention this Plan when reporting on the Salaried Plan at the AGM. In the meantime, we need to learn more about the Hourly Rated Plan and find out whether there is a committee which performs the same sort of functions as the Pension Trust Committee does for the Salaried Plan. Michele Leroux volunteered to obtain this information. Our discussion highlighted the fact that hourly rated employees (and also faculty) have more many years been under- represented on the Council. Frank will make a point of mentioning this at the AGM and encouraging retirees in these two groups to join in the work of the Council.

(b) On behalf of the Council members, Marju Drynan thanked Frank for his leadership as President and the many good things which had been accomplished during his two years in office.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, June 11 th, 2003, at 1 :30 pm in University **Hall** Room 317.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3 :40 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Frank Drieman
President