

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, September 11th, 2002, at 1.30 pm in University Hall, Room 317

Present: Frank Driernan (chair), Helen Barton, Marju Drynan, Jessie Dunlop, Erica Giese, Gerry Keech, Mildred McLaren, Carm McMullen, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Anne . Sinclair and Averil Thompson

Regrets: Marilyn Elliot, Mavis Hubley and Bonnie White

1. Welcome

Frank Driernan welcomed everyone and in particular Carm McMullen, who recently joined the Council but was not able to attend our June meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on June 12th, 2002 be approved as previously circulated (Mildred McLaren/ Anne Sinclair Carried)

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Follow-up on changes to the constitution

Gerry Keech has made the changes and Averil has done a first proof reading. Frank Driernan will do a second proof reading before Gerry puts the constitution onto a floppy disk for use on the MURA computer. The plan is to mail a copy of the revised constitution along with the MURA news to be published in the spring of 2003.

(b) Nature and location of the next AGM on May 28th, 2003

There was a long discussion and it was agreed that we wanted to encourage attendance at the business meeting and sociability amongst the members, without undue strain on the budget. A reception (funded by MURA) prior to the AGM was suggested and the new Student Centre might be a possible location for both. Good microphones are very important. Helen Barton and Helen Ostrosina kindly volunteered to do some work on this project and hopefully come up with a practical proposal.

4. Correspondence

(a) Frank Driernan had discovered that the University Club already has a reduced membership fee of \$114 for retirees occasional use of the facilities. He has already informed Dr. J. Brasch, who had been advocating this in a letter to Frank earlier this year.

(b) Frank had also discovered that the Parking Authority on campus allows retirees to buy one, two and three hour blocks of time up to 12.30 pm when they can park without charge. He will compose a small note and phone it to Veronica for publication in the

MURA news

(c) Some of our members have been suggesting that the MURA news be sent to them by e-mail. Following considerable discussion, it was agreed that MURA needs a web site. This would require a significant amount of work to establish and update it on a continuing basis. Helen Barton thought that expertise in this area might soon be available through some new retirees. Matju Drynan volunteered to act as a coordinator of the project and was warmly thanked by Frank.

(d) Council members have been invited by the President, Dr. Peter George, to have lunch in the West Room of the University Club on Wednesday September 25th, at 12 noon.

(e) There will be a reception for new retirees on September 18th, from 3:30 to 5:30, in the Great Hall of the University Club and Council members are invited to attend.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop said that we have \$12,552 in our ING Direct account and, after allowing for an outstanding commitment, \$145 in the Credit Union.

6. President's Remarks

(a) Excess Pension Surplus Distribution

Frank said that, as there are some delays related to Canada..customs and Revenue Agency questions, distribution is unlikely to start before November of this year.

(b) Pension Trust Committee

There appears to be little progress in facilitating any benefit to retirees in lieu of the partial pension contribution holiday granted to active members of the Pension Plan. The Pension Trust Committee is due to report on this matter to the Board of Governors in February of 2003.

7. Portfolios

(a) Trips and Special Events

Anne Sinclair reported that she had seven seats left for the trip to Rice Lake (September 25th), six places left for Octoberfest (October 15th) and only two left for the Festival of Northern Lights (November 27th).

(b) Cards and Visits

Helen Orosina said that she had succeeded in being informed about deaths through the University. She enquired about the visiting aspect of her portfolio and it seems that this is a very rare need (perhaps a person on the Council who is in hospital?). Regarding flowers, Helen was advised that it was a judgment call, usually in the case of serious illness or accident of a Council member.

(c) MURA news

Veronica Morrison said that she needed copy for the next edition by September 16th. It will have limited distribution to active members and those recently retired.

(d) MUFA Liaison

Carm Mc Mullen has kindly agreed to look after this portfolio. It would be great if he could persuade more faculty members to stand for election to the Council and play an active role in the work of the Association.

8. Other Business

Averil Thompson suggested that it would be helpful, especially to new members, to have a brief job description of each position! portfolio on the Council. Although the suggestion was received without great enthusiasm, it was agreed that we should each draft a short portfolio/position description for the November meeting when Frank will be in the chair.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, October 9th, 2002, at 1:30pm, in University Hall Room 317. Frank Drieman will be on holiday and Mildred McLaren will chair the meeting,

10. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 2:50 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Frank Drieman
President