

## **McMaster University Retirees Association**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday December 10th, 2003, at 1:30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 230

**Present:** Brian Ives (chair), Helen Barton, Marju Drynan, Frank Drieman, Marilyn Elliot, Erica Giese, Veronica Morrison, Averil Thompson, Bonnie White and Michele Leroux (Manager Retirement Support Services)

**Regrets:** Jessie Dunlop, Gerry Keech, Mildred McLaren, Helen Otrrosina and Anne Sinclair

### **1. Welcome**

Brian Ives welcomed Council members and Michele Leroux, who has accepted our invitation to attend the monthly Council meetings. ( Michele will be put on the mailing list for the minutes. )

### **2. Minutes of the previous Council meeting**

**Motion:** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday November 12th, 2003 be approved as previously circulated (Erica Giese/ Frank Drieman - carried)

### **3. Business arising from the minutes**

#### **(a) Christmas Lunch**

Helen Otrrosina sent a message, via Averil, that apologies had been received regarding the difficulties with the microphone and no charge would be made for this service. Our business would be warmly welcomed next year. There was general agreement that the luncheon had been very successful. Averil suggested that the background music be dropped in 2004 and those present agreed.

#### **(b) MURA website**

Helen and Marju have been working with Nicholas Solntseff and hopefully the website will be launched early in the New Year. There is a tentative plan for Helen Barton to submit a short announcement in time for publication in the next MURA news in January, 2004.

#### **(c) CURAC**

Averil reported that she had mailed the application for membership with the cheque for \$300 and that Peter Russell, the President of CURAC, was delighted that we had joined. Since that time Averil had been asked for a copy of the MURA Constitution. (Mailed December 10th)

(d) The date for the AGM had been set for Wednesday, May 26th, 2004, but as this coincides with the opening of the CURAC Conference in Winnipeg, Helen Barton and Helen Otrrosina had been asked to find another date (for the same location) which would not conflict with any University convocation. Averil said that she would call Helen

Otrosina for an update after the meeting. (Message :from Helen Otrosina on Dec. 15th - Date is. not yet confirmed.)

#### **4. A possible new approach to MURA funding**

Brian Ives said that there had been some difficulties in arranging meetings with key representatives of various groups. However, a meeting had been arranged with Mina Dizdarevic, President of MURA (*question MUFA?/MUSA?*), at 3:30PM. Immediately following this Council meeting, and he would be attending with Frank and Averil (substituting for Mildred).

#### **5. Correspondence**

Bonnie gave Brian several e-mails received on a variety of topics including the McMaster United Way Campaign, the Holiday Hamper Food Drive, invitations to on and off campus Open House events on December 18th and the CURAC 2004 Conference in Winnipeg. These were given to Averil for attention.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

Jessie Dunlop had sent copies of her report for the Council members and it reflected a healthy financial situation.

#### **7. Portfolios**

##### **(a) Membership**

Bonnie had received help from Helen Barton regarding her computer problem and the upshot was that a new part was needed. Purchase was approved by Council..

It was agreed that reminders should go out as usual to those who had not paid their active membership donation of \$15. Two letters would be drafted - one to those who have retired recently but have exceeded the "honeymoon period" and one to those who have failed to renew their payment. Both letters would be given to Mildred for approval and hopefully could be mailed with a MURA news to save the cost of separate postage.

(b) Cards - Averil reported that Helen Otrosina had sent a sympathy card to the family of Bernice Lillian Mattina, formerly of Hospitality Services, who died on November 29th.

(c) MURA news - Veronica is expecting to publish the next edition by mid January, 2004.

(d) Pension Matters - As Frank Drieman will be on vacation during the spring of 2004, Mildred had approached Jack Evans, who had indicated his willingness to substitute for Frank on the Pension Trust Committee.

**Motion:** that Jack Evans be appointed as an alternate for Frank Drieman on the Pension Trust Committee for the remainder of the current year ending June 30, 2004 (helen Barton/Frank Drieman carried)

Averil will inform the chair of the Pension Trust Committee, Lilian Scime.  
Frank and Michele said that progress was being made on the Pension Trust Committee's annual report and publication is expected in the spring.

( e) Benefits - Michele Leroux said that progress is being made with the booklets on benefits and those for faculty, clinical faculty and librarians are to be published soon. The booklet for staff is on the horizon.

Michele confirmed that retirees living outside Canada receive their pensions but are not normally eligible for other benefits such as Major Medical and Dental coverage. There had been an unfortunate mistake made in the case of the retired faculty member who complained recently that he had been promised but had not received these benefits. A special exception has been made in his case, as the University had given him some incorrect information at the time of his retirement.

#### 8. Other Business

It would be handy to have a listing of the e-mail addresses of Council members and Averil will put it together.

#### 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, January 14th, 2004, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 230. *(This meeting was cancelled)*

#### 10. Adjournment

Following a motion to adjourn, the meeting ended at approximately 3:15 pm.

Averil Thompson  
Secretary

Brian Ives  
Vice President