

# McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday March 10th, 2004, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre, Room 230

**Present:** Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Jessie Dunlop, Marilyn Elliot, Jack Evans, Erica Giese, Brian Ives, Gerry Keech, Michele Leroux, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Rod Phillips, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

**Regrets:** Frank Drieman, Marju Drynan and Anne Sinclair

## 1. Welcome

Mildred welcomed everyone and especially Gerry Keech.

## 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

**Motion:** that the minutes of the meeting held on February 11th, 2004, be approved as previously circulated (Helen Otrosina/Marilyn Elliot carried)

## 3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) Timing for mailing the minutes and possibly the agenda

It was agreed to continue mailing the minutes shortly after each meeting and to distribute the agendas at the meetings. (Important information, which required careful study before a meeting, could always be mailed at the Secretary's discretion.)

(b) Science and Engineering Fair at Mohawk College - several Council members will be volunteering at the Fair.

(c) Scholarships and Prizes - Averil said that she had delivered a cheque and letter to Karen Jowett, Awards Officer, in accordance with the Council's decisions at the meeting on February 11.

## 4. Nominating Committee Report

Gerry Keech presented the report, which is on the back page of the minutes [*Not for this e-version. See April minutes for final version*]. Brian Ives was disappointed in the lack of faculty representation and volunteered to approach possible nominees. The report will have to be finalized at the April meeting for publication in the McMaster News. However, there can still be nominations ITom the floor at the AGM. It was suggested that Brian Ives should be a member of the Nominating Committee in 2005.

Jack Evans reported that Les Robb was not interested in being a member of Council but it was still possible that he might consider being our representative on the Pension Trust Committee.

## 5. A possible new approach to MURA funding

Helen Barton and Brian Ives had both been working hard on this project and Brian presented copies of an unsigned draft Memorandum of Agreement for those present to read. Following much discussion, especially on how the contributions from each group should be calculated and whether the major groups (eg. MUSA) might object to subsidizing the smaller groups, the following motion was made:

**Motion:** that the Draft Memorandum of Agreement be adopted as an interim agreement to be discussed with the potential signatories, mindful of the need for the final agreement to reflect the actual representation of all McMaster retiree groups ( BrianIves/Helen Barton - carried)

Jack Evans asked Michele Leroux whether the University had done any impact studies on the possible effect *of* proposed legislation ruling out mandatory retirement at age 65. It appears that nothing very significant had been done yet.

## 6. President's Remarks

(a) Mildred reported that she and several members of Council had attended the Human Resources "Meet and Greet" event on February 24th and had found it very worthwhile. She had spoken with Mark Haley about the seemingly unending delay in the publication of a benefits booklet for retirees and had been pleased by his attention to this matter.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop presented a balance sheet as at February 29th, 2004, with copies to those present. The balance shown was \$4,447.63 . She noted that the \$300 November 2003 cheque to CURAC had not yet been cashed and Averil said that she would give Peter Russell, President *of* CURAC, a call.

## 8. Portfolios

(a) Membership - Bonnie reported that 430 letters were mailed to retirees - 42 "invitations" and 388 "reminders". So far, 10 recipients of " Invitation" letters and 241 recipients *of* "Reminder" letters have responded with payments.

(b) Trips/Special Events

In the absence *of* Anne, Mildred said that the trip to see "The Producers" was a great success.

(c) Cards - Helen Otrosina reported that she had sent four sympathy cards.

(d) AGM - Helen reminded us that the meeting will be held in Convocation Hall on Monday May 31<sup>st</sup>, starting at 1 pm with refreshments and continuing with the business meeting beginning at 2 pm. Food and beverages will be the same as last year except that there will be more chocolate chip cookies.

(e) MURA News - Veronica Morrison

The next edition will contain information about the AGM, the Nominating Committee Report, and a note from our President in addition to the regular items. It will probably be published soon after our next Council meeting on April 14th, to give adequate notice of the AGM.

(f) Pension Matters - Jack Evans will be attending the next meeting of the Pension Trust Committee on March 18th.

(g) Website - Helen Barton said that she has been rather short of time to work on this.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Mildred McLaren said that she reckoned it would cost approximately \$500 to attend the CURAC conference in May.

**Motion:** that Mildred's expenses be paid in full by MURA and that such costs be considered as an annual charge against the budget (Helen Barton/ Erica Giese carried).

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, April 14th, 2004, at 1:30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 230.

## **11. Adjournment**

On a motion by Helen Otrrosina, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 pm.

Averil Thompson  
Secretary

Mildred McLaren  
President

See overleaf for Nominating Committee Report *.(Not in this e-version...see April Minutes instead)*

## **Walter W. Smeltzer Corrosion Laboratory**

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**Director, M. Brian Ives, PhD., F.A.S.M., F.N.A.C.E.**

Date: October 24, 2003

To: Executive Committee  
McMaster University Retirees Association

From: M. Brian Ives

Ref: A Possible New Approach to MURA Funding

It appears clear that some of us believe the current method of funding MURA through voluntary membership "dues", and the associated qualification for all issues of the Newsletter, needs rethinking.

My suggestion is that we look to a method whereby MURA would receive an annual "grant" per head for each McMaster retiree in that year. The per-retiree amount would be determined by dividing the "typical" annual operating expenses by the number of retirees in a "typical" year. This amount should be determined at the start of the new funding system and only modified when either the annual operating expenses or the annual number of retirees changes substantially.

The obvious question raised by this proposal is "*From where does the money come?*" There are a number of scenarios, and we would need to consider each if the general principle were accepted. I thought of the following, in decreasing order of attractiveness:

1. A direct annual grant from the University.
2. A per capita payout from the Pension Fund on retirement.
3. An automatic deduction (with an "opt out" provision?) from the first pension payment of each retiree.
4. Each retiree is billed for "Lifetime Membership" at retirement.

The impact of these scenarios depends on the amount involved. From the last annual treasurer's report, it appears that MURA received \$10,245 from Memberships in 2002-2003 (although annual expenses were only \$8079). The number of members increased by 72 in that same year. Assuming, arbitrarily, that there were 28 deceased that year, the number of new retirees would have been 100. This would make the annual per capita grant an even \$100. . A reasonable working number, and one we can immediately suggest to the University President!

What do you think?