

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the council meeting held on Wednesday May 12, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. in Student Centre, room 230.

Present: Mildred McLaren(Chair), Helen Barton, Frank Drieman, Marju Drynan, Jessie Dunlop, Marilyn Elliott, Erica Giese, Brian I ves, Michele Leroux, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair and Bonnie White

Regrets: Jack Evans, Gerry Keech, Averil Thompson

1. Welcome

President Mildred McLaren welcomed all members of the Council to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting of April 14, 2004

Corrections to the Minutes of April 14th meeting.

(a) Under 9(a). Portfolios should read: "...142 responses were outstanding."

(b) Under 9(c), eliminate "...coloured". Should read: "e-mail pictures provided by Helen Barton, taken by Brian Ives at a recent Council meeting, would be included in the next newsletter. "

Motion: That the Minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2004 be approved after corrections. (Erica Giese/Marju Drynan. Carried).

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) President's Lunch

Mildred said that the appreciation lunch hosted by Peter George at the President's house for Council members was well attended and provided a useful exchange of information and ideas. A note of thanks has been sent to President George.

(b) Timeliness of Pension Deposits

Following up on a query raised at the last Council meeting, Michele Leroux distributed a hand-out outlining the policies and practices followed by various banking institutions, noting that CIBC Mellon send out information to receiving institutions five business days before the first of the month, regardless of the type of institution.

(c) MURA Funding

Vice President Brian Ives circulated an updated set of statistics summarizing retirees by group. In reviewing this document he pointed out that the figures included people who had transferred out of the Plan for cash settlement. Only six of the retired employees were *not* part of the SEIU group. He will be contacting Ron Roscoe, SEIU) President, with a view to securing monetary support. In summarizing columns H, I, J, of the chart he observed that if all groups paid according to their membership, we would raise in the region of \$10-\$13,00, but before proceeding further it will be necessary to obtain an agreement with SEIU.

The Chair asked the Vice President to bring this to the attention of the Membership at the AGM. Brian will provide a one-page hand-out for distribution at the AGM.

Motion: That the Membership approve in principle, funding of MURA on a proportional membership basis by retirees groups. (MarilynElliott/Frank Drieman. Carried).

4. Annual General Meeting

Helen Otrosina said that Convocation Hall has been booked from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on May 31st, and set-up has been arranged. Six rows of seats will be removed from the back of the hall to allow for refreshment set-up. Bonnie and Jessie will be at the registration desk. Bonnie will have name tags and will set up a flip chart of pictures and historical data. Helen will bring a camera.

Amendments were made to the draft copy of the AGM Agenda. 70 copies of the Agenda and hand-out material will be prepared for distribution at the meeting.

5. Support for Computer Training

Mildred noted that Bonnie White is interested in upgrading her computer skills. Michele Leroux will obtain details on what tuition assistance is available for this through a computer training programme either at McMaster or Mohawk CoUege. This agenda item was tabled for the fall meeting.

6. Correspondence

Mildred has received a letter from Linda Grocott regarding a memorial fund for Sharon McCain, requesting a mailing list of retirees. It was agreed that this information could be put on our website and included in the July newsletter. Veronica will contact Linda to secure material for an insert.

7. President's Remarks

Mildred said that Les Robb is willing to serve as our representative on the Pension Trust Committee, but will not sit on Council. She has talked to Frank, who is in agreement with this arrangement.

Motion: That Les Robb be appointed to serve as the representative for MURA on the Pension Trust Committee. (Frank Drieman/Brian Ives. Carried).

It was agreed that Les Robb be invited to our AGM.

Brian expressed the view that two reports a year should be the minimum from the Pension Trust Committee. Mildred will obtain the dates of the meetings of the PTC. In the ensuing discussion on the mechanics of reporting to MURA Council, it was mentioned that Michele would be in a position to report on the Pension Trust Committee meetings.

Mildred is planning on taking copies of our Pension benefits booklets, and sharing information on our retiree volunteer activities with CURAC when she attends their meeting in Winnipeg, May 27-28, with Helen Barton.

8. Treasurer's Report

Due to a work overload in Financial Services, Jessie was still awaiting the April year-end statements. She will be in touch with Bob West and hopes to have the final figures before meeting with John McCutcheon on Tuesday the 18th. (JessieDunlop/Marilyn Elliott. Carried) **

9. Portfolios

Membership

Bonnie noted that of the 25 letters received since the last Council meeting, 20 were in response to the reminder letters; 122 outstanding members did not respond, and 18 letters remained to be processed.

Trips and Special Events

Anne reported that "Guys and Dolls" and the Georgian Bay Cruise were sold out. She is awaiting prices and other details from Holland America and other cruise lines for the proposed Alaska cruise in 2005.

The Vice President of Operations at "Fortino's" has extended the courtesy of our continued use of the present "No Frills" parking lot for subsequent coach trips when they take over the facility in December.

Cards

Helen will send a card to Averil. She reported on nine recent passings and will be sending sympathy cards to the families.

Website

Brian thinks there is a need to make the website more animated. Helen Barton suggested that Brian talk with Nick Solntseff to determine how the site can be designed and maintained.

10. Other Business

Mildred expressed appreciation to our departing members, Marilyn and Marju for all their work on Council during their terms of office.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday June 9, 2004, at 1 :30 p.m. in the Student Centre, room 230.

12. Adjournment

On a motion to adjourn, the meeting ended at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Veronica Morrison
stand-in secretary

Mildred McLaren
President

** The final figures of the April 30th Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenses are now available, as promised by Jessie, and copies are enclosed.