

# McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday October 8th, 2003, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 230

**Present:** Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Jessie Dunlop, Frank Drieman, Marilyn Elliot, . Brian Ives, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Averil Thompson, Bonnie White and special guest Joan Morris

**Regrets:** Marju Drynan, Erica Giese, Gerry Keech and Anne Sinclair

## 1. Welcome

Mildred welcomed the Council members and our special guest Joan Morris.

## 2. Approval of the minutes

Under Portfolios item (g) Benefits, page 3, change Michelle to Michele.  
Under Business Arising (c) page 1, delete Lorraine Allen and substitute Ken Cruikshank.

**Motion:** that, subject to the changes above, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday September 8th, 2003 be accepted as previously circulated (Frank Drieman/ Marilyn Elliot - carried)

## 3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) Christmas lunch - Helen Otrosina

The lunch will take place at the Schwaben Inn on Monday December 1 st, starting at 12 noon. Mildred read a draft write-up on MURA (including an invitation to the lunch) for the Faculty Newsletter. It was agreed to mail each Ontario retiree a flier (in an envelope) advertising the lunch. Helen has all the arrangements well in hand. Mildred will invite our guests.

(b) MURA website - Helen Barton reported that progress was being made despite some unexpected difficulties

## 4. Correspondence

(a) Council members were uncertain about the prime purpose of the reception for retirees on Monday October 20th to be hosted by Dr. Peter George and Dr. Alvin Lee. Mildred will seek some clarification through the President's Office.

(b) Averil Thomson had been asked by Brenda Sandberg, organizer of the Great Romantics Festival October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, to inform McMaster retirees that their registration fee costs only \$80 instead of the regular \$100. Averil will try to get an

announcement to this effect made at the reception on October 20th.

(c) Mildred had received a request from a Health Sciences Study requiring volunteers to undergo blood testing. Veronica will advertise this need in the next edition of the MURA news.

## **5. President's Remarks**

(a) Mildred McLaren and Brian Ives both spoke about a recent meeting with Peter George at which several concerns were discussed. The asymmetry in treatment between faculty and staff retirees was one of the topics. Peter George indicated that he was a friend of MURA and available for assistance. Brian and Mildred also met with representatives of the McMaster University Faculty Association - the President Kenneth Cruikshank, Past President Lorraine Allan, Vice President Trevor Chamberlain and the Executive Director Phyllis De Rosa Koetting, to discuss how MUF A and MURA can best serve the retirees.

(b) In an effort to improve the lines of communications between MURA and other groups, Mildred said that she plans to arrange meetings with representatives of MUSA and MUFA.

(c) Mildred introduced Joan Morris with whom she had been having discussions regarding ways in which individual retirees could be of assistance to the University in a variety of volunteer capacities. Joan said that she had been giving the matter some thought and felt that it was essential that MURA develop some model that would take into account various concerns such as: identifying appropriate jobs; maintaining harmonious relations with MUSA; avoiding putting any paid person out of work; matching retirees with appropriate jobs and co-ordinating the whole operation on a continuing basis.

Mildred and Helen Orosina volunteered to work with Joan to develop a suitable model.

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

Jessie Dunlop presented the balance sheet as of September 30th 2003 and a copy was given to each member present.

## **7. Peter Russell- President of CURAC**

Averil Thompson introduced Peter as University Professor Emeritus of Political Science, founding President of RALUT ( Retired Academics and Librarians University of Toronto) and founding President of Colleges and Universities Retirees Associations of Canada. Peter spoke about the history, the purpose and ways in which communications are being facilitated between the various associations by CURAC. Mildred thanked him for his most interesting and informative presentation.

## 8. Portfolios

(a) Membership - Bonnie White reported that since the last meeting 44 retirees had sent cheques but 22 of them had already paid for the year 2003. These people will be credited for the year 2004.

(b) Cards - Helen reported three deaths.

(c) Veronica Morrison will probably be producing the next MURA news in January, 2004.

(d) Pension matters - Frank Drieman said that the pension managers were "mildly optimistic. "

(e) Benefits - Marilyn Elliot said that there is still no definite date for the publication of the long-awaited booklet on retiree benefits.

## 9. Any other business

(a) Some concern has been expressed about the fact that those who don't pay the annual donation of \$15 year normally only receive two editions of the MURA news per year. Helen Barton has asked that this matter be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

(b) Following Peter Russell's presentation, Brian Ives requested that a "notice of motion" be made for MURA to join CURAC as a 'member'.

## 10.. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, November 12th, 2003, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 230.

## 11 Adjournment

The meeting ended at approximately 3:40 pm.

Averil Thompson  
Secretary

Mildred McLaren  
President

Please see overleaf for information about CURAC provided by Peter Russell. Additional information is available on [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca)