

# **McMaster University Retirees Association**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday December 8th, 2004, at 1:30 pm the Student Centre Room 220

**Present:** Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Frank Drieman, Jessie Dunlop, Gabriele Erasmi, Brian Ives, Veronica Morrison, Rod Phillips, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White  
**Regrets:** Mariana Brown, Erica Giese, Gerry Keech, Michele Leroux, Helen Otrosina and Anne Sinclair

## **1. Welcome**

Mildred McLaren welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

**Motion:** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday November 10th, 2004, be accepted as previously circulated (Helen Barton/Frank Drieman - Carried)

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

( a ) Charges for publishing non- MURA material in the MURA news  
Frank Drieman, Gabriele Erasmi and Veronica Morrison presented "Proposed Guidelines for the Publication of Announcements on MURA's newsletter". Each person present was given a copy and there was a lively discussion. It was agreed that this draft would be tabled for the January 2005 meeting. In the meantime, a review of the specific costs involved would be done. The relevance of Article 3.0.6 in the MURA Constitut will be considered at the next meeting. (Article 3.06 states: "Use of the membership mailing list shall be limited to the Association and the University.") Hopefully the guidelines we approve will be simple, consistent and clear enough to be easily understood not only to us but by those who follow us a Council members.

### **(b) CURAC**

- Helen Barton has been appointed to the CURAC Executive - an honour for McMaster.
- This appointment will involve some travel expenses but, at the present time, it is not certain to what extent CURAC may be able to help. We will not be asking the University for assistance.

## **4. Christmas Lunch**

Bonnie White read a brief report from Helen Otrosina stating that 80 people attended the lunch (9 Council members, 60 other retirees, 8 guests and 3 from Human Resources) The members present thought that Helen had done a great job and that the lunch and prizes were very much appreciated. Averil will write to Dr. George and his wife thanking them for the prizes which they had so generously given.

## **5. Benefit Concerns**

In the absence of Michele, Mildred said that there was no committee dealing with benefits, as they are dealt with to a large extent in the negotiations with the various employment groups.

## **6. MURA mail box**

Bonnie White explained that she often found unwanted stuff in the MURA mail box, which is located outside the office door, and asked for permission to buy a "flap". Frank Drieman kindly volunteered to make one and his offer was quickly accepted.

## **7. Representation of Retirees on Senate and the Board of Governors**

Mildred suggested that it would be good to have retiree representation on both these bodies. but, after some discussion, it was agreed that we should only lobby for representation on the Board of Governors. Brian Ives pointed out that the appointees of several other groups were in fact not representatives with voting rights but observers with no voting rights..

**Motion:** that Council write to the Chair of the Board of Governors seeking observer status for a retiree chosen by MURA (Brian Ives/Helen Barton Carried)

Helen Barton thought that we should aim in the long term for representation With voting rights and volunteered to try and identify the criteria for such appointments by studying the relevant documents.

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

Jessie Dunlop reported that as of to day's date we have \$23,139.89 with ING direct and \$184.06 with the Credit Union. All our bills are paid.

## **9. MURA Funding**

Brian Ives reported some progress and said that he had written a letter to the three key people Dr. Trevor Chamberlain, President of MUFA, Ms Mina Dizdarevic, President of MUS A and Dr. Peter George, President of the University. In this letter he expressed the hope that each person would be able to accept the proposal on behalf of his/her organization so that the new arrangements could start on May 1st, 2005. Brian offered a joint meeting with representatives of all three groups or individual meetings and the hope is that this can be accomplished sooner rather than later.

## **10. Portfolios**

(a) Cards – Bonnie White reported on behalf of Helen Otrrosina that 8 sympathy cards and two "thinking of you" cards had been sent.

(b) MURA news - Veronica Morrison said that she is planning to mail the next edition during the second week in January.

(c) Pension Matters

Helen Barton reported that she is working with Michele Leroux on a letter to retirees which is planned to arrive prior to the regular pension deposits for January of 2005. Helen and Michele are also working on a note for the next newsletter explaining the fact that there will be no pension increases in 2005. .

**11. Veronlea Morrison's e-mail address**

Veronica's new e-mail address is: vermor@execulink.com

**12. Any Other Business**

(a) Brian Ives had received a questionnaire from Peter Russell of CURAC and will be responding to it shortly without further reference to the Council.

(b) There was agreement that MURA needed a letterhead and the thought was that it could be done on the computer, thus saving printing expenses.

**13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2005, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 220.

**14. Adjournment**

Frank Drieman moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 2:55 pm

Averil Thompson  
Secretary

Mildred McLaren  
President