

McMasterUniversity Retirees Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday February 9th, 2005, at, 1:30 pm in the Student Centre, Room 230

Present: Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Mariana Brown, Frank Drieman, Erica Giese, Brian Ives, Michele Leroux, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair, Averil

Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Jessie Dunlop, Gabriele Erasmi and Gerry Keech

1. Welcome

Mildred McLaren welcomed everyone to the meeting on this snowy winter day.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday January 12th, 2005 be approved as previously circulated (Erica Giese/Helen,Qtrosina - carried) ..
(After. the meeting the secretary was gently advised that the chair of the Board of Governors is Mr. Buffet and not Mr. Cuckett as printed on page 2 item 5.)

3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) Progress on proposal to have MURA representation on the Board of Governors
Mildred had received an acknowledgment from Bruce Frank indicating that the request had been forwarded to the Nominating Committee, who will consider it at their meeting on April 5th. Mildred apologized for her initial reaction to the suggestion that she should represent MURA, if the Board of Governors agreed to our request. She has had time to think about it and would be now willing and honoured to do so if asked.

Motion: that, when there is need for a MURA Observer to be appointed to the Board of Governors, Mildred McLaren will be the chosen one (Brian Ives/Helen Barton - carried)

(b) Progress of the Nominating Committee
Frank Drieman reported that both Dora Haisell and Margaret Maggshad agreed to serve on this committee, which also included Gabriele Erasmi and Rod Phillips. So far, several people have indicated their interest in serving on the Council. Frank hasn't convened a meeting yet. The Nominating Committee Report is due to be presented at the next meeting of the Council on March 9th.

(c) Reminder Letters

Bonnie reported an excellent response to the letters which were mailed with the last MURA news.

4. Proposed Guidelines on publishing non - MURA material in the MURA news

The sub-committee, composed of Helen Barton, Frank Drieman, Gabriele Erasmi and Veronica Morrison presented their revised guidelines entitled "Proposed Guidelines for handling requests for the publication of non- MURA items". The Council approved the guidelines in principle, subject to some minor changes to clarify charges for space in excess of half a page.

There was some concern about membership mailing lists. Amending the wording of the Constitution might be an option down the road.

Motion: that, notwithstanding Article 3.06 of the Constitution, the Council will limit the use of the membership mailing list to the McMaster University Retirees Association.

(Helen Barton/Brian Ives - carried)

5. Correspondence

(a) Mildred had received a billing from Student Financial Aid and Scholarships for \$1,250 and was concerned that the awards to the students involved were still listed in the program at the old rates. Question - were the students being under- rewarded or was the programme out of date? (Secretary's note: Following the meeting, Mildred wrote to Elizabeth Seymour, Director of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, seeking clarification of the situation.)

At the present time there is pressure on donors to increase the value of awards given to students because the cost of education continues to rise.

(b) Brian Ives had received a couple of letters from Peter Russell of CURAC concerning the upcoming conference in Vancouver. Brian will not be attending this year, but plans to attend in 2006. A suggestion was made that some of our retirees in the Vancouver area might be interested in attending and it was agreed that Brian would arrange to put some information on the MURA website, which might pique the interest of such retirees.

6. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Jessie Dunlop, there was no report on this occasion.

7. MURA Funding

Brian Ives and Helen Barton have been having an uphill struggle in getting the concerned parties together and finding a basis for agreement.

8. Portfolios

(a) Membership - Bonnie had asked Averil to draft a letter encouraging those who had never paid the annual \$15 Active Membership Fee to become donors.. The draft letter was

approved and will be mailed along with the next MURA news. Averil will ask Mildred to sign the master and Bonnie will arrange for duplication.

(b) Trips and Special Events - Anne reported that all is going well for her various trip bookings.

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

AGM - after some discussion, it was agreed that we would hold the event on Wednesday May 25th, subject to Convocation Hall being available on that day. Ideally we would have an engaging speaker and a quantum leap in attendance. The emphasis would be on the lunch and the speaker rather than on the business meeting.

(d) Benefits - Michele Leroux said that she was working on a response to our enquiry regarding the mechanism for determining retiree benefits. The response had become a bit more complicated with Mark Haley now considering a presentation with Karen Belaire.

(e) Website - Brian Ives thought that Anne might like to consider advertising her trips on the website and she is most willing to work with him on this.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, March 9th, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre, Room 220.

10. Adjournment

Helen Otrosina moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3:15 pm.

Averil Thompson	Mildred McLaren
Secretary	President