

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday January 12th, 2005, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 220

Present: Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Mariana Brown, Frank Drieman, Jessie Dunlop, Erica Giese, Brian Ives, Veronica Morrison, Helen Orosina, Rod Phillips, Averil Thompson, Bonnie White and Jeff Chuchman from McMaster Retirement Support Services

Regrets: Gabriele Erasmi, Gerry Keech and Anne Sinclair

1. Welcome

Mildred McLaren welcomed everyone and in particular Jeff Chuchman, who was substituting for Michele Leroux.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Page 3, Portfolios (c) Pension Matters - Change the first sentence to read as follows: Helen Barton reported that she is working with Michele Leroux on a letter to retirees drafted by Les Robb, which is planned to arrive prior to the regular pension deposits for January of 2005.

Motion: that, subject to the correction above, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday December 8th, 2004, be approved as previously circulated (Jessie Dunlop/Frank Drieman)

3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) CURAC conference in Vancouver in May 2005

Brian Ives said that he will not be attending the conference this year but plans to attend the conference in 2006.

(b) Letterheads - Various letterhead samples were shown by Bonnie White and Brian Ives including a special one in colour for Mildred.

(c) MURA mailbox - a big thank you to Frank Drieman who did a neat job in making a flap for the mailbox.

(d) Christmas Lunch - Helen didn't really have anything to add to the report, which had been given through Bonnie White at the Council meeting in December. Council members thanked Helen for the wonderful selection of prizes.

(e) Letter to retirees and write-up for MURA news regarding pension

The letter to retirees from Michele Leroux. with a note from Les Robb on the reverse side, has been sent. There will be a further explanation in the next edition of the newsletter.

(f) CURAC survey, on “Representing Retirees in University Affairs”
Brian Ives reported that, with assistance from Helen Barton, he had responded to Peter Russell.

4. Revised guidelines on publishing non- MURA material in the MURA news

Helen Barton, Frank Drieman, Gabriele Erasmi and Veronica Morrison will meet to work on proposed guidelines, which are to be reviewed by Council at the February meeting.

5. Proposal for MURA to have representation on the Board of Governors

Mildred read the letter she had sent to the chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Buckett, with a copy to Dr. Peter George, asking for retiree representation. Brian Ives thought that we should have a representative waiting in the wings (possibly Mildred). However, it was decided that there was no urgency to make a decision and the matter was tabled for discussion at our February meeting.

6. Correspondence

(a) Mildred had received a request for a MURA donation to the Red Cross South East Asia Tidal Wave and Earthquake Fund. It was decided that the Council had no authority to make a donation. (There are of course many opportunities for individual retirees to contribute money.)

(b) Mildred had received information about CURAC's association with American Societies. It seemed that this had been intended for the attention of the editor of the MURA news and it was passed to Veronica.

(c) A note of appreciation had been received from Maria Teresa D 'Elia, the recipient of the MURA prize in 2004.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop presented the balance sheet for the period May 1st, to December 31st, 2004, which showed a deficit of \$552.41.

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report for the eight month period ending on December 31st, 2004 be accepted as circulated to those present (Brian Ives/ Erica Giese – Carried)

8. MURA funding

Although there is some support from both MUFA and MUSA there is not agreement as to whether individual retirees should contribute to the funding. Brian Ives and Helen Barton are persevering in the hope of getting agreement by the three groups (MUFA, MUSA and the University) and plan to meet with representatives of the groups shortly. In the meantime, it

is essential to increase our income from the yearly \$15 active membership fees.

Motion: that we follow our usual practice of mailing reminders about the \$15 per year active membership fees needed to provide funding for MURA (Briam Ives/Helen Barton – Carried)

9. Nominating Committee

Frank Drieman, as past President, will chair the Nominating Committee. Rod Phillips agreed to be one of the Council members on the committee and (in absentia) Gabriele Erasmi was nominated for the second position. (Frank will contact Gabriele and hopefully get his consent. Two regular active retirees (who are not Council members) are needed to complete the nominating committee and the following people were suggested as possibilities: Dora Haisell, Margaret Maggs and Joan Morris.

10. Portfolios

(a) Membership – Bonnie White said that her work was up to date. The next major job is to contact the appropriate retirees reminding them of the annual \$15 active membership fees, which are now due for the calendar year 2005.

(b) MURA news - Veronica Morrison said that the January 2005 edition will contain advertisements for two of Anne's trips - the third trip to "Hello Dolly" on June 30th, will be advertised at a later date.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, February 9th, 2005, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre, Room 220.

12. Adjournment

Helen Otrosina moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3:45 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Mildred McLaren
President