

# **McMaster University Retirees Association**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday March 9th, 2005 at 1:30 pm, in the Student Centre, Room 220

**Present:** Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Mariana Brown, Jeff Chuchman, Frank Drieman, Jessie Dunlop, Gabriele Erasmi, Erica Giese, Brian Ives, Michele Leroux, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Gerry Keech, Rod Phillips and Anne Sinclair

## **1. Welcome**

Mildred welcomed everyone to the meeting, which would be the last one for Michele before going on her maternity leave. (Jeff Chuchman has been chosen to take her place while she is on leave.)

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

**Motion:** that the minutes of the meeting held on February 9th 2005, be approved as previously circulated (Erica Giese/ Frank Drieman carried)

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

### **(a) Response from Student Financial Aid and Scholarships**

Mildred had received a letter of apology from the Director, Elizabeth Seymour, and an assurance that the students had received the correct amounts, despite the lower amounts printed on the programme (which hopefully will be revised in time for the next awards ceremony).

**(b) Proposed Guidelines on publishing non-MURA material in the MURA news**  
Veronica Morrison gave us some copies of the amended guidelines.

**Motion:** that the amended Guidelines on publishing non-MURA material in the MURA news be approved (Helen Barton/Helen Otrosina)

### **(c) AGM date and possible speaker**

The AGM will be held on Wednesday May 25th, in Convocation Hall. The plan is to have as speaker, Mr Bill Gleberzon, Co-Director Government and Media Relations from CARP. He would speak for approximately twenty minutes prior to the business meeting. Helen Otrosina will finalize the arrangements. A catchy title is needed, especially for advertising the event.

(d) Helen Barton reported that she had met with Brian Snell to discuss his concern about the high cost of remitting a low cost \$15 Active Membership Fee (postage stamp etc). They had a good humoured discussion and Helen promised to look into ways in which this might be done more economically (? through an account with the Credit Union).

#### **4. Correspondence**

(a) President's Award for outstanding service to the University - the deadline for nominating an individual or group is March 18th, 2005. Call 905 525 9140 ext. 23554 for further information,

(b) Peter George is the winner of this year's Hamilton Safe Communities - CH Spirit of the Community Award, The honour, given annually to a person who uses his/her profile to enhance community life in Hamilton, will be presented at a celebrity roast on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The roast will be at Carmen's Banquet and Convention Centre. For tickets (\$100) call Kim Sloboda at 905 523 1688

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

Mildred thanked Veronica, Erica and Bonnie - for their wonderful teamwork in getting the MURA news put together. printed and mailed at regular intervals each year.

The President, Dr, Peter George, is hosting a lunch for the Council in April and Mildred had been asked to find out whether Monday April 18th or 25th would suit us better. Mildred will respond indicating that either date would suit us equally well.

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

Jessie Dunlop gave each person present a copy of the Balance Sheet to February 28th 2005 in which there was also a comparison with the financial situation at the same time in 2004.

**Motion:** that the balance sheet to February 28th, 2005 be accepted as printed (Jessie Dunlop/ Gabriele Erasmi carried)

#### **7. Portfolios**

(a) Membership - Bonnie reported that 626 people have never paid; 143 people have failed to renew and 50 people failed to respond after their "honeymoon time" was over. Reminder letters will be enclosed with the next MURA news mailing early in April.

(b) Cards - Helen Otrosina said that she had sent sympathy cards in connection with the deaths of Mrs Irene Leigh and Dr. Ivan Morgan.

(c) MURA news - Veronica plans to have the next edition mailed early in April so that the information relating to the AGM will be available to retirees promptly.

(d) Website - Brian Ives has been busy enhancing the website with pictures taken in Michele Leroux's department.

## **8. MURA Funding - Helen Barton and Brian Ives**

Some progress has been made in discussions with MUSA and MUF A but we shall not be in a position to initiate any changes in the "Active Membership Fee" situation in 2005.

## **9. CURAC**

Helen Barton explained that CURAC is seeking incorporation and in this connection a set of by-laws and a charter are required. Peter Russell President of CURAC, has sent us a draft set of by-laws and asked us to let him know if we have any suggestions or concerns so that a very lengthy discussion of them before ratification (hopefully on May 12 at the AGM) may be avoided. Brian, Helen and Averil have been working on this and Averil will write to Peter with their combined comments/suggestions as approved by Council. The key point is the importance of having a clear nomination procedure to ensure that there is an open and democratic process for choosing the leadership.

## **10. Nominating Committee Report 2005**

Frank Drieman presented the report, a copy of which had been distributed to each person present. Following quite a long discussion, it was agreed that Frank would contact various people, including the nominees, and then present an amended report. (Secretary's note: The MURA Executive will meet to review the amended report prior to the meeting of Council on April 13th.)

## **11. Any other Business**

Averil asked whether the Benefits telephone numbers could be listed for retirees in the Newsletter.

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, April 13th, at 1 :30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 220.

## **13. Adjournment**

Helen Barton moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3:40 pm.

Averil Thompson  
Secretary