

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday November 10th, 2004, at 1:30PM in the Student Centre Room 220

Present: Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Mariana Brown, Jessie Dunlop, Gabriele Erasmi, Erica Giese, Brian Ives, Michele Leroux, Veronica Morisson, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Gerry Keech and Helen Otrosina

1. Welcome

Mildred welcomed everyone, including our two special guests, to the meeting.

2. Presentations

Carrie Thomas from the Development Office made a presentation as part of the campaign for the Athletics and Recreation Centre and Stadium. The goal is to raise \$43 million of which \$20 million is to come through a student levy. She stressed that the 7,000 seat \$13 million McMaster Stadium will be a great bridge to the community and that our students are solidly behind the building of a new Athletics and Recreation Centre.

Kelly Sodtka, also from the Development Office, made a presentation on bequests to McMaster through wills and also through life insurance in which McMaster is made the beneficiary.

3. Minutes:of the Previous Meeting

Motion: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on Wednesday October 13th, 2004, be approved as previously circulated (Erica Giese/Anne Sinclair Carried)

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Charges for publishing "non-MURA material" in the MURA news
Veronica outlined some of the difficulties she had encountered due to the lack of a crystal clear policy. It was agreed that Frank Drieman, Gabriele Erasmi and Veronica Morrison be appointed as a sub-committee to draft a clearer policy and present it to the Council for consideration.

(b) Note from Stuart Winn- Averil read part of a note to her in which he expressed his appreciation for an eightieth birthday card and a copy of the brief history of MURA, which appears on our website. He had a great party and is now planning for his ninetieth birthday.

5. Correspondence

(a) Mildred had received an e-mail update concerning construction on the south side of the campus. Building of the new Main Street entrance to the campus is due to commence in the spring of 2005 and, in the meantime, there is a great deal of preparatory work to be done.

(b) McMaster has regained a place in the listing of the top Canadian universities published by Maclean's Magazine.

(c) Mildred has had a frustrating time trying to find out the names of the Gerontology Department's scholarship winners, whom we wish to invite to our Christmas lunch. Helen Barton volunteered to help.

6. President's Remarks

(a) At Mildred's suggestion, Brian Ives represented MORA at the luncheon for about 150 retired faculty on November 1st. Brian spoke briefly mentioning the need for more faculty representation on the MURA Council and also the lack of symmetry between the manner in which retired faculty and staff are treated.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jessie will provide a statement at the December Council meeting on December 8th. She had received an acknowledgment from CURAC of the \$300 membership cheque sent recently.

8. Christmas Lunch

The thought was that Helen Orosina had the arrangements well in hand. Mildred asked Bonnie to bring the name tags for members of Council to wear at the lunch.

9. MURA funding - Brian Ives

Jessie Dunlop circulated the MORA budget for 2005/2006 and there was discussion on this prior to approving the "New Funding Mechanism" document presented by Brian Ives.

Motion: that Council approve the MURA expense budget for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 at \$12,500, including a \$900 contingency fund, and approve seeking funding of \$10,750 per year from the three representative organizations, as detailed in item 3 of the New Funding

Mechanism document distributed at meeting (Helen Barton/Frank Drieman - Carried)

The next step will be to write to each representative group, enclosing a copy of the New Funding Mechanism, and to arrange a meeting with representatives of each of the three groups. Frank will accompany Helen to the MUSA group.

10. Portfolios

- (a) Membership - Bonnie said that she had received she more e-mail addresses from retirees.
- (b) Trips/Special Events - Anne reported that the 'Hair Spray' trip had been a great success. The lunch was especially good.
- (c) MURANews - Veronica said that, as she is short of copy for December, the next publication is planned for January of2005.
- (d) Liaison with Faculty - Gabriele Erasmi raised some points about differences in benefits for retirees, which Michele Leroux was able to clarify
- (e) Website - Brian indicated that some progress is being made. Pam Penny has been working on focus group plans.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday December 8th, 2004, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 220.

12. Adjournment

Gabriele Erasmi moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3 :25 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Mildred McLaren
President