

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday October 13th , 2004, .at 1 :30pm in the Student Centre, Room 230 .

Present: Mildred McLaren (chair), Helen Barton, Mariana Brown, Jessie Dunlop, Erica Giese, Brian Ives, Michele Leroux, Veronica Morrison, Helen Otrosina, Rod Phillips, Les Robb, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Frank Drieman, Gabriele Erasmi and, Gerry Keech

1. Welcome

Mildred McLaren welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Pension Trust Committee

Les Robb reported on the highlights of the recent Pension Trust Committee meeting. There will be no increase in our pensions in 2005. The PTC is considering the purchase of a Pension Calculator Module which would allow people to go on line to find out the amount of pension to which they would be entitled. At the present time it costs the University \$400 per employee for these calculations. It appears that in the long run it would be a big money saver and would be helpful to employees planning their retirement.

This matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the PTC and a vote will be taken.

Motion: that the Council has confidence. in Les Robb's judgment in the upcoming vote on the purchase of a pension calculator (Brian Ives/Helen Barton - carried)

It was thought that the general membership would very much appreciate an update o the highlights of the Pension Trust Committee meetings and Les Robb volunteered to write something for publication in the January 2005 MURAnews. Michele volunteered to include Les Robb's write-up in the "no increase" letter due to be sent to retirees before Christmas.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Page 2, Item.6, last line - change Gabriele Erasmus to Gabriele Erasmi.

Motion: that, subject to the above change, the minutes of the meeting held on September 8th, 2004, be approved as previously circulated (Erica Giese/Anne Sinclair - carried).

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) Presentation on the Bequest Campaign

Mildred.has arranged that a twenty minute presentation at the November 10th meeting of Council. Dr. Margaret Lyons, Kelly Sodtka and Scott Forfar will be attending.

(b) Mildred and the e:mail business – there have been a few initial difficulties but progress is being made

(c) Computer course for Bonnie White – no further action is needed at this point.

5. Correspondence

(a) Mildred, as President of MuRA, was invited to a lunch for faculty on November 1st, hosted by Dr. George. As a retired faculty member, Brian will be attending this function and has agreed to represent MURA (in place of Mildred) and speak about recent developments such as CURAC and the thrust to change the basis of funding.

(b) Mildred has received an invitation to the Convocation Dinner on November 11th in the Student Centre and will attend.

(c) Mildred had received a call asking for retiree volunteers to assist with registration for a walk in aid of the United Way on November 5th. Mildred and Anne Sinclair have volunteered and others may do so by calling Jill Axisa at the University – 905 525 9140 Ext.24619.

6. President's Remarks

Mildred had attended several meetings with representatives of various groups in connection with our goal of changing the way in which MURA is funded.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jessie Dunlop presented her financial statement for the period May 1 to September 30th 2004.

Motion: that the financial report to September 30th 2004 be accepted as printed and circulated (Jessie Dunlop/Anne Sinclair – carried)

8. Realistic Expense Budget for MURA 2004/2005 and 2005/2006

The two budgets which had been carefully prepared by Jessie, with input from various others, were presented, mulled over diligently and slightly amended. Brian Ives then presented his Proposal for a Change in MURA Funding. It would seem that it is unrealistic to expect financial support from three groups: Clinical Faculty, Affiliates and Hourly Staff. On the basis of the proposed budget for 2005/2006 the total expenditure for the twelve month period was estimated at \$12,505. Once this is double checked, the question is how do we establish the fair proportion to be paid each year by the contributing groups (MUFA, MUSA and the University (for the Professional Management Group). This will be done at the November Council meeting.

9. Portfolios

(a) Membership - Bonnie White reported that she had already received 24 notes from members giving their e-mail addresses.

(b) Trips and Special Events - Anne reported on the finances and said that she currently had \$1,390.42 on hand.

(c) Cards/Christmas Lunch - Helen Otrrosina said that she had sent six sympathy cards and several get well cards.

(d) MURA news - Veronica Morrison said that clearer guidelines are needed regarding the charges made for services, including inserts and advertisements by other groups. She will draft some guidelines for consideration at the November meeting.

Erica Giese thanked Bonnie for coming to her rescue when she was unable to organize the MURA mailing in September.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday November 10th, 2004, at 1:30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 220.

11. Adjournment

Brian Ives moved the adjournment and the meeting finished at approximately 3:30 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Mildred McLaren
President