

# McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday February 8th, 2006, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 203

**Present:** Brian Ives (chair) Helen Barton, Jeff Chuchman, Beth Csordas, Geoff Evans, Roman March. Joan Morris, Veronica Morrison, Joan Parker, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

**Regrets:** Gabriele Erasmi, Margaret Jenkins and Mildred McLaren

## 1. Welcome

Brian welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

**Motion:** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday January 11th, 2006 be approved as previously circulated (Geoff/Helen - Carried)

## 3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) AGM Date: Convocation Hall has been booked for Tuesday May 23rd. 2006 and this will be advertised in the next Newsletter. Ideas need to be generated for the programme and possible speaker for discussion at our next meeting in March.

(b) Appointment of an auditor

**Motion:** that Bob West, currently Director of Financial Services at McMaster, be appointed Auditor for MURA for the 2005-2006 financial year (Helen Barton/ Joan Parker carried)

Bob has been a Chartered Accountant since 1970 with 11 years experience in public accounting. He will retire from McMaster in 2006 after 24 years as Manager and then Director of Financial services. He is currently Treasurer of Binkley United Church and auditor of two not-for-profit organizations.

(c) In connection with the motion in Item 7 (a) in the minutes of the January 11th meeting, Helen Barton said that it was discovered subsequently that "no benefits" meant no benefits (including pensions) either during employment or at retirement.

## 4. Correspondence

(a) East African Safari - George and Maggie Thomas are organizing this holiday for 16 people and it will be advertised on the website.

(b) CURAC Annual Meeting at Guelph University May 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>  
Registration is \$90 before May 3<sup>rd</sup> and \$95 subsequently. Further information is available on the MURA website and in the January Newsletter.

## 5. President's Report

(a) An executive meeting was held on January 25<sup>th</sup> and there was some useful discussion of current issues.

(b) Terms of Reference Documents (formerly known as Portfolios)  
Brian had updated these in the light of recent changes and he will distribute them to chairs and officers for review, input and return by the April Council meeting.

(c) Social Sciences Awards Reception - MURA is usually invited to present the Gerontology Awards but so far no invitation has been received.

(d) Appointment of Secretary to replace Averil  
Brian asked whether any Council member would like to volunteer for the job and there was silence. He asked us to give the matter some thought and hopefully come to the next meeting prepared. to name possible candidates.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

(a) Beth spoke about the draft budget for 2006-2007 and the accompanying notes, which had both been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Motion:** that the budget for 2006-2007 be approved {Roman / Geoff - Carried}

(b) Membership Contributions

Beth said that she had received some cheques for "Active Membership Fees" for 2006, even though we have not requested them this year. Also, some people had paid for coming years. She planned to send a letter to these members offering to reimburse them or alternatively to allow MURA to keep the money. A lively discussion followed which resulted in the following decision.

**Motion:** that the proposed letter should not be sent but an announcement be put in the Newsletter explaining the situation and offering to refund overpaid "Active Membership Fees" upon request before the end of our fiscal year on April 30<sup>th</sup>.  
(Helen/Geoff - Carried with one opposed)

## 7. Detailed Reports from Scheduled Committee - Constitutional Matters

(a) Joan M . distributed the report and pointed out the proposed changes. Geoff thought that it was premature to vote on these changes in the Constitution before we had a chance to review them carefully. It was agreed that Joan M. would indicate the changes on a copy of the Constitution and circulate them to members for study before March 8<sup>th</sup> .

(b) Nominating Committee

The Committee members are Mildred McLaren, Murlis Pope. Helen Otrosina, Roman March and Helen Barton. In the absence of Mildred, Helen reported on the meeting which had been held on February 1st. Geoff Evans, Pam Penny and Kathy Overholt had been nominated for 3 year terms ending in 2009; John McCutcheon had been nominated for a one year term ending in 2007. Brian Ives and Helen Barton have each been nominated for a second term of office. These are interim nominations in the sense that the "slate" does not have to be presented to Council until the March meeting, by which time more nominations might need to be considered.

## **8. Website**

Members of Council had diligently done their website homework assignment as requested by Brian, and were able to provide useful feedback. Generally speaking there was admiration for the MURA website's scope, presentation and quality. Members very much appreciated the fine work done by Helen Barton, Brian Ives and Nick Solntseff. It was agreed that possible concerns over personal information on Council members listed on the website should be raised by the individual explicitly asking for information to be withheld, as necessary.

## **9. Information reports from committees and liaisons**

(a) Benefits

Thanks to Jeff Chuchman, Geoff was able to provide us with significant comparison of retiree benefits provided by Universities across Canada. McMaster University compares very favourably indeed with the other universities. A printed chart was circulated for future reference.

(b) Cards - Joan Morris had sent several sympathy cards.

(c) Trips - Anne said that she had managed to obtain a block of fifty excellent seats at Hamilton Place for the GeritoI Follies on. June 15th, 2006. She planned to enquire about the possibility of a meal before the performance at 7pm.

(d) Hourly staff liaison

Rod Phillips expressed concern that the University's long term plan is to outsource all the cleaning and that, in the interim period, cleaning staff are being hired without any benefits either during their active employment or upon retirement.

## **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday March 8th, 2006 at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 220.

**11. Adjournment:** Joan Parker moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at 3:30pm.

Averil Thompson, Secretary

Brian Ives, President