

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday March 8th, 2006 at 1:30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 220

Present: Brian Ives (chair), Jeff Chuchman, Beth Csordas, Gabriele Erasmi, Roman March, Mildred McLaren, Joan Morris, Veronica Morrison, Joan Parker, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair and Averil Thompson

Regrets: Helen Barton, Geoff Evans, Margaret Jenkins and Bonnie White

1. Welcome

Brian welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion: that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday February 8th, 2006. be approved as previously circulated. (Joan Morris/Joan Parker - Carried)

3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) Terms of Reference documents - Brian reminded members of the need to review these documents and to return them with any needed changes at the next meeting of Council.

(b) Social Sciences Awards Reception - For budgetary reasons Social Sciences held a "simpler" ceremony this year with no representatives of donors. Brian mentioned his disappointment about this recent change to one of the organizers.

(c) MURA Secretary - two possible candidates were mentioned and Brian volunteered to pursue this matter.

4. Correspondence

(a) Clinical Faculty - Brian explained that in the course of helping Dr. Carl Moore to find some information about the names; of clinical faculty, he had discovered, that some of them had been coded as "faculty" rather than as "clinical faculty" in our MURA records. He was not proposing to take any further action.

(b) Bay Area Science, and Engineering Fair March 19th to 31st
Brian had sent an e-mail about the need for volunteers and Joan Parker, Mildred McLaren and Anne Sinclair had already decided to volunteer as they had done last year. Brian asked Joan P. if she would work with Ola Lunyk on recruitment of a few more volunteers from the University and she readily agreed.

(c) CURAC Annual Meeting - information regarding the program and registration are available on the website. Helen Barton, Brian Ives, Roman March and Mildred McLaren are planning to attend.

5. President's Report

(a) Brian and Rod had attended a meeting of the Hourly Pension Plan Committee. They had talked with Cliff Andrews and sounded him out about being our representative on the committee. Cliff would be willing to do this for a relatively short time but he thought that MURA should be looking ahead and finding someone who would be able to do the job on a longer term basis.

(b) Sample web site survey through the commercial survey site "Websurveyor". Brian said that he had tried the one month free trial and did not wish to continue with this firm. However, despite some setbacks, he was still interested in developing a website survey.

(c) AGM Speaker

Veronica Morrison suggested that we invite Dr. Adrian R. M. Upton, Professor of Medicine-Neurology, who has indicated to her informally that he would be interested in addressing MURA.

Motion: that Dr. Upton be invited to speak at our AGM on May 23rd and that, if there is a fee, the MURA representative be authorized to negotiate a payment not exceeding \$500. (Joan Morris/Roman March - Carried)

6. Treasurer's Report

Beth presented her financial report for the period May 1st 2005 to February 28th 2006 and the projected figures for the end of the financial year on April 30th, 2006. Net income over expenses is projected to be \$2,629.

7. Detailed Reports from Scheduled Committees

(a) Constitution

Joan presented the report and the covering note explaining the rationale for the various changes. The following additional changes still need to be incorporated:

Article 4.03 Notice of Meeting

Delete the first sentence and substitute the following:

"Notice of an annual general meeting or a special meeting of the members shall be sent, at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting, to all members at their last known postal or e-mail address as shown in the records of the Association."

Delete last sentence and substitute the following:

"Subject to the provisions above, any notice of meeting of members may be included in the official publication of the Association."

Article 5.06

In the last sentence add "two" so that the last phrase would read "for two consecutive terms."

Motion: that, subject to the changes above, the amended Constitution be approved for review and endorsement at the AGM (Mildred/ Gabriele - Carried)

It was agreed that Joan would revise her "covering note" summarizing the major changes in the Constitution, and only this document would be published in MURA News as notice of motion for approval at the AGM. The complete" revised Constitution document can be loaded onto the website, sent by request of a member, and made available in hard copy at the AGM.

Motion: that Helen and Joan Morris be congratulated and thanked for their excellent work in updating our Constitution. (Gabriele/Joan Parker - Carried)

(b) Nominating Committee Report

Mildred presented the report. Brian suggested that, under the Constitution, Council was at liberty to appoint a person to take the place of a member who had been unable to complete his/her term of office. He suggested that, as a replacement for Mariana Brown, Council appoint John McCutcheon starting in April 2006 and continuing in office until 2007. .

Motion: that John McCutcheon be appointed effective April 2006 to continue in office until 2007 (Joan Morris/Mildred - Carried).

Motion: that, subject to the change above, the Nominating Committee Report be accepted for presentation at the AGM (Mildred/Roman - Carried).

(c) Web site

Brian presented the report of the Standing Committee on MURA Website, which he had co-authored with Nick Solntseff.

8. Discussion on upcoming scheduled committee studies

Membership - policy and procedures regarding future income from members.

There appeared to be consensus that extra income would have to come from donations. Beth did point out that at the present time we have a fairly significant "reserve fund" and members who studied our financial report might wonder why donations were needed in 2006. It was agreed to discuss donations again, possibly in September of this year.

9. Information from Committees and Liaisons

- (a) Cards - Joan Morris will be sending a few sympathy cards including one to Gary Waterfield whose wife Diane (nee Duff) died recently.
- (b) MURA News - Veronica will need copy early in April so that it may reach members at least thirty days prior to the AGM.
- (c) Pensions - Les Robb had reported to Helen that there had been no recent meeting of the Salaried Pension Trust Committee, but one is scheduled for later in March.
- (d) Trips - Anne explained that the Panama cruise had to be cancelled as the company was demanding a deposit of \$1,003 by March 5th, 2006, for cabin reservations even though the cruise does not take place until 2007.

10. Other business

Roman was concerned by the fact that councillors are normally elected for three year terms, but the President and Vice President are each appointed for one year term. Brian said that a President would already have served for at least one year as Vice President (the heir, apparent position); would probably serve at least a one year term as President and would then serve at least a one year term as Past President. This would amount to a significant period of service.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday April 12th, 2006, at 1:30 pm, in the Student Centre, Room 220, with Helen in the Chair.

12. Adjournment

The meeting ended at approximately 3 :30pm.

Averil Thompson	Brian Ives
Secretary	President