

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday May 10th, 2006, at 1 :30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 220

Present: Brian Ives (chair), Gabriele Erasmi, Geoff Evans, Margaret Jenkins, Michele Leroux, Roman March, John McCutcheon, Joan Morris, Veronica Morrison, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Beth Csordas and Joan Parker

1. Welcome

Brian Ives welcomed everyone and especially Geoff Evans, who had been ill, and Michele Leroux, who had just returned from a one year maternity leave.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday April 12th, 2006, be approved as previously circulated (Mildred/Geoff - carried).

3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) Secretary ..

Wendy Thomas had applied for the position which had been advertised in the MURA news. Averil had met with her and Beth Csordas had provided a reference.

Motion: that Wendy Thomas be appointed as MURA Secretary effective Wednesday May 23rd, 2006 (Helen/Gabriel

(b) Terms of reference

Some documents are still outstanding and we were urged to submit them as soon as possible, even if no updating of the original documents appeared to be necessary.

(c) Appointment of Cliff Andrews

Cliff Andrews has been appointed as MURA Observer in accordance with the motion at the meeting on April 12th, 2006. We are hoping to identify a fairly new retiree from the hourly paid staff, who would be willing to become Cliff s "apprentice" and, at an appropriate point, replace Cliff as our. MURA Observer on the Hourly Pension Plan Retirement Committee. Cliff is planning to attend our AGM on May 23rd. .

4. Annual General Meeting

(a) Refreshments and other arrangements - Joan Morris has these well in hand.

(b) Handouts ..

The agenda for the AGM was finalized and will include approximate timing for the speaker and the business meeting. Arrangements have been made to provide Veronica with the other documents she needs to get the handouts ready in a timely fashion for the AGM.

(c) Name tags - Bonnie has them at the ready for the meeting.

(d) Constitutional fallback position - Helen explained that, if the planned suspension of Articles 4.05 and 4.06 were not carried, there was a procedure outlined for this situation on page 99 of a book entitled Procedures for meetings and organizations (Carswell Legal Publications 1984). In essence, the President would declare those members from the employee groups who have been "sponsored" by their organizations to be "active" members and thus allowed to vote at the AGM before the Constitution is changed.

5. President's Report

(a) Brian thanked Helen most warmly for the way in which she had taken his place while he was on vacation in Florida. She had not only conducted the Council meeting but had also done other very valuable work behind the scenes, especially in connection with the appointment of Cliff Andrews as our MURA Observer on the Hourly Pension Plan Retirement Committee.

(b) Insignia Design Competition

Brian reported that there had been two submissions but, in his opinion, no design clearly worthy of adoption. He would thank the two people concerned but not pursue the insignia quest for the time being.

(c) Lunch with the President

Those who attended found it an informal, relaxed occasion with a tempting buffet. Peter outlined some of the latest developments at McMaster and thanked the Council and the Association for its continuing support of the University.

(d) Problems with PDF files on website

Each time the MURA news is published, a few people complain about difficulties in opening the files. In Brian's view it is essential to remove any old Acrobat versions before downloading any upgrade.

6. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Beth, Helen explained that Bob West (our auditor) had met with Beth on May 9th and is working on some changes in the way our financial statements are presented.

7. Review of Standing Committee structure and operations

Brian asked for feedback on how the Committee structure is working and whether we might do some things differently. He was especially interested in two aspects - the nature and scope of the committees and the advance scheduling of in-depth reports (proactivity). There appeared to be general consensus with Geoff's view that the proactive reports should normally be scheduled only once per year.

Motion: that the Standing Committee on Benefits and the Standing Committee on Pensions be merged into a single Standing Committee on Pensions and Benefits (Roman March/Geoff Evans - carried)

8. Information reports from committees and liaisons

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

(b) Membership - Bonnie reported that she had run into some major difficulties, but assured us that she would have things sorted out in time for Brian to provide some reliable figures regarding membership at the AGM.

(c) MURA news - Veronica said that she planned to have the next edition published in late June.

(d) Special Events - Margaret Jenkins had some ideas regarding activities in the fall. A suggestion was made by Veronica to revive our custom of having a dinner in the fall.

(e) Trips - Anne reported that things were going well for the planned Bermuda cruise. She recommended that \$500 be invested in another GIC and was advised by Brian that it appeared to be the sense of the meeting to go ahead. Anne mentioned that Joan Parker would be joining her on the Trips Committee to provide financial support but not to organize the trips and do all the detailed work with individual retirees, which is more effectively done presently by one person (Anne).

(f) Board of Governors
Mildred had attended the latest Board meeting, but had nothing specific to report. She has obtained approval to lodge the open session minutes of Board Meetings in the MURA office.

(g) Hourly staff liaison
Rod Phillips reported that he had visited the shop where he used to work but felt that he wasn't getting much feedback regarding retiree issues. He was encouraged by Helen and others to continue his good work as a contact person for that group.

(h) MURA office - Brian plans to investigate management of the MURA office as a responsibility of the Secretary.

(i) CURAC Annual General Meeting in Guelph

Helen Barton, Brian Ives, Roman March and Mildred McLaren are planning to attend.

9. Any other business

(a) It was noted that the Membership Committee will shortly be losing its only two members - Bonnie and Gabriele.

(b) There had been an unfortunate delay in receiving a letter from the Salaried Pension Plan Trust Committee asking us. to name our representative for the 2006/2007 year.

Motion: that Les Robb be appointed for another term to the Salaried Pension Plan Trust Committee (Helen/Gabriele - carried)

(c) Brian thanked our three retiring members of Council Bonnie, Gabriele and Averil for their special and much appreciated contributions to the work of the Council.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday June 14th, 2006, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 220.

11. Adjournment

The meeting ended at approximately 3:30 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Brian Ives
President