

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday October 12th, 2005, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 220

Present: Brian Ives(chair), Helen Barton, Mariana Brown, Jeff Chuchman, Geoffrey Evans, Margaret Jenkins, Roman March, Joan Morris, Veronica Morrison, Joan Parker, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

Regrets: Beth Csordas, Gabriele Erasmi, Mildred McLaren and Les Robb

1. Welcome

Brian welcomed everyone and especially Joan Parker to her first meeting of Council and Rod Phillips on his return following a period of ill health.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

In the minutes of Council September 14th, Treasurer's report, the second sentence should read as follows: "She had been experiencing difficulties in getting authorized access to the ING account and, on one occasion, Jessie did a transfer from ING."

Motion: that, subject to the change above, the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as previously circulated. (Geoff/Anne carried)

In the minutes of the Council Meeting held on March 9th, 2005, under point 3(b) of Business Arising, it was agreed that the word "carried" had been omitted by, mistake. The motion on March 9th, 2005 should read as follows:

Motion: that the amended Guidelines on publishing non-MURA material in the MURA News be approved. (Helen Barton/Helen Otrosina - carried)

3. Business arising from the minutes

(a) MURA representative on the McMaster United Way Steering Committee
Brian said that Professor Richard Rempel had agreed to be our representative.

(b) CARP membership proposal

Brian explained the way in which he thought CARP's Option C should be communicated to our members. In addition to the note in the *MURA News*, he thought it would be helpful to include a leaflet provided by CARP. Council members were not in favour of paying any excess postage which might be incurred but Brian thought, that, as Veronica estimated only **six** pages for the newsletter, extra postage was unlikely to be needed.

A consequence of enclosing the CARP enclosure would be that the October mailing should be sent to all members, not just the Active ones. It was agreed that the 2005 budget allows for a full mailing of four newsletters during the year.

Motion: that the newsletter mailing in October will go to all members. (Helen Barton/Joan Parker- carried)

Motion: that, subject to the proviso that no additional postage costs are incurred, the CARP brochure, or at least the membership application form, be enclosed with the October mailing of *MURA News*. (Geoff Evans/Roman March - carried)

(c) MURA membership of surviving spouses of those who died before becoming retirees A change in the wording of the Constitution is needed and Helen and Joan M. have this in hand.

(d) Website Questionnaire

Roman said that he had studied this question and come to the conclusion that, at the present time, we lack the needed resources to do this job in a professional manner. He recommended postponement and Council put it on the back burner.

4. Correspondence

(a) Brian had received a request from a member to address Council on the university Coca Cola franchise and Brian had turned it down as inappropriate.

(b) Brian had accepted an invitation to attend the MUFA/University Retiree Luncheon on November 2nd and planned to speak briefly at it. (It does raise the question of why there is not a comparable function for staff retirees and there was some discussion on the desirability of this.):

(c) Dr. Carl Moore had requested a list of Clinical Faculty retiring before July 2000. Brian had arranged for this list to be sent to Dr. Moore with the proviso that it be used only once.

(d) Brian and Bonnie have received from Jeff a master list of retirees totaling 1575 names as of August 31 st, 2005.

5. President's Report

(a) Brian hoped that the "mystery" over plans for Standing Committee reports and reviews would become a little clearer as we start to demonstrate at this meeting how it will work.

(b) Brian planned to go with Helen for the annual visit with the President, Dr. Peter George, and will ask for an appointment.

6. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Beth Csordas, Brian reported that there had been very little activity in the past month.

7. Report from Scheduled Committee - Constitution and By-Laws

Helen and Joan Morris had produced a document entitled "Proposed Changes to MURA Constitution", which was circulated to those present for careful consideration. Members were invited to contact Helen or Joan with any comments or suggestions. (The subject will also be put on the agenda for the next meeting of Council.)

8. Information Reports from Committees and Liaisons

(a) Bonnie reported on membership:

After adding new retirees and deleting members who have passed away and have no spousal survivors, we have 1666 members plus one associate (from another university). The breakdown is as follows: faculty 537, Clinical Faculty 106, Staff 569, TMG 129, Hourly 285, Affiliates 5 and Research Associates 35.

(b) Benefits - Geoff reported that a letter had been sent to about one hundred members who do not have McMaster retiree health or dental plan, giving them information about an insurance plan entitled "FollowMe" which is available to them. ,

(c) Christmas Lunch - Joan Morris had nothing further to report at the present time. Brian Ives will invite Peter George, B.I. Levy, M. Dizdarevic and the Gerontology Award students.

(d) Trips - Anne reported a very successful visit to see "Gypsy" at the Shaw Festival and also gave information about a number of forthcoming events.

(e) Website - Brian said that there are plans to inform those who have provided us with e-mail addresses when the newsletter has been downloaded to the website.

(f) Pensions - Helen reported that the pension increase for those in the Salaried Pension Plan is likely to be 0.19% effective January 1st, 2006.

9. Discussion on upcoming scheduled Committee Studies

(a) Pension Standing Committee - Roman March and Helen Barton

Roman and Helen are suggesting major initiatives and gave a notice of motion as follows: "In order to maximize MURA's influence on the entire pensions process, MURA Council should endorse a motion to authorize the members of MURA's Standing Committee on Pensions to begin contacting MUFA, MUSA, the Management Group and the Hourly-rated Group for the following purposes:"

(Secretary's note: the full document appears on the last page immediately following the minutes)

During discussion, it was agreed that including the Benefits Standing Committee in these deliberations would be appropriate.

(b) Special Events - Margaret Jenkins and Mariana Brown

Margaret spoke about various possibilities, including speakers from within the University. She hopes to make a definite proposal at the next meeting of Council in November.

10. Any other business

Bonnie provided the information on business reply envelopes which Brian had requested. If we sent #9 envelopes inside #10 envelopes, we would be charged 71cents for each business letter mailed. This would be a way of obtaining responses to the Website questionnaire, for example.

11. Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday November 9th, 2005, at 1:30 pm in the Student Centre Room 220.

12. Adjournment - Roman March moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3 :40 pm.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Brian Ives
President

Note from Roman March and Helen Barton

Standing Committee on Pensions

1. In order to maximize MURA's influence on the entire pensions process, MURA Council should endorse a motion to authorize the members of MURA's Standing Committee on Pensions to begin contacting MUFA, MUSA, the Management Group and the Hourly-rated Group for the following purposes.

2. The MURA Standing Committee on Pensions (SC on P) should try to receive copies of all briefs, minutes and correspondence relating to pensions from all groups.

3. All materials collected from (2) above, should be filed centrally, either in the MURA office, or elsewhere on campus.

4. The SC on P would enter into formal negotiations with all other McMaster University pension groups in order to establish some form of formal/informal status with each group. This status can range from: (a) Corresponding Member i.e. receiver of correspondence to

(b) Observer/non- voting to (c) Associate Member to (d) Member.

If some form of status is achieved with other pension groups, it may be necessary to increase the membership of the SC on P.

5. SC on P should actively lobby for improvements in the pension plans in so far as they affect MURA members.

6 . The Indexing Formula should be reformed.

Presented by Roman March and Helen Barton at the MURA Council Meeting on Wednesday October 12th, 2005