

## **McMaster University Retirees Association**

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday September 14th, 2005, at 1:30 pm, in the Student Centre Room 220

**Present:** Brian Ives (chair), Helen Barton; Mariana Brown, Jeff Chuchman, Beth Csordas, Gabriele Erasmi, Geoffrey Evans, Margaret Jenkins, Roman March, Joan Morris, Veronica Morrison, Anne Sinclair, Averil Thompson and Bonnie White

**Regrets:** Mildred McLaren, Joan Parker and Rod Phillips

### **1. Welcome**

Brian welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the Fall.

### **2. Minutes of the previous Council meeting**

**Motion:** that the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on June 8th, 2005 be approved as previously circulated (Joan Morris/Mariana Brown - carried)

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

(a) MURA representative on the McMaster United Way Steering Committee

Several names were suggested and Brian volunteered to try to recruit one who was supportive of the United Way

(b) MURA new funding agreement

The documents have been signed and the original is being carefully stored by the Secretary .

(c) Bank signing authorities

Brian Ives as President, Mildred McLaren as Past President and Beth Csordas as Treasurer, were duly authorized as our three account signing authorities at the McMaster Credit Union, on June 14, 2005.

(d) Standing Committee assignments

Brian distributed a chart (on green paper) listing the assignment of responsibilities.

(Please note that Gabriele Erasmi's telephone number should be 905 648 4532 and not 905 648 4563.)

(e) CARP membership proposal

Bonnie recommended that we accept Option C - Access to the membership with a discounted promotion. (CARP would = \$15.95 for one year or \$39.95 for three years. To take full advantage of this offer, CARP would require MURA to advertise this special offer in its publication/newsletter and on its website.) Bonnie will contact Lisa

Tumey, Marketing Manager to enquire about a suitable write-up which would be published in the MURA News and also on our website

#### **4. Correspondence**

(a) Brian had received an agenda for the Salaried Pension Trust Committee meeting, which he gave to Roman March as chair the MURA Pensions Committee. Jeff indicated 'that he would have Roman added to the circulation e-mail list for Trust Committee Agendas.

(b) Members of the Council had each received an invitation to the next reception for new retirees to be hosted by Dr. Peter George on Tuesday October 18th, from 4pm until 5:30 pm, in the Great Hall of the University Club. Bonnie will be providing us with name tags.

#### **5. President's Report**

(a) Brian said that the five members of the Executive had met on September 7th to discuss issues and to prepare for the full Council meeting. He planned to hold such meetings from time to time as needed.

(b) One of the items discussed was reimbursement of expenses for MURA work. Generally speaking, members consider their minor expenses as a freely given contribution to MURA. However, no member should hesitate to ask for reimbursement when the expenses would prove rather onerous. For audit purposes the treasurer needs to be provided with a receipt attached to a covering note.

(c) Brian noted that there was no standing committee for Scholarships and, as this was only a once a year happening, he thought there was no need for such a committee and would do the job himself.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

Beth had no report. She has been experiencing difficulties in getting authorized access to the ING account and, on a temporary basis, Jessie Dunlop has done the work. Beth had received approximately \$1,500 in membership fees. At the present time there is roughly \$500 in the Credit Union account and \$ 26,000 in ING direct

#### **7. Consequences of the New Funding Agreement**

(a) Please refer to the memorandum which had been previously circulated.

**Motion:** that the memorandum to MURA Council members from Brian Ives on the "Consequence of the New Funding Agreement" be approved (Helen Barton/Geoff Evans - carried)

(b) Cards (The word "Visits" has been dropped from this title as they rarely occur)  
Joan Morris said that she had mailed nine sympathy cards and read us the names of those who had died.

(c) Constitution and By-Laws - Helen Barton and Joan Morris will make a report to Council on their recommendations for changes in the wording of the Constitution at our October meeting.

(d) Membership and the MURA Office  
Bonnie reported that she was getting back into the swing of things.

(e) MURANews  
Veronica said that Joan Parker had been very helpful to her. The next newsletter should be going out soon and Veronica is presently receiving copy. This issue will only be sent to "active" members.

(f) Pensions - In the absence of Les Robb, both Roman and Helen spoke briefly about the information received from Les. The increase in our pensions is likely to be quite minimal (probably around 0.25%). The Salaried Pension Trust Committee does not deal with the Pensions of those who were in the hourly rated group prior to retirement. "The McMaster University Hourly Retirement Committee" looks after much of the administration of the Hourly Pension Plan Pension Plan. (Secretary's note: The Committee consists of 13 members - 7 University representatives, and 6 Employee representatives. The 6 Employee representatives represent each Trade Union that participates in the Plan. They have an Alternate who happens to be a retiree - Cliff Andrews. Cliff only has a right to vote if there is not the required quorum of 4 Employee representatives.)

(g) Special Events  
Margaret Jenkins felt that she needed to know what sort, of events might appeal to our members, which time of day would be most appropriate and whether we might encourage them to participate in some local events of interest. For example, we might advertise in the MURA News events sponsored by the Hamilton Association of Literature Science and Art.

(h) Trips  
Anne reported a very successful "Grand River Cruise" on September 13th and outlined several other forthcoming events including "Hello Dolly" in Stratford, a Christmas trip in December and "Forever Plaid" in February of 2006.

(i) Web site  
Brian distributed a draft questionnaire, which had been compiled by Pam Penny for distribution to all members. He asked for comments and the general feeling was that we should be constructing a more "professional" questionnaire, which can, amongst other things, be readily coded to permit full analysis of the responses. Roman March (Political Science) indicated that he is willing to advise on improving the structure of the questionnaire, and it is also thought that there may be someone from the Faculty of... *(text missing in original document but found the following at the top of page 4)* Business with experience in questionnaire construction. (Thinking ahead to distribution, Brian asked Bonnie to investigate the cost of pre-paid business reply envelopes.)

(b) Please note that, as a result of a -suggestion by Geoff Evans, it was agreed that the offer to refund contributions paid in advance would be made in the Newsletter rather than by a letter to each eligible member. The thought was that MURA might keep more of the money in this way.

(c) Constitution

Brian said that Averil had raised the question of the timing of the approval of necessary changes to the constitution and wondered whether it would be essential to hold a special meeting of the membership prior to the -implementation of changes on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. It was thought that it would be reasonable to ask for approval of the changes at the AGM in 2006. Helen indicated that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee will consider the ramifications of having Constitutional amendments approved at the 2006 AGM and what aspects of the agreed upon new arrangements can be initiated earlier.

## **8. Christmas Lunch 2005**

Joan said that the Christmas Lunch would be held on Wednesday December 7th, at 12 noon at the Schwaben Inn, Dundas. Peter George will be available. Brian will invite Peter George, the Presidents of MUFA and MUSA and also the award winners from the Department of Gerontology.

## **9. Standing Committee Operations 2005 - 2006**

(a) Pro-active studies and reports

Brian emphasized the importance of being proactive rather than reactive in our MURA responsibilities and to encourage this mindset, he proposed that, following a general discussion in Council, each steering committee make an in depth review of its function and report to Council in accordance with the timelines established.

(b) Each person present was given a draft schedule which was briefly discussed. Some minor changes were suggested and will be incorporated in the schedule to be revised and distributed by Brian. (Secretary's note: Brian revised this schedule on September 15th.)

## **10. Standing Committee September Reports**

(a) Benefits - Geoff

Helen and Geoff had met to discuss the CURAC & CAUT & Manulife 'proposal that members of CURAC affiliated organizations may participate in the Manulife benefits program, and decided that MURA should only publicize this to McMaster retirees who are not covered by one of the McMaster retiree benefit plans (probably about 30 people according to Jeff Chuchman). Helen and Geoff, with the invaluable assistance of Jeff, will follow up on this.

~~Business with experience in questionnaire construction. (Thinking ahead to distribution, Brian asked Bonnie to investigate the cost of pre-paid business reply envelopes.) Moved to bottom of page 2~~

## **11. Liaison Reports**

### **(a) Board of Governors**

In the absence of Mildred, Brian reported that no meeting had taken place but a retreat is planned for September 30th.

### **(b) CURAC**

Brian reported that the next CURAC Conference will be taking place at Guelph University from May 24 - 26, 2006. He had completed a form to renew our membership in CURAC.

**Motion:** that MURA renew its membership in CURAC at a cost of \$300 (Joan Morris/Gabriele Erasmi - carried)

## **12. Any Other Business**

Geoff Evans asked whether surviving spouses (mainly widows) are MURA members and was assured by Bonnie that they are. (As a matter of interest each surviving spouse is sent a copy of each edition of the MURA News whether or not the \$15 annual donation has been paid.)

## **13. Next Meeting**

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

## **14. Adjournment**

Roman moved the adjournment and the meeting ended at approximately 3:30 pm.

Averil Thompson  
Secretary

Brian Ives  
President