

McMaster University Retirees Association

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday June 14th, 2006, at 1:30pm in the Student Centre Room 220

Present: Brian Ives (chair), Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Geoff Evans, Margaret Jenkins, Michele Leroux, Roman March, John McCutcheon, Mildred McLaren, Veronica Morrison, Kathy Overholt, Joan Parker, Pam Penny, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair and Averil Thompson

Regrets: Joan Morris

1. Welcome and Regrets

Brian welcomed everyone and invited us to enjoy coffee, Tim Bits and conversation as a prelude to our meeting. As there were two new Council members present, we were invited to introduce ourselves. He then introduced Averil and thanked her warmly for her ten years of service as Secretary. On behalf of the Council, Helen presented her with a most unusual plant - a pink Bromeliads, which lives mainly on air and seldom requires watering. Averil thanked the Council members for this delightful gift and for the many years of fellowship, fun and headaches.

2. Minutes

(a) Council meeting - May 10th, 2006

Add Helen Barton and Mildred McLaren to the names of those present.

Under 4 (d) Delete the last part of the first sentence beginning with "a book entitled" and substitute "a book entitled "Proceedings for Meetings and Organizations" by M.Kaye Kerr, and Hubert W. King (published by Carswell Legal Publications, Agincourt, Ontario, 1984)."

Under 8(e) Trips, second sentence substitute "policy support" for "financial support".

Motion: that, subject to the amendments above, the minutes of the Council meeting held on May 10th, 2006 be approved as previously circulated (Helen Barton/Geoff Evans Carried.) .

(b) AGM May 23rd 2006

Under Item 9, Report on Pensions, delete the second sentence of paragraph 1

Under Item 9 third paragraph, second sentence, delete "A full report" and substitute "The report" .

Under item 10, Motion to change the Constitution, change the second paragraph to read as follows:

"Geoff Evans asked a question about the status of clinical faculty in relation to MURA and their status as to whether they have paid fees or not. Helen replied that membership is not dependent

on who paid fees. The issue of voluntary contributions will be dealt with in the coming year, but no action will change the MURA membership criterion."

Motion: that, subject to the amendments above, the minutes of the AGM held on May 23rd, 2006 be approved for presentation and endorsement by members at the AGM in May of 2007 (Mildred McLaren/Geoff Evans - Carried)

3. Open Discussion of AGM

Some comments follow:

There was general agreement that the speaker was very good.

The tables and chairs were a nice feature but not sufficiently plentiful.

The food was good but was taken away too soon.

(It was not mentioned at the meeting but the coffee was cold)

Convocation Hall seems to be a good location.

More advance notice of the speaker might encourage better attendance.

Helen suggested that in 2007 each Council member might each agree to phone a couple of retirees and give them a personal invitation to the AGM.

Helen Barton said that Joan Morris had found that communication with the caterer was frustrating and difficult.

Kathy Overholt suggested that a letter be written to the caterer to provide feedback on the service provided.

It was proposed that Joan Morris review the information she supplied to the caterers and determine if they cleared away the food early in disregard of her instructions.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

(a) Terms of Reference Documents - Brian had not heard any more about suggested changes. He plans to complete this work in the near future.

(b) Replacement of Wendy Thomas as Secretary - no suitable person has been found yet.

(c) MURA Office Manager

Brian said that this question has not been settled yet. The actual duties need to be clearly defined.

5. President's Report

(a) Brian said that, at the start of this new Council year, he is hoping for progress on new fronts.

(b) CURAC Annual Meeting

(i) Delegates found it informative to compare and contrast other institutions' relationships with their retiree Associations. We are very fortunate at McMaster to have such a

traditionally good relationship with our University administration. Michele's presentation of pre-retirement planning seminars was a good example of this collegial relationship.

(ii) Confidentiality of retiree lists

If it becomes necessary in order to meet new privacy legislation, Michele would arrange that retirees be asked to indicate in writing at the exit interview whether they wish the fact of their retirement to be communicated to MURA.

(iii) Brian has accepted membership on a "research committee" to be chaired by Peter Russell- "Peer evaluation and the Treatment of emeritus (retired) faculty for grants."

(iv) Peter Russell, privately over lunch, indicated the courts view that retirees do have "VESTED RIGHTS", suggesting that former employers may not have the unilateral right to change the benefits of their retirees. (Michele has more information on this matter.)

(v) York University associations raised \$100,000 to endow awards for retirees using matching funds from the Ontario government.

(vi) PEI's "Senior College", organized by retirees, arranges for seniors to take a wide variety of general interest - no prerequisite - courses.

6. Treasurer's Report

Beth said that it was a quiet time of year financially. The good news is that none of the retirees, who had paid voluntary donations in advance, had asked for their money to be reimbursed.

7. Standing Committees 2006-2007

(a) Make up

Brian said that he preferred to delay finalizing the committee memberships until September. So far, no one has asked to be taken off a standing committee. Anne Sinclair has requested that Joan Parker serve as Council-elected chair for the Trips Committee.

Combining Pensions and Benefits into one committee requires some investigation as to the best way to staff this committee. Brian is asking Roman and Geoff to think about this and work out their suggestions/recommendations over the summer.

The Membership Committee is critical at this time, since both members of the standing committee retired from Council in May, and we need to maintain the membership database through the summer months and have mailing labels available for the June MURA news. Brian nominated Pam Penny to chair the Membership Committee and take over the database right away.

Motion: that Pam Penny be appointed as Chair of the Membership Committee (Joan Parker/Mildred McLaren - Carried)

(b) Proactive Reporting Schedule

Brian said that in September we will finalize a schedule for in-depth "pro-active" committee reports, which we agreed at the last meeting need only be once each year.

8. Information Reports from Committees

(a) MURAnews - Veronica needs some outstanding items for the next publication including one from Brian. CURAC will be mentioned in President's Corner but there will be no separate report about the recent AGM in Guelph attended by four of our Council members.

(b) Special Events - Margaret Jenkins spoke about several possibilities including an Art Gallery and lunch event, a cooking demonstration and a fall dinner with featured speaker.

(c) Trips

Anne Sinclair reported that all the trips are being very well supported, with this year's trips fully booked, except the recently announced Christmas trip, Dec 5. There are only seven cabins left for the Bermuda Cruise in May of 2007. She asked permission to spend approximately \$50 for refreshments in connection with a pre-cruise get-together for information etc.

(d) Pensions and Benefits

Roman March read excerpts from a short report by Les Robb. The combined committee met for the first time recently. Roman and Geoff have agreed that they will be co-chairs. They are to meet with Les Robb in approximately two weeks.

9. Hourly Staff Liaison

Rod Phillips said that he was disappointed that nobody from his group was present at the AGM. He was reassured by others, who felt that there was poor representation from several groups.

10. Any Other Business

(a) A tentative date of Thursday December 7th, 2006 was set for the Christmas Lunch at the Schwaben Inn. In the absence of Joan Morris, Margaret will check availability of this date with the restaurant.

(b) Bookings have been requested for our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month from September to December 2006 inclusive, at the Student Centre. Further bookings will be needed for succeeding semesters.

11. Next Meeting

Veronica has kindly offered to have the September 13th meeting at her home - 179 Orchard Drive, Ancaster. Further information is available from Veronica, who may be reached at (905) 648 3328.

12. Adjournment

The meeting ended at approximately 3 :30 pm following a motion for adjournment by ,Roman.

Averil Thompson
Secretary

Brian Ives
President