

**MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING
of McMaster University Retirees Association -
Wednesday May 9, 2007, 1:30PM at Student Centre Room 220**

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Geoff Evans, Brian Ives (chair), Margaret Jenkins, John McCutcheon, Mildred McLaren, Roman March, Joan Morris, Veronica Morrison, Kathy Overholt, Joan Parker, Pam Penny, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair and Marianne Van der Wel

1. Welcome & Regrets - none

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approval April 11, 2007 Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

- Geoff Evans **motioned** that the April 11, 2007 minutes be accepted as circulated.
- Mildred McLaren **seconded** the motion
- Motion **carried** unanimously

3. Business Arising

a) Report on setting up a scholarship endowment and fund raising for it (Beth Csordas)

- Agreement with University

A Draft Gift Agreement between McMaster Retirees Association (donor) and the McMaster University was presented by Beth Csordas and Helen Barton and discussed. By and large, the draft was acceptable but Beth & Helen would like the following sentences on page 1, 2nd paragraph from the bottom changed:

i) Change: "*This will be raised by 2011 through a solicitation of retired McMaster University employees*" to not restrict donors to just Mac retirees. For example: "*This will be raised by 2011 through a solicitation campaign*"

ii) Change: "*The values of the awards will continue to be \$1000 and \$250*" to allow for growth in the awards if the fund does well. Better wording would indicate a ratio of the award of 4:1 for the full time scholarship and part time award instead of specific amounts.

Helen and Beth will pursue these changes with the administration.

MOTION:

- Roman March **motioned** that we approve this draft agreement in principle
- Kathy Overholt **seconded** the motion
- Motion **carried** unanimously

- Campaign

a) The campaign will be mentioned at the May 30, 2007 AGM and will be presented in the June 2007 newsletter.

b) The active campaign (when we start phoning people, etc) will not start until the fall of 2007

c) This schedule gives us a chance to coordinate our campaign, get advice/details from the university and find out exactly what the university can contribute to help us with our campaign.

d) All donations made to this campaign are tax deductible!

b) Annual General Meeting (Joan Morris/Helen Barton)

- Physical Arrangements

Joan Morris is communicating with Diane from the university to set up Convocation Hall as it was set up last year (except the food stays throughout the meeting!).

Particulars: We need a table for a projector; electro screen; wireless microphone...Diane is to coordinate with Audio Visual. Brian will bring a data projector and his laptop (which could be used by someone else with their own memory stick/CD)

- Program

Noon - Light lunch

12:45PM Presentation

1:30PM Honorary Membership Presentation (Stuart Winn)

1:45PM Business

- Treasurer's Report

- Trips' Report

- Auditor's Report

- President's Report (to include Membership)

- Pension & Benefits Report (Salaried - Les Robb/Hourly - Cliff

Andrews)

- Nominating

- Election of Council standing for nomination

- Incoming President Remarks

Note! No other council committees will report.

2:30-2:45pm - Adjournment

- Assisting members to/from AGM?

Kathy Overholt and Helen Barton are the council members to contact if a retiree in the Hamilton area needs a ride to/from the AGM. Please do so by Sunday May 27, 2007

- Tour of David Braley Athletic Centre

Kathy Overholt has arranged the tour of the David Braley Athletic centre for 3PM on Wed. May 30 following the AGM. This will be a chance to find out about fees for retirees.

- AGM Handout Package

This package includes: Agenda, Minutes from 2006, Treasurer's Report, Trips/Special Events Financial Report, Auditors Report, Nominations Report. Send these items to Veronica Morrison as she is compiling the package.

- 2nd Mailing Inviting MURA Members

This will be sent out the week of May 14, 2007. There are 1394 members in Ontario. Helen Barton, Pam Penny and the MURAnews committee will decide after this meeting which postal code areas the invitation will be sent to. This will certainly include areas with postal codes starting with L7, L8 and L9

- Parking (May 30)

This will be free for retirees attending the AGM. Just inform the people at the Kiosk of your intention to attend the AGM.

c) Proposal: Mel and Marilyn Hawkrigg for honorary membership for presentation at the Xmas luncheon.

MOTION

- Geoff Evans **motioned** that honorary membership for Mel and Marilyn Hawkrigg be opened for discussion
- Kathy Overholt **seconded** the motion
- **Carried**

Council generally agreed that Mel and Marilyn Hawkrigg were deserving of honorary membership. Then we briefly discussed whether a set of criteria for honorary membership be developed. Council decided against this at this time.

MOTION

- Mildred McLaren **motioned** that Mel and Marilyn Hawkrigg be presented with honorary membership at the Christmas luncheon
- Joan Parker **seconded** the motion
- **Carried** Unanimously

We will wait until the fall to inform Mel and Marilyn Hawkrigg

d) Pension & Benefits - followup to discussion on "Affiliates" (Geoff Evans/Roman March)
Helen and Brian are scheduled to meet with Peter George and Mark Haley on May 14 for an exchange of views on recent developments with affiliates. At this time, they will keep the meeting informal and not bring in the entire pension & benefits committee. If a more serious approach is needed, doing so through MUFA/CAW may be the best approach.

Questions we have: What is the reason the university is separating the affiliates? How will this be done? What are the cost savings? Is the

saving sufficient to warrant the resultant inconvenience to these employees as well as divide the campus (EG: transferring to/from campus job positions will no longer be possible)?

Les Robb's report on the affiliate situation, discussed at the April 11, 2007 meeting, was circulated to council.

4. Correspondence

a. All retirees are invited to receive the University President's Newsletter via mail.

b. Brian read the "Thank You" note from Michele Leroux.

c. Received an Invitation to Convocation Dinner, June 5 which was passed to Helen Barton

d. Received an Invitation to Celebratory Dinner for Chancellor, May 18 - Brian Ives will attend.

e. Request for recommendation of representative on Salaried Pension Trust Committee for 2007/2008. Les Robb has indicated willingness to serve for one more year.

MOTION

- Helen Barton **moved** that Les Robb represents MURA on the Salaried Pension Fund committee for 2007-2008

- Joan Morris **seconded** the motion

- **Carried** unanimously

f. Phone call from Joy Baby re. Dorothy Jacobs' concern that she has been forgotten as a founding member (Secretary). More on this topic in the President's Report, section 5.

g. Luncheon Meeting for MURA Council with fundraisers at President's House is scheduled for Wed June 27. Helen Barton will approach the administration to see if we can reschedule for October 2007 to coincide with fall MURA endowment campaign.

5. President's Report

a. Brian thanked Helen for "looking after" MURA while he was away!

b. Review of the Founding Members - correction to Stuart Winn's letter published in the January MURAnews:

Living members of the first Council are: Stuart Winn, Dorothy Jacobs, Don Shepherd and Enid Malcolmson. Also Charlie Cooke's widow, Madeleine, is living in Dundas. Each will receive a personal invitation to attend the AGM, with the offer of transportation.

Helen Otrasina has confirmed that **Enid Malcolmson** now lives in London and Brian will invite her to the AGM. **Note to Pam:** E, Malcolmson is in our membership database incorrectly coded as `survivor`

Brian spoke with Dorothy Jacobs by phone, a call she much appreciated. It appears she had written to Steve Winn and obtained his apology for the oversight. Dorothy cannot attend the AGM, she will be out west until June 1

Note that Veronica (MURAnews editor) did put a note with Stuart's letter in the January MURAnews with the correct information as we could not change the letter itself as written by Stuart.

Additionally, we could invite Jim Walker and Jack Evans, the surviving earliest MURA Presidents, following Bill Macpherson (1st) and Charlie Cooke (2nd).

c. Further to our need to analyze the age distribution of members: Jeff Chuchman has forwarded documentation from the Salaried Pension Plan Evaluation which gives some breakdown, but is not detailed enough. Michele Leroux had proposed that we obtain member Retirement Dates, and Jeff has indicated that the complete set will be available "soon". This will be some guide to age distribution, without revealing ages.

- 565 Retirees are 75 or older.

d) After 6 years on council, Mildred will be leaving us. Today (May 9) will be Mildred's last council meeting but she does hope to attend the AGM on May 30. She has resigned as representative on the Board of Governors but will go to their June meeting and send us a report.

THANK YOU MILDRED!!!!

6. Treasurer's Report

Beth has prepared the 2006-2007 financial report for the auditor/AGM. For 2006-2007, we will have a surplus of about \$4200. In 2007-2008, we will not be getting \$3200 from memberships/donations.

7. Information Reports from Committees (as required)

a) Cards (Joan Morris):

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of A. Lebow and K. Maharajh. We received a nice response from the Van Dusen family which was circulated.

b) Constitution & By-Laws (Helen Barton): - no report

c) Membership (Pam Penny): Just a few address changes

d) MURA News (Joan Parker):

- The MURAnews committee will be meeting before the June newsletter goes out to re-examine who will print our newsletter. While the quality of the printing at King Print was good for the April 2007 issue, there were some communication problems that affected service.

e) Nominating (Mildred McLaren): - No additional nominees have been sent in as yet.

f) Pension & Benefits (Geoffrey Evans/Roman March):

- Parking (Geoff Evans)

Diane Parker from Parking has been wonderful in assisting us! Diane did not know the reason why free parking for retirees is only from noon on. Currently there are 260 retirees parking permits issued and only 18 are for all day. By January 2008, Parking will collect the data determining campus usage by retirees. A system is being installed for McMaster campus that will log the entry and departure of people parking at McMaster similar to the hospital's current system.

- The reason retirees do not currently get the special discount offers available to active employees

(Brian Ives)

Brian asked of Terry Galan, Purchasing, but no response yet. The following web site describes the "Mac Employee Programs":

http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/BMS_PR_Purchasing_Services.htm#pr_mep

- Retirees can download Sophos (antivirus software) free of charge

- Survey on University of Guelph Pension Trust (Brian. Ives)

Brian received copy of the brief to be submitted to the University of Guelph administration. Once it has been submitted, we are free to

broadcast it. Until then treat it as confidential. We intend to review highlights of the report's recommendations one of which is to contact and advise existing employee groups as little can be done as retirees in retrospect.

- Other

i) Roman March is studying our pension fund performance in comparison with other Canadian university. CURAC was looking at this for colleges and universities. The last known CURAC contact person was from the east coast.

ii) Brian received a "PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL" e-mail about our pension plan from an unhappy MURA member involved in pension plan negotiations/committee a few years ago. Helen is preparing a formal response.

g) Special Events (Margaret Jenkins):

- McMaster 3D Theatre: Showing of "Our Sun: What a Star!" Council showed interest. Marianne will forward the contact information to Margaret. Margaret will try to arrange something for June **or** else the fall.

- Margaret had also been considering a tour of the planetarium.

- Dr. Ellen Ryan is scheduled to speak in the fall.

h) Trips (Joan Parker):

Anne Sinclair Presented:

- Anne circulated the Trips Financial Report submitted to the auditor
- Anne requested permission to spend up to \$250.00 of the trips money on a hall/refreshments to give a presentation to MURA members about the Queen Mary II in the fall. Maximum number of people that can attend will be 50.

MOTION:

- Helen Barton **moved** that Anne be given permission to spend up to \$250 of the trips money for the presentation just described.
- Joan Parker **seconded** the motion
- **Carried** Unanimously

- Six people have already booked for the Queen Mary II trip next April.
- The ship that will be used for the May 2007 trip to Bermuda is not available in 2008. Hence Anne is looking for a new ship for 2008.
- Bon Voyage to Joan Parker, Veronica, Pam and Anne as they depart Friday May 18/07 for Bermuda to join 54 other people on this trip.
- Anne is planning a Xmas trip
- Anne will have a trips display booth at the AGM

i) Xmas Lunch (John McCutcheon) - no report

j) **Web-Site** (Brian Ives):

We are attempting to change the home page picture and topic every 10 days or so. Please send Brian topical pictures as they come available!

8. Information Reports from Liaisons (*as required*)

a) **University Board of Governors** (Mildred McLaren):

Mildred circulated her report from the May 3, 2007 Board of Governors meeting. Click on: [BOG Report for May 3](#) to see report.

We will need to nominate someone else from Council to represent us at the Board as Mildred is leaving. Mildred will attend the June Board of Governors meeting and send us her report.

b) **College & University Retirees Association of Canada** (CURAC) (Brian Ives):

- Brian will attend
- CURAC survey on non-monetary benefits is still under development

c) **MUFA** (Brian Ives): - no report

d) **CAW** (MUSA) (Helen Barton/Kathy Overholt): - Will meet in September 2007

e) **Hourly Staff Liaison** (Rod Phillips) -: no report

9. Other Business

- MAC ID Service Enhancement

To enhance security and enable client self-sufficiency MAC ID (logon) process at McMaster will change as of Friday May 18, 2007. All with a McMaster electronic id need to go through the enhancement process, which is fairly straightforward and simple before May 18, 2007. Else they will receive warning messages. See <http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/macid/msep.htm>

- E-mail to 'muramembs-l' announcing April 2007 MURAnews:

This e-mail did not reach all members on the list and for some the message was routed to people's spam bucket, apparently because 'mailto:' was used in the address list. Lesson learned: *Do not use 'mailto:'!* The message was not resent.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday June 13, 2007 at 1:30PM in Student Centre Room 220

11. Adjournment

Geoff Evans motioned to adjourn at 3:30PM. Carried