



McMaster University Retirees Association

1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4L8, Canada

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23171

Home: 905 528 9341

e-mail: marianne@mcmaster.ca

<http://www.macra.ca>

Marianne van der Wel, Secretary

**MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING
of McMaster University Retirees Association -
Wednesday September 13, 2006 at
Veronica Morrison's home,
179 Orchard Drive, Ancaster ON L9G 1Z8**

Present: Cliff Andrews, Brian Ives (chair), Michele Leroux, Roman March, Mildred McLaren, Veronica Morrison, Kathy Overholt, Joan Parker, Pam Penny, Rod Phillips, Anne Sinclair and Marianne Van der Wel

Regrets: Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Geoff Evans, Margaret Jenkins, John McCutcheon, Rod Phillips, -Joan Morris

A HUGE THANK YOU to Veronica Morrison for hosting the meeting in her lovely home and serving us a fantastic lunch!!!

1. Welcome & Regrets

Introductions & Regrets!

- Brian introduced Marianne, who had volunteered to be MURA's secretary, to Council and vice versa.
- He stated who couldn't make the meeting and why.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approval June 14th, 2006 Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION

- Joan Parker **moved** that the **June 14th minutes be accepted as is.**
- Mildred McLaren **seconded**
- Motion **carried** unanimously

3. Business Arising

a) Catering at AGM

Brian sent Joan Morris' apologies for giving the okay for the caterer to take the food away early. It won't happen in future.

b) Ratify: M Van der Wel to fill Secretarial Position

MOTION

- Roman March **moved** that **M. Van der Wel be ratified to fill MURA's Secretarial Position**
- Mildred McLaren **seconded**
- Motion **carried** unanimously

c) Christmas Lunch (Margaret Jenkins)

- Brian announced that date Thursday December 7 is confirmed
- McMaster's President George can come and stay until 1:30PM
- We will start the lunch at NOON.

d) Terms of Reference Documents (Brian Ives)

- E-mailed to Councillors September 12 as a single PDF file. Printed copies available at meeting. Brian emphasized that this document is **organic** and changes can be made as necessary to keep the document current.

e) Confidentiality of retiree data (Michele Leroux)

- Brian Ives, Helen Barton and Michele Leroux met during the past week. Helen and Michele are working on a statement to be presented to FUTURE retirees for their signature at the university's exit interview. A draft document has gone the lawyers for comment.

4. Correspondence

a) **CURAC Annual Dues request.** Beth will pay \$300 as approved in the budget. The \$300 is the maximum fee as we have the maximum number of retiree members. (CURAC letter attached)

b) **E-mail from the (University) President's office:** The annual reception for NEW RETIREES is scheduled for Wednesday October 4, at 4:30pm. All Councillors should receive an invitation. Please try to attend. Marianne will organize the MURA Name Badges.

c) **MURA Office:** We do not need an office manager at this time. The duties of the office have been divided:

- Beth Csordas will check the post office mail
- Pam Penny will check the returned mail for membership status
- Brian Ives will check e-mail directed to MURA
- Marianne Van der Wel will monitor MURA's phone messages

5. President's Report

a) Report from Executive Meeting.

- We need to prepare a Member Voluntary Contributions Campaign to launch in January 2007.
- Executive will work on this during the coming months.
- Reason for campaign: After the income from the supporting University associations (MUSA,

MUFA), we anticipate an annual shortfall of \$1500 to meet our expenses (primarily the newsletter)

- The executive welcomes ideas for this campaign which we need to finalize at the December Council meeting
- A most important part of the campaign is to give the REASON for the need!

b) Suggestion to make **Averil Thompson an Honorary Member** was well received. We take formal action in October, and make the presentation of a plaque/certificate at the Christmas Lunch.

6. Treasurer's Report

E-mailed directly to Council by Beth Csordas. We took note of the donations to date (\$3180) which came from membership fees paid in advance which were not reclaimed by the May 31 deadline. While they will help us in the short run, we still need to start campaigning to carry on for the longer haul.

7. Standing Committees

a) Finalize Committee Membership

MOTION

- Joan Parker **motioned** that we accept the Council Responsibilities as proposed with one change...Pam Penny moves from being a "Trips" member to a "Xmas Lunch" member.
- Roman March **seconded**.
- Motion **carried** unanimously

The updated chart is attached! (Also see section 9, LIAISONS, part e, of minutes)

b) Schedule Committee Reports

Council agreed to the proposed "Schedule of Committee Reporting" (see attached).

8. Council Discussion on Upcoming Committee Review

a) Trips

- Anne Sinclair: Reviewed upcoming trips as well as plans for additional trips.
- Anne announced that \$100 would be donated to the Xmas Lunch Gifts/Door Prizes.
- Kathy Overholt suggested a Grand River Boat trip..Anne responded that it is planned every few years but not annually citing demand (or lack thereof)
- Brian Ives asked Joan Parker to include a summary of participation (date, trip description, number of participants, cost) for the past few years in October's in-depth report. Joan agreed and would try for the past five years.
- Brian asked about the cooperation/coordination of trips with Mohawk College retirees..Anne mentioned that the trip committees for MURA and Mohawk Retirees exchange information.
- We discussed whether MURA's was responsible in any way for liability for Trip Participants. Roman March mentioned when he consulted with lawyer friends that as long as we're arranging the trip as **volunteers**, we're not liable. Anne Sinclair mentioned that the bus coaches carry their own insurance and that to date, all participants have bought trip insurance. Brian Ives mentioned section 5.12 of the Constitution that outlines that MURA officers are not liable.

9. Information Reports from Committees and Liaisons (*as required*)

a) **Cards** (Joan Morris): No report

b) **Constitution & By-Laws** (Helen Barton): No Report

c) **Membership** (Pam Penny):

MANY THANKS to Pam for getting the membership data base organized and updated!!! Her report is attached. Note that Pam has opened a Grand & Toy account. This will save money when buying office supplies. See her report!

Brian Ives will e-mail everyone who has an e-mail address in our data base when the newsletter goes out with a note that if the person does not want us to do so, we will remove their e-mail from the e-mail list.

d) **MURA News** (Joan Parker):

- The department of Arts request to mail out the Celebrity Concerts Brochure for the coming year has been resolved. The brochure will be mailed with the September newsletter and the Department will be billed for the extra postage costs.
- Veronica Morrison: Deadline for input to MURA news is a bit later this month than normal. It is Sept 18/06.
- Veronica received an e-mail from Ken Rea, the CURAC Communications Committee Chair, as he contacted the editors of all retiree newsletters. The CURAC web site is: www.curac.ca and under LINKS you will find web sites of College & University web sites across Canada so we can compare newsletters, etc .

e) **Nominating** (Mildred McLaren): Mildred asked the council/committee members to find ways to involve more members from outside of council to participate.

We would also like to see more balance between staff and faculty retirees participating at council/committee level

f) **Pension & Benefits** (Geoffrey Evans/Roman March): Roman mentioned committee has determined 12 points that they would like to discuss with the university. Reviewing the indexing formula is the first point.

h) **Special Events** (Margaret Jenkins): Status not known at meeting time. We may invite family & friends to Special Events

l) **Trips** (Joan Parker): See section 8 of these minutes

j) **Web-Site** (Brian Ives): Nick Solntseff looks after the more static pages; while Brian Ives looks after the pages that change more frequently. MURA's web site was down for 2 days over the summer because of server problems

LIAISONS

a) **University Board of Governors** (Mildred McLaren): Mildred will attend an all day meeting next week

b) **College & University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC)** (Brian Ives): Helen Barton has resigned from CURAC. That leaves a seat vacant on their board that could be filled by someone from any institution.

c) **MUFA**: Brian Ives will be our representative

d) **MUSA (CAW)** (Helen Barton/Kathy Overholt): Note that MUSA may now be called CAW.

Mina Sarajcic is no longer MUSA president as she is on leave to CAW hence there will be a new President.. We have a 3 year agreement with MUS (CAW) regarding MURA's membership contribution for retired staff.

e) **Hourly Staff Liaison** (Rod Phillips): Cliff Andrews mentioned that hourly retirees have not seen an increase(financially) for four years. At our suggestion, Cliff Andrews joined the Pensions & Benefits Committee as a member. We suggested Les Robb also join as a member of the Pensions & Benefits Committee, if willing. (See updated "Council Responsibilities" chart attached)

10. Other Business

None

11. Next Meeting

Wednesday October 11, 2006 at 1:30PM in Student Centre Room 220

12. Adjournment

Motioned by Roman March at approximately 4:15PM