



McMaster University Retirees Association
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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday April 14, 2010, 1:30 PM at the Student Centre Rm 224.

Present: Lorraine Allan, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton (Chair), Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Al Fraser, Mary Johnston, Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair.

Regrets: Joe Laposa, Mike Hedden, Joan Parker, Marianne Walters.

1. Welcome & Regrets:

Helen Barton called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved by Kathy Overholt and **seconded** by Al Fraser that the (for approval) Council meeting minutes of March 14, 2010 be adopted as presented. **Motion carried.**

3. Business Arising

(a) Reappointment of Treasurer

Beth Csordas has agreed to stay on as MURA Treasurer for 2010 – 2011.

(b) Academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign (Beth Csordas, Helen Barton)

As of April 10 the endowment fundraising total was \$38,188. MURA is arranging through University Advancement (Jenny Thompson) to mail a final fundraising letter to retirees, signed by most members of Council, thanking donors for their contributions and asking for additional donations. A draft drafted by Helen Barton and Beth Csordas, circulated prior to the Council meeting, was approved.

(c) 2010 – 25th MURA Anniversary (Helen Barton)

Logo contest. There were 3 entrants to the logo contest. After much discussion Council felt that none of the entries was suitable for adoption as a MURA logo and that no award should be made. Although the entry designs were nicely displayed and well thought out, the main concern was that all of the designs emphasized the leisurely aspects of retirement, but none caught the essence of some of the basic activities of MURA which are to provide information and help to our fellow retirees, to be an important partner in supporting and collaborating with the university and to

supporting research into important aspects of gerontology through endowment support. Helen Barton and Wayne Rouse were designated to prepare a statement incorporating the reasons for the above decision and to communicate this to the entrants.

(d) Supplementary Pension Benefits for Clinical Faculty (Helen Barton)

Roger Couldrey has arranged for the university actuaries to meet with representatives of MURA and of the Clinical Faculty to discuss reasons for the decisions that have given rise to the conflict.

(e) Revised portfolio descriptions (Wayne Rouse/Helen Barton)

There have been no revised portfolio descriptions submitted since the last Council meeting. Wayne Rouse will remind portfolio chiefs of the need for updates. In some cases it may be practical to go with the pre-existing descriptions.

(f) Peter George's reception (Helen Barton)

The reception was sold out and very successful. There was no means of identifying MURA's presence and support. There is a video available of the reception activities.

(g) Bookstore discounts (Pam Penny)

There is no further information at this time.

(h) Update on TrendMicro antivirus (Lorraine Allan)

Lorraine sent a letter of inquiry to the CIO of UTS re the antivirus package's availability to Mac Retirees. The licensing agreement between McMaster and the vendor applies only to active employees using university computers. UTS has now agreed to make Trend Micro available for download to retirees using university owned computers both on and off campus. For on campus use, the program can be downloaded by an active employee or by arrangement with UTS after verification of a computer's ownership (no charge) to the retiree's computer. For off campus, the retiree must also provide proof to UTS (e.g., letter from Department Chair/Director) that the home computer is owned by McMaster. Helen will be posting the details on the MURA web site and also sending an email to the MURA email list.

4. Correspondence (Helen Barton)

a) Abolishing free tuition for students age 65 years and over.

This has been proposed by the University and is being opposed by McMaster Association for Part-time Students (MAPS), who have drawn up a letter to this effect and are looking for MURA's support. MURA executive recommends that it is in MURA members' interest to maintain the free tuition and that we add our written support to MAPS initiative. A letter opposing the change drafted by the

Executive and sent to the University Budget Committee was circulated to Council prior to the meeting. There was no discussion.

- b) Kathy Overholt received a communication from a securities company asking to speak to MURA on investments. MURA's answer to such requests is a consistent No!
- c) Helen circulated McMaster Human Resources information on pre- and post-retirement seminars that are being offered.

5. President's Report (Helen Barton)

(a) Reappointment of Treasurer

Beth Csordas has agreed to stay on as MURA Treasurer for 2010 – 2011. **Moved by** Kathy Overholt and **seconded by** Helen Barton that Council endorse Beth Csordas reappointment as treasurer. **Carried unanimously.**

(b) Signing Authority.

Action is still needed to update signing authority for MURA bank accounts.

(c) Human Resources Service Centre.

A new, more-or-less consolidated location has been established on west campus for HR. Their new phone number is not yet available.

(d) McMaster Online Telephone Directory.

UTS has sent a procedural proposal to incorporate retirees into the University Online Telephone Directory. Details of the formatting of this still need finalizing.

6. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

Beth Csordas presented her budget that had been previously circulated and entertained discussion. There were no specific queries re: the budget. Beth noted that the budget is an internal document for Council use and is not presented at the AGM. **Moved by** Helen Dietsche, **seconded by** Pam Penny that the budget be accepted as presented. **Carried unanimously.**

7. Information Reports from Committees

(a) Christmas Luncheon Report (Pam Penny)

Helen Barton will seek an update from the President's office regarding a subsidy for next years Christmas luncheon.

(b) AGM (Pam Penny, Helen Barton)

- Pam Penny noted that an agreement with Paradise Catering had been signed in which the same menu as last year carries the same price tag.
- Alumni Affairs in conjunction with Jenny Thompson will donate a cake (order through Paradise Caterers) and will get a dignitary (possibly Roger Trull, Peter George, or Karen McQuigge) to do an official fundraising campaign announcement and cake cutting ceremony at the appropriate time immediately following lunch. It will be necessary to decide on appropriate lettering for the cake.
- Helen Barton and Beth Csordas are preparing a letter to be signed by Council members thanking MURA donors for their generosity in surpassing our original financial goals for the MURA scholarship fund and closing in on our revised goal of \$40,000. This be mailed out through Alumni Affairs prior to the AGM.
- Pam and Helen will decide on a final RSVP date for retirees attending the AGM luncheon.
- Paradise Catering will provide a lectern, Al Fraser has arranged for a sound system, Helen Barton will arrange for a power point projector. Kathy Overholt will be acting secretary, Alumni Affairs will provide a photographer and Pam Penny will procure balloons.
- Kathy Overholt noted that MURA note cards will be a suitable gift for our speaker, Alvin Lee.
- Action Item – the executive needs to organize an Agenda package.

(c) Cards (Helen Dietsche)

The following deaths will be acknowledged with a card.

	Mail Services	Feb 12, 2010
Violet Fagan		
George Paul	Classics	Feb 15, 2010
Joanna Johnson	UTS-Client Services	March 4, 2010
Jean Schwindt	Science	March 12, 2010
Edward O'Rourke	University Library	March 19, 2010
Myrtle McBride	Parking Services	March 20, 2010
Moto Tiku	Mathematics & Statistics	March 25, 2010

(d) Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

(e) Membership (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

Total (April 14, 2010) = 1933

(f) MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Wednesday April 14 is the final date for submission of materials. The edition will go to Printing on Friday April 16 and the mailing is scheduled for Friday April 23 or Monday April 26.

(g) Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)

No Report

(h) Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

No Report

(i) Special Events (no chair)

No Report

(j) Trips (Ann Sinclair)

A financial statement will be presented to Council at the May 12 meeting.

(k) Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Helen Barton reported in the absence of Marianne that there is now a location on the Council website for Reports such as Les Robb's reports on pensions.

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

(a) University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No Report

(b) College and University Retirees Assoc. of Canada (CURAC)

A new CURAC newsletter is available on the web.

(c) MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

Lorraine reported on the meeting with the current MUFA executive that took place on the week of March 15. The following were agreed upon.

- The two organizations would trade meeting agendas
- If items of special interest to either group are on the agenda a request for a representative to attend the meeting can be made by either party. Alternatively a request can be made to receive the minutes concerning those particular items.

For MURA, Lorraine and/or Marianne will identify items of interest and attend the MUFA meeting if it is deemed appropriate. They would report back to Council. MURA's Secretary will ensure that the MUFA Office receives MURA Council agendas at the same time they are released to MURA Council.

(d) CAW (MUSA)

No Report

(e) Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

Al reported that the individual he was talking to did receive the retirement package that included a welcome to MURA and copies of MURAnews.

(f) Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No Report

(g) Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

No Report

9. Other Business

No other business

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council meeting will be Wednesday May 12, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in **MUSC 220**. (Note the Room change from previous months.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried at 3:00 P.M.