



**McMaster University Retirees Association**

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association  
**Wednesday December 9, 2009**, 1:30 PM at the Student Centre Rm 224.

**Present:** Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Jeff Chuchman, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Al Fraser, Mike Hedden, Joe Laposa, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Joan Parker (chair), Wayne Rouse, Kathy Ryan, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Walters, Marianne Van der Wel.

**Regrets:** Lorraine Allen, Kathy Ryan,

**1. Welcome & Regrets:**

Joan Parker called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM..

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Council meeting minutes for October 14, 2009 for approval.

**Moved** by Kathy Overholt and **seconded** by Mike Hedden that the provisional minutes be adopted as presented. **Motion carried.**

**3. Business Arising**

**(a) Update on academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign** (Beth Csordas)

As of Dec. 7 the endowment had achieved \$33,008, \$1008 above its original objective of \$32,000.

**(b) Update -2010 – 25<sup>th</sup> MURA Anniversary** (Mike Hedden/Kathy Ryan)

Mike Hedden circulated a one page brochure to council entitled 'Celebrating 25 Years with MURA'. It listed items of note including our mission statement, major items of our constitution, some of our achievements and our presidents of the past. The circular was well-received but a need for minor editing was noted. Editorial changes should be forwarded to Mike a.s.a.p. A wider ranging discussion of the desirability of developing a logo (it was tried once previously without fruition). It was moved by Helen Barton and seconded by Kathy Overholt that we have a logo contest with the winner being awarded a gift certificate of \$25. The motion was carried. No mechanism to pursue 'Anniversary Logo' was set up at this time so that remains an Action Item. Other discussion noted that Chip Inkster has some historical photos of the early days of MURA that should be made available to Mike Hedden and that Dorothy Jacobs

one of the MURA pioneers should be contacted to see what she can provide to our history.

**(c) Confidential Report on Supplementary Pension Benefits for Clinical Faculty**  
(Helen Barton/Les Robb)

Helen reported on her and Les Robb's meeting with Meeting with Roger Couldrey, the Interim Vice-president of Administration. Couldrey is currently gathering more facts on the case which could lead to some type of solution to the outstanding problems. Helen concludes that it would be premature to publish the confidential report until Couldrey has had a chance to deal with it.

**(d) Update -Should MURA be facilitating paid employment positions via MURAMEMBS-L. The Union Position** (Jeff Churchman)

This item is on the agenda of Annette Branch, Manager of the Employment Centre and is unlikely to be dealt with until sometime mid-2010. Jeff recommends that we touch base with Annette at that time. Action Item for May 2010.

**(e) Group of Seven Presentation** (Joe Laposa)

There was a good turnout for this event of around 70 people. Of those around 20 people were not involved with the President's Luncheon for Retirees. It is noted that MUFA paid \$250 toward the room rental for this event. Our thanks for this support.

**(f) President's reception for new retirees on Monday November 9** (Joe Laposa)

There were fewer attendees than in the two previous years but the proportion was larger. Joe got a number to sign up for email delivery of MURAnews. In general discussion it was noted that we must make every effort to be represented at this event assuming it is continued by the new presidential regime.

**4. Correspondence** (Joan Parker)

An e-mail was received from Dr. Chang drawing out attention to an article in the New York Times stating the advantages of implants over bridges and she thought negotiations should be taking place with Sun Life to cover implants. Joan Parker responded that she would bring it to the attention of Council. Council agreed that there was not much they could do about this item at this time.

**5. President's Report** (Joan Parker)

**(a) Dr. Geoff Evans** (Joan Parker)

Geoff's funeral service was held on Monday Dec. 1, with visitation on the Sunday before. A card of condolence has been sent by Helen Dietsche.

**(b) Representation of Web Master on MURA Executive Committee**

After discussion it was moved by Mike Hedden and seconded by Kathy Overholt that Marianne Van der Wel be appointed a non-voting member of the MURA Executive committee as a consultant in her dual role as Web Master and major contributor to MURAnews. **Motion Carried.**

**6. Treasurer's Report:** (Beth Csordas)

Beth summarized our recent financial transactions as follows.

Greeting Cards:

We have revenue of \$323.75 from the sale of cards since May 1.

Christmas lunch:

We have taken in \$3,074.00. This does not include another \$50 we are expecting from HR.

Pam spent \$237.32 on prizes.

We are waiting for the invoice from Paradise Catering.

Planetarium/Tea:

We have receipts of \$801.

The costs were \$778.72.

Group of Seven:

We have received \$250 from MUFA to cover the cost of the room. We have not been billed for this yet from the University.

The printing cost for the postcards was \$47.33.

**7. Information Reports from Committees**

**(a) Christmas Luncheon Report** (Pam Penny)

There was general agreement that the Christmas luncheon was very successful. No unanticipated financial obligations were incurred. The need to seek financial support for next year's event early in the New Year was noted as an Action Item.

**(b) AGM** (Pam Penny)

The preferred date for AGM 2010 is Wednesday May 26. Pam Penny will check that Celebration Hall is available and will book it. Helen Barton moved and Joe Laposa seconded that we appoint Eleanor Gow to audit the books if she is available and willing. The format for the meeting will remain as is with the luncheon first followed by the business meeting. There was general discussion if the AGM should include the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. A visual presentation of our history fitted into the recent history of the university was envisioned as a possibility. Joe Laposa

will contact Chuck Johnston seeding advice on a possible oral presentation at the meeting.

**(c) Cards** (Helen Dietsche)

The following deaths occurred since our last council meeting. Cards have been sent when appropriate.

Mary Tremblay	School of Rehabilitation Science	October 13, 2009
Ronald McAuley	Family Medicine	October 22, 2009
Gerald King	Faculty of Science	October 30, 2009
Kenneth West	Operations & Maintenance	November 10, 2009
Geoffrey Evans	Department of Surgery	November 24, 2009

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

No Report

**(e) Membership** (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

Total (Nov 7) = 1935. Joe Laposa is pursuing obtaining the names and addresses of possible members who have fallen through the cracks in our records. To see the December 2009 report go to:

<http://mura.mcmaster.ca/MURA.council.meeting.records/membership/membership.html>

**(f) MURAnews** (Kathy Overholt)

At the November meeting of the executive the following dates were set.

deadline for submissions - January 13th  
send to Printing - January 27th  
probable stuffing day - February 4th

**(g) Nominating** (Helen Barton)

Stefania Miller's name was put forward to Council for nomination accompanied by a biographical information sheet. **Moved** by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Helen Dietsch that Stefania Miller be appointed to Council until the end of May 2011. **Carried unanimously.**

**(h) Pensions and Benefits** (Marianne Walters)

Report of Pension and Benefits committee – Dec 9<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

Peter George has written to ask that members of MUFA agree to increased pension contributions similar to those imposed already on The Management Group (TMG) and to those negotiated with CAW members this past September.

This request comes in the middle of a 3 year contract, and would require a vote of the membership for approval. Peter George's letter makes clear that the real goal is to close the defined benefits plan for new members of MUFA. Realizing that they can't successfully propose such a major change outside of the normal negotiation time ( the present contract expires the end of June 2011) the administration suggests the increased pension contributions as a compromise. It is made clear that the issue of closing the defined benefits plan for new appointments will be a significant aspect when negotiations next commence. This is the same pension issue that the CAW and the University are submitting to arbitration at this time.

The matter of increased pension contributions is under discussion by the MUFA executive and input from the membership is being solicited. Les Robb provided to the President of MUFA a thoughtful, detailed consideration of the request in which he argued, with good reasons, against a positive response.

The following is an item of interest from Les Robb's Report to council on the Pension Trust Committee meeting of Nov 19, 2009. The annual rate of pension increase this year ( Jan 1, 2010) is zero. The rate of return for 2009 was -11.69% and the 5 year annual rate of return was 2.94%. This is less than the 4.5% required for indexing. In order for there to be any inflation adjustment in Jan 2011, the plan would need to return 18% or more next year.

Marianne Walters commended Helen Barton and Marianne Van der Wel on their recent update to the Committee's Web page. She closed by reminding council of the CURAC 2010 conference which will be held at York University May 18-20 on the theme "Pensions, Benefits---and Beyond"

**(i) Special Events**

No Report.

**(j) Trips** (Joan Parker/Ann Sinclair)

Ann reported that the following trips were well-subscribed or had elicited much interest.

Washington Cherry Blossom Festival April 8-12, 2010.

River boat cruise in eastern Europe.

**(k) Web Site** (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne noted that the Pension Page had been updated. She also asked the a member from each committee, liaison or consultant to periodically read the web page relevant to their portfolio and let Marianne know if something needs to be updated or changed.

**8. Information Reports from Liaisons**

**(a) University Board of Governors** (Lorraine Allan)

No report. The next meeting of the B. of G. is December 14, 2009.

**(b) College and University Retirees Assoc. of Canada (CURAC)** (Marianne Van der Wel)

No Report

**(c) MUFA** (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

Marianne Walters reported that she and Lorraine Allan had met with Helen Barton on two occasions to discuss MUFA liaison. Following the first meeting Helen arranged for Lorraine and Marianne to meet with Peter Russell, a retiree from the University of Toronto who has been educating their active faculty to realize that they will one day be retirees themselves. This has led to fruitful liaisons and working relationships between retirees and active faculty. A major difference between Universities is that U. of T. faculty retirees may remain members of the faculty association – Peter for example has for a number of years been a member of the negotiating committee of the Faculty Association with the university administration.

This liaison has resulted this year in the first retiree's center at a University in Canada. The Academic Retirees Centre is a unit of the University, and houses the office of the retirees association, a drop-in center for retirees that is fitted with electronically-equipped study carrels and lockers. Further, it provides help for anyone with problems with pensions and/or benefits. (Further information re: the U. of T. retiree's centre from Marianne Van der Wel can be found in these minutes under 9. Other Business).

Marianne concludes that it is very important to educate active faculty to realize that they will one day be retirees themselves, and that will thereby increase the likelihood the retiree's interests will be considered when issues are dealt with and decisions made. Marianne and Lorraine, with input from Helen, are considering how best to begin to educate MUFA and its members.

**(d) CAW (MUSA)** (Kathy Ryan)

No Report.

**(e) Hourly Staff Liaison** (Al Fraser)

No Report.

**(f) Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews)

The hourly pension plan is performing better than any other McMaster plan at this time.

**(g) Salaried Pension Committee** (Les Robb)

No Report.

**9. Other Business**

**(a) Meeting with Dr. Ken Rae at the Academic Retiree Center, University of Toronto.** (Marianne Van der Wel)

For a report on the visit please see:

<http://mura.mcmaster.ca/MURA.council.meeting.records/visit.UofT.ARC.dec1.09.pdf>

**10. Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of Council meeting will be January 13, 2010 at 1:30 PM in MUSC 224.

**11. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Helen Dietsche that the meeting be adjourned. Carried at 3:30 P.M.