



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday January 13, 2010, 1:30 PM at the Student Centre Rm 224.

Present: Lorraine Allen, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Mike Hedden, Joe Laposa, Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Joan Parker (chair), Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Walters, Marianne Van der Wel.

Regrets: Jeff Chuchman, Al Fraser.

1. Welcome & Regrets:

Joan Parker called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM... She welcomed Stefania Miller to Council.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Council meeting minutes for December 9, 2009 for approval.

Moved by Helen Barton; and **seconded** by Kathy Overholt that the provisional minutes be adopted as corrected. **Motion carried.**

3. Business Arising

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

As of Jan 13, the scholarship endowment had achieved \$35,283, \$ 3,283 above its original objective of \$32,000. The revised goal for this endowment is \$40,000. It is hoped that this can be achieved by the 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

(b) Update -2010 – 25th MURA Anniversary (Mike Hedden)

Mike Hedden talked to Andrea Farquhar who is Director of Public and Government Relations re a logo to help celebrate MURA's 25th anniversary. The McMaster Coat of Arms can be used in a holistic pattern as we do with our current letterheads, but disassembled parts of the crest cannot be employed. This needs to be emphasized when we seek input to the logo design. Andrea and cohorts can help with a design if that is needed. She would like a copy of the assemblage of 25 facts about MURA. There is still some doubt about minor details with respect to successive presidents of MURA. Mike also has been in touch with Dorothy Jacobs regarding historical photos of MURA personnel and

activities. and has also contacted Jane Christmas in Public Relations to see if the University had any then-and-now photos.

(c) Confidential Report on Supplementary Pension Benefits for Clinical Faculty

(Helen Barton/Les Robb)

Joan Parker recently received an email from Roger Couldrey, the Interim Vice-president of Administration, saying that he will need a two week grace period prior to replying with respect to this ongoing problem.

4. Correspondence (Joan Parker)

(a) Joan received an e-mail from CURAC's Secretary, George Brandie with an invitation to MURA representatives to the CURAC AGM to make a presentation on one of two themes. This has been forwarded to Marianne Van der Wel, Marianne Walters and Helen Barton, who may be attending this conference.

(b) Joan received an e-mail from Waterloo Insurance requesting that a brochure be sent out with the next mailing of MURAnews. After discussion Council agreed that we should limit mailings of their brochure to two/year and that this can be accompanied by a box-blurb referring to the insurance opportunities in MURAnews

5. President's Report (Joan Parker)

(a) Eleanor Gow has agreed to audit MURA finances this year but it is noted that this will be her last year as auditor. **Moved** by Helen Barton; and **seconded** by Marianne Van der Wel that we appoint Eleanor Gow to audit MURA's books and report at the 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM). **Motion carried** unanimously.

(b) With respect to the **Update -Should MURA be facilitating paid employment positions via MURAmembs-l. The Union Position**, Joan Parker wrote a short letter to Annette Branch, Manager of the Employment Centre on Jan 1, 2010 seeking her recommendation re this item as it relates to MURA's activities in pursuing volunteer help via MURAmembs-l.

(c) Joan wrote a letter to Peter George requesting support from the University for next year's Christmas luncheon. This letter got shifted through the bureaucracy but ultimately awaits a response from the President that is still pending.

6. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

Beth summarized the finances for the 1009 Christmas luncheon. Net \$ outflow was \$724.76. MURA budgeted for \$635.76. Shortfall is \$89.76.

7. Information Reports from Committees

(a) Christmas Luncheon Report (Pam Penny/Joan Parker)

As noted above, Joan contacted the President's Office on January 11, 2010 seeking to institute financial support for the 2010 Christmas luncheon. Pam Penny has booked next year's luncheon for Celebration Hall for Dec. 6, 2010.

(b) AGM (Pam Penny)

The preferred date for AGM 2010 is Wednesday May 26. Pam Penny has booked Celebration Hall for that date. Joe Laposa has been seeking potential speakers for the AGM. Neither Chuck Johnston nor John Weaver is able to undertake this commitment. After some discussion Council agreed that we should seek Alvin Lee to speak to the changes in McMaster in the past 25 years with Les King and Ken Cruickshank as alternatives.

(c) Cards (Helen Dietsche)

The following death has been acknowledged with a card.
Robert Horvath, Civil Engineering, November 27, 2009.

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

No Report

(e) Membership (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

Total (Jan 2010) = 1939

Joe Laposa has drafted a letter that will be sent by Human Resources to possible members who have fallen through the cracks in our records. A number of Council members have had input to the final drafting of this letter.

(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

Pam Penny will send a summary of the Christmas Luncheon for the newsletter asap.

(g) Nominating (Helen Barton)

It was **moved** by Helen Barton and **seconded** by Joe Laposa that the following comprise the nominating committee.

from Council: Mike Hedden, Kathy Overholt

from membership: Tom Davison, Lynne Hopkinson

Carried unanimously.

Helen noted that two definite and possibly four Council positions and two Executive positions will need filling. The nominating committee will report to Council at the March meeting.

(h) Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

Marianne reported on her efforts to find out if the retirees' once-in-a-lifetime \$ 10,000 Sun Life Insurance for emergency medical services out of province or country can be used to pay the deductible on other out-of-province/country emergency medical insurance. It has proved very difficult for her to discover just what the Sun Life Insurance is applicable to, with mixed messages from various health insurance and university sources. She will continue in attempting to clarify the situation and will report back to council.

(i) Special Events

No Report.

(j) Trips (Joan Parker/Ann Sinclair)

Ann announced the following trips for 2010.

Monday March 15, St. Patrick's Day Traditional Irish Music

Tuesday May 18, A Day In Niagara

Monday - Tuesday September 20 And 21, St Jacobs And Drayton (Overnighter)

April 8-12. Cherry Blossom Trip to Washington DC has 39 people and will proceed as planned.

Ann also has a European river boat cruise in the planning stages that has elicited a very strong indication of interest.

(k) Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne announced that the changeover to our own website is in the transitional phase and will be fully operational within the week. The new web address is <http://www.mcmaster-retirees.ca>. It is necessary to update all of our electronic and paper addresses at this time. She also announced that the MURA Council web site will be protected by a password that was transmitted verbally to Council.

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

(a) University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

Lorraine indicated that the reports on the Board of Governor's meetings have received a positive response and that there is particular interest in the President's Report.

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

No Report

(c) MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

No Report

(d) CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Ryan)

No Report. Joan Parker noted that a new liaison person is needed in light of Kathy's recent resignation.

(e) Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No Report.

(f) Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No report will be available until the March meeting.

(g) Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

No Report.

9. Other Business

(a) Helen Barton noted that McMaster is hosting the 50th annual Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair (BASEF), March 24 – 27, 2010, and that they are seeking volunteers as judges and for other activities.

(b) There was discussion around establishing relations with the new university president, Patrick Deane. Suggestions included possibly inviting him to a Council meeting next fall and welcoming him in MURAnews and including him on the MURAnews mailing list.

10. Next Meeting.

The next meeting of Council meeting will be February 10, 2010 at 1:30 PM in MUSC 224.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Barton that the meeting be adjourned. Carried at 3:05 P.M.