



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday June 10, 2009, 1:00PM at Joan Parker's Home, 27-40 Wesleyan Court,
Ancaster ON L9G 5C7

Present: Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Al Fraser, Mike Hedden, Margaret Jenkins, Joe Laposa, Michele Leroux, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Joan Parker (chair), Wayne Rouse, Kathy Ryan, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Van der Wel, Marianne Walters

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Helen Dietsche, Geoff Evans

1. Welcome & Regrets:

Joan Parker called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and welcomed Marianne Walters as a new council member.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

(a) Council meeting minutes for May 13, 2009.

A number of minor grammatical and syntax corrections were made to the provisional minutes as distributed. These are incorporated into the official web site minutes for that meeting.

Moved by Marianne Van der Wel and **seconded** by Beth Csordas that the provisional minutes be adopted as revised and corrected. **Motion carried.**

(b) Annual General Meeting for May 27, 2009. A number of minor grammatical and syntax corrections were made to the minutes as distributed. These are incorporated into the official web site minutes ready for approval at the next AGM.

Moved by Marianne Van der Wel and **seconded** by Joe Laposa that the minutes be adopted as revised and corrected. **Motion carried.**

Joe Laposa noted that Council had spent considerable time in discussing relatively minor changes. He recommended that in the future, the minutes should be circulated to the MURA Executive in advance for corrections. These should be returned to the secretary and incorporated into the minutes on the web site prior to the next relevant Council meeting. There was general agreement with this proposal, thus this will become the normal procedure in the future. This is summarized as follows:

- Minutes of the previous Council meeting are circulated to the Executive at least 10 days in advance of the next Council meeting.

- Executive members return revisions and corrections to secretary within 5 days.
- Secretary incorporates suggested revisions into minutes.
- Minutes with corrections are sent to web-master for posting in time for next Council meeting.
- Council then moves and seconds on corrected minutes for final approval.

3. Review of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Joan Parker noted that the AGM was very successful with respect to location, agenda, food and attendance.

Attendance: Total 93.

Of the 110 who indicated they would be attending, there were 25 no-shows and 8 who attending but did not RSVP. MURA was responsible for meal costs for 125.

There was general discussion led by Helen Barton about possible methods for minimizing the number of no-shows. One suggestion was to send out an email reminder a week in advance of the AGM to jog the memories of those who had agreed to come. Pam Penny disagreed, saying this would be too time consuming. She said that an e-mail had been sent out to all members on the e-mail list as a reminder this year.

A few attendees at the AGM suggested that it would be better to have the business meeting prior to the luncheon. There was some general discussion with no immediate resolution except to recommend that this be discussed in future Council meetings.

It was noted that the position of the information booth at the back of the room well away from entrance area and table settings was inappropriate since few people actually visited the booth. A better placement was recommended for subsequent AGMs.

4. Business Arising

(a) Report on Scholarship Endowment Fund [SEF] (Beth Csordas)

The total of \$25,808 donated to the SEF was up \$105 from the previous month.

The letter written by Beth Csordas and Helen Barton to MURA members (circulated through the Alumni Advancement Office) noting that designated donations could be made to the SEF had only been mailed two weeks ago so its impact cannot yet be judged.

There was some discussion that MURA members might not know that the donations are tax deductible and that some means of emphasizing this might be useful.

(b) MURA Cards (Kathy Overholt)

22 cards were sold at the Annual General Meeting and 5 have been sold since. As noted in the previous Council minutes all costs have been covered and all subsequent sales represent profit. Joan Parker congratulated Kathy on her success.

It was noted that this past year The United Way had been an important customer and Pam Penny volunteered to look into whether The United Way would be wanting cards this next year.

(c) Possible retirement buyout for hourly workers who are past the rule of 80
(Helen Barton)

Michele Leroux indicated that this is very much a discussion in progress but is also in its embryonic stages.

(d) Telecommunications Online Directory (Helen Baron)
Nothing to report.

(e) 2010 – 25th MURA Anniversary (Joan Parker)

There were no definitive conclusions at this time, but a number of ideas were aired. Pam Penny noted that CARP was celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year and was publishing lists of '25 things'. For example, '25 things you didn't know about CARP', '25 CARP membership benefits'. MURA could do the same.

(f) Clinical Faculty Supplementary Surplus Distribution (Helen Barton)

Helen Barton and Les Robb's report is still being formulated and will constitute business arising for Council's next meeting (September 9).

(g) Information Packages for New Retirees (Helen Barton)

Two needs were noted that Marianne Van der Wel and Helen Barton agreed to take care of.

- Provide brochures describing the CURAC/CARP deal for new retirees.
- Provide a brochure for new retirees on the CURAC/CARP membership agreement and another for the CURAC/Waterloo group home and auto insurance offer.

5. Correspondence

- Helen Barton sent out thank-you notes to all who helped with the AGM.
- The latest McMaster University Faculty Association (MUFA) newsletter notes that MUFA is going green with the use of an email alert from MUFA@mcmaster.ca
- Joe Laposa submitted an article to MURAnews regarding Ontario's Assistive Devices Program coverage for insulin pumps.
- Mrs. Paula Winn, in a letter to Veronica Morrison thanking her for the memorial write-up in MURAnews thanked MURA for its generous donation to the MURA

scholarship fund in recognition of the contributions of her recently deceased husband Stuart Winn.

- There has been a June 11/09 Convocation Dinner invitation to MURA. Helen Barton and Joan Parker will represent MURA at this event.

6. President's Report (Joan Parker)

- MURA members wanting to help with further development of the retiree volunteer network should contact Joan Parker. There was an informal discussion concerning avoidance of conflicts of interest with current university employees.
- Joan noted that recreation programs for MURA members have not been very popular, so it's not likely that we will plan more activities of this type in the foreseeable future.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

Beth raised the question on signing authority changes on the two MURA accounts which are needed due to the changeover in Council positions. This item will be discussed at the executive meeting on June 17.

8. Information Reports from Committees

(a) AGM (Pam Penny)

See above

(b) Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Helen, who was unable to attend the meeting, sent in a report noting that a get-well card was sent to Geoff Evans and bereavement cards had been sent out in response to the recent deaths of Paul Hoffman (Biology) April 25, Rich Haslam (Pathology and Nuclear Medicine) May 15 and Kenneth Marshall (Nuclear Reactor) June 6.

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

Nothing to report.

(d) Membership (Pam Penny)

The current membership of 1895 is up a net of one member since the previous report.

(e) MURAnews (Joan Parker)

- At the AGM a number of members opted for electronic MURAnews only which represents a saving on mailing costs.
- Kathy Ryan circulated a sheet prepared for Kathy by Jeff Chuchman on details of the Ontario Drug Plan Benefit (ODB) and Sun Life and deductible dates for ODB and Sun Life. This information will be circulated in MURAnews

(f) Nominating (Helen Barton)

Nothing to report.

(g) Pension and Benefits (Helen Barton for Geoff Evans)

- Les Robb reported at the AGM that universities in Ontario ~~Canada~~ are currently discussing pension plan amalgamations. He also reported that McMaster pension plans are about as secure as one can get under current economic conditions.
- Helen also reported that there is to be a change in the pension plan contribution rate for Clinical Faculty; they will either move to a Rule of 85 retirement plan with contributions equal to that of MUFA faculty, or retain the Rule of 80 and contribute at the same (higher) rate as CAW and TMG plan members.

(h) Special Events (Margaret Jenkins)

- There are no new events ready to be advertised at this time.
- Margaret noted that the golf tournament had to be cancelled for a lack of subscribers. Many thanks are due to John Harvey who put a major effort into arranging it.
- Helen Barton commented that the 2009 date for the annual luncheon for retired faculty and librarians, jointly hosted by the University President and MUFA and normally held in November, has not yet been set. MURA's plan for this year is to offer a Group of Seven slide show presentation by Jim Waddington as a special event following this luncheon. All retirees will be invited to this event.

(i) Trips (Joan Parker)

- Washington trip is set.
- Two ship cruises are ready to go.
- Two bus trips are ready to go.

(j) Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny)

Nothing new.

(k) Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

We now own the web site account which will prove a challenge Marianne notes.

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

(a) University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No report at this time. There will be a meeting of the Board of Governors on June 18.

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

Marianne Van der Wel, who attended the 2009 meeting, will do a précis of her web site posting for the MURA newsletter. There were a number of accolades among Council members for the excellence of Marianne's web site posting.

(c) MUFA (Geoff Evans)

No Report

(d) **CAW (MUSA)** (Kathy Overholt)
No Report

(e) **Hourly Staff Liaison** (Al Fraser)
No Report.

9. Other Business

- Marianne Van der Wel just returned from a 2 day meeting 'My Charity Connects' which she found excellent. She noted that there was a lot of positive material that would be useful for inclusion in the MURA newsletter and how we will do MURA web site updates.
- Joan Parker made a presentation gift of two bottles of wine – one a Riesling and the other ice wine and brandy - to **Helen Barton** in recognition of all her hard work, enthusiasm and commitment during her two years as MURA president. This was accompanied by a frosted lemon cake which was shared by all along with other great refreshments.

10. Next meeting

Wednesday Sept. 9, 2009 at 1:30PM in the Student Centre, **Room 224** (note room change)

11. It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at about 3:30 P.M.