



*McMaster University Retirees Association*  
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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL Meeting of McMaster University Retirees  
Association (MURA)

**Wednesday March 10, 2010, 1:30 PM** at the Student Centre Rm 224.

**Present:** Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Helen Dietsche, Al Fraser, Joe Laposa (Chair), Mary Johnston, Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Walters.

**Regrets:** Lorraine Allan, Beth Csordas, Mike Hedden, Joan Parker,

### **1. Welcome & Regrets:**

Joe Laposa called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM...

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

**Moved** by Stefania Miller and **seconded** by Helen Barton that the provisional Council meeting minutes for February 10, 2010 be adopted as corrected. **Motion carried.**

### **3. Business Arising**

#### **(a) Update on academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign (Helen Barton)**

The endowment fund is currently at \$38,188 which is up \$1,100 since Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and very close to your \$40,000 extended goal!

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

Joe Laposa reported in Mike Hedden's absence Joe has put together a slide show of about 100 historical MURA photos. The show is weak on photos from the 1985-90 period. This show when augmented

and edited can be run continuously at the AGM. Additionally it may be advantageous to have a hard-copy poster display. Final decisions await Mike Hedden's input.

To date, there have been no inputs to the MURA LOGO contest. Helen Barton will send out a note to MURAmembs-1 with a final request for input.

**(c) Update re Supplementary Pension Benefits for Clinical Faculty**  
(Helen Barton/Les Robb)

There is still no update on this problem. Roger Couldrey, the Interim Vice-president of Administration has reported that he needs more time to report on this situation. He hopes to meet with the Clinical Faculty soon to attempt resolution of the problem.

**(d) Revised portfolio descriptions** (Joe Laposa)

Updates to the priority list of portfolios have been largely accomplished. It is recommended that all portfolios should be updated at this time. It is requested that chairs in these portfolios check the Web Site. If the current description is OK then please notify the Secretary. If not, please change it and send the modified version to the Secretary. It has been suggested that the general description of the purpose of each portfolio should be separated from the details of its operation when it is posted on the web site and that we ask Marianne Van der Wel to look into the best way of accomplishing this.

**(e) Peter George's reception** (Joe Laposa)

Joe Laposa will attend the reception as MURA's representative.

**(f) Bookstore discounts** (Pam Penny)

Pam contacted the Bookstore-MICRO manager. There are apparently no perks for retirees in the Bookstore-MICRO policy. After discussion if this should be pursued further, Council recommended that Pam draft an email for Joe to send to the Chair of the Bookstore Board of Directors to see if the Board will contemplate any change in policy with respect to retirees.

- (g) **University anti-virus licensing agreement** (Helen Barton)  
After consultation with UTS management it is resolved that MURA members working on campus should be able to download the TREND-Antivirus software free of charge. However at the present time it may be necessary to subpoena a full-time colleague to download it with accepted documentation. Alternatively, service staff from UTS can be solicited to carry out this function. It is apparent that this is still a negotiation (work) in progress.

#### **4. Correspondence** (Joe Laposa)

- a) The university is soliciting nominees for the President's Award for non-teaching university employees. Neither MURA Executive nor Council wished to submit any candidate's names.
- b) McMaster librarians have voted to unionize under the name McMaster University Academics Library Association (MUALA). This may have future implications with respect to financial support when these librarians join MURA.
- c) There has been a mail request from a MURA member who is writing his memoirs. He is seeking addresses of former colleagues. These can not be released directly by MURA to a member. Al Fraser suggested that the request could be run in MURAnews. This suggestion was endorsed by Council. Joe will ask that the requester design a short letter that (after editing) can be included in the spring edition of MURAnews.

#### **5. President's Report** (Joe Laposa)

##### **(a) Reappointment of Secretary and Treasurer for 2010 – 2011**

The reappointment of Wayne Rouse as Secretary was supported unanimously by Council. The treasurers reappointment could not be acted upon because Beth Csordas is away and cannot to date be contacted.

##### **(b) Signing Authority for 2009 – 2010**

Signing authority on MURA and MURA Trips accounts need to be updated a.s.a.p. All involved persons have to be physically present for a number of these updates to be pursued.

**(c) AGM details**

- MURA members have to be served Notice of Meeting at least 30 days prior to the AGM date. The next edition of MURAnews will be sent out by Friday April 23 and will include Notice of Meeting.
- Joe Laposa will contact Alvin Lee to get the title of his 45 minute talk at the AGM and find out if he has any requirements such as visual aids.
- Beth Csordas, Joe Laposa, and Pam Penny will be meeting with Larry Marsh (Banquet Caterer) to determine details of the room facilities, luncheon preparations and costs.
- Helen Barton will look into parking details and note these in April's MURAnews.
- Al Fraser and Cliff Andrews will look after the sound system and Larry Marsh will be ask to provide a screen and podium.
- Pam Penny will organize the name tags for the attending members.
- A notice of Nomination of Council Officers (President, Vice President, and up to 4 Councillors) will be sent out in April's MURAnews.
- The Council nominations must be ratified and, if necessary, voted upon at the AGM.. If there is a vote, a secret ballot and counting system must be established.
- Joe Laposa as Vice-President will chair the AGM at Joan Parker's request.
- Joan Parker, if able, will deliver the Presidential Address.
- Kathy Overholt has generously agreed to be Secretary for the AGM in place of Wayne Rouse who cannot attend.

**(d) MURA Office Telephone**

The telephone has finally been repaired. Kathy Overholt has agreed to monitor messages on the phone and to forward them to the appropriate recipients when warranted.

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

Beth was unable to attend the meeting and no report was available.

## **7. Information Reports from Committees**

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

Pam queried whether or not we need to revise the budget due to the unknown decision on financial support from a university subsidy. Council felt that the budget should be submitted on the assumption that there will be a subsidy.

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

As noted above (5c) a meeting has been scheduled with Larry Marsh to discuss food and other matters.

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

The following deaths will be acknowledged with a card.  
Leonora Urbaitis, Hospitality Services, January 23, 2010  
Frank O'Grady, Operations and Maintenance, March 6, 2010

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

No Report

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

Total (March 10, 2010) = 1937  
This number represents no change from the estimate for Feb 10.

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

Wednesday April 14 is the absolute 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.

### **(g) Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)**

The nominating committee report recommends the following

- Reappointment of Helen Dietsche and Al Fraser to 3-year terms on Council
- Reappointment of Joan Parker to a one year term as President
- Reappointment of Joe Laposa to a one year term as Vice-President

- Appointment of Mary Johnston and Shari Mercer to 3-year terms on Council

It was **moved** by Wayne Rouse and **seconded** by Pam Penny that the nominating committee's report be accepted by Council in its entirety. **Carried** unanimously.

The names of the nominees will be published in the forthcoming edition of MURANews along with requests for further nominations.

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

The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) has tabled its final report on pension plans at Ontario Universities. Marianne Walters and Helen Barton will be meeting with Les Robb to glean significant items from this report which will then be introduced to the April 14 Council meeting.

There is no update on the complex situation of the retirees with respect to the \$10,000 once-in-a-life time medical emergency payment during travel abroad. Michele Leroux who is looking into this has not yet reported back.

**(i) Special Events ( no chair)**

No Report

**(j) Trips (Ann Sinclair)**

The cruise to Vienna and Budapest is heavily subscribed already. Coach tours have fewer numbers than in the past, but this is a general situation caused by the economic difficulties. However, the coach company is supporting these trips and all coach tours will proceed as scheduled.

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

Joe Laposa reported in the absence of Marianne. He noted the 'Inheritance Study' that is outlined on the MURA home page. This document is addressed to the settling of estates.

## **8. Information Reports from Liaisons**

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

Lorraine's report on the March 4 meeting of the Board of Governors and the President's Address at this meeting were posted on the Council web site on Monday March 8.

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

At the request of our President, Helen Barton and Marianne Walters plan on attending the CURAC 2010 spring meeting to be held at York University. The cost for the conference is \$700 in total. **Moved** by Wayne Rouse and **seconded** by Kathy Overholt that MURA fully fund their attendance at this event. **Carried** unanimously.

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

Marianne reported that a meeting with the president and vice president of MUFA has been set for the week of March 15. Items of mutual interest will be discussed including the possibility of having a MURA representative on some MUFA committees as an observer.

### **(d) CAW (MUSA)**

No Report

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

Al queried if new retirees in the hourly workers category received a welcome from MURA, since he had been asked the same question by one of his constituents. The answer is yes, all new retirees should receive a welcome letter from the MURA president as well as one or two copies of MURAnews. Al was asked if he could inquire if this was the case for the individual concerned.

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

Cliff reported that the last one-quarter year of 2009 was good for the plan. The plan is in fair shape in spite of a solvency shortfall that has built up over the past few years.

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

Marianne Walters reported on excerpts from Les Robb's report that is received by the Pension Committee chair and other committee members. Since the report is not posted, it was difficult for Council members to place these excerpts in context. It was recommended by Council that Marianne and Helen Barton should ask Les Robb if he would be comfortable having the report, or an edited version of it, posted on Council's web site.

**9. Other Business**

No other business.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Council meeting will be Wednesday April 14, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in MUSC 224.

**11. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Helen Barton that the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried** at 3:30 P.M.