



***McMaster University Retirees Association***

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association  
**Wednesday May 12, 2010**, 1:30 PM at the Student Centre Rm 220.

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

**Regrets:** Mike Hedden, Joan Parker.

**1. Welcome & Regrets:**

Joe Laposa called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM...

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

**Moved** by Kathy Overholt and **seconded** by Beth Csordas that the provisional Council meeting minutes for April 14, 2010 be adopted as presented. **Motion carried.**

**3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)**

- Michele reported on the free tuition and bursary situation for retirees. There is little information available in written form. After discussion it appears that the tuition-free option is the best for retirees since there is no income tax involved. This matter is still very much in a state of flux, however, as the Board of Governors has turned back a proposal to cancel this support program for further consideration by the finance committee. There is some elaboration on this below.
- Michele further addressed the out of country \$10,000 University Medical Insurance Policy (one-time) for retirees. The discussion revealed that there is a severe lack of understanding about this. A number of questions arose that are

difficult to document but showed our considerable confusion. Some of these questions are consolidated as follows.

-To whom do I report an accident?' Most serious accidents involve out-of-country insurance claims that will grossly exceed \$10,000 and most Insurance Companies wish to be consulted, if at all possible, before treatment. However, the university \$10,000 apparently is the one that should be tapped first. Is it necessary to notify the University (Sunlife) in the event of a major problem for which the \$10,000 will be paltry?

Michele will attempt to get a clearer picture as to how the Sunlife (University) Policy is useful to retirees, if at all, and report back to Council. Michele also offered to write an "FYI" (for your information) question and answer document to help retirees understand this benefit and know how to use it.

#### **4. Business Arising**

##### **4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign (Beth Csordas, Helen Barton)**

The current level of the endowment fund is \$38,438

A further request for support of the endowment fund was sent out to MURA members this past week.

##### **4.2 2010 – 25th MURA Anniversary - logo contest (Joe Laposa)**

Joe Laposa in his role as acting president has contacted the three entrants announcing that no award will be made in this contest because none of the entries was thought to adequately represent the range of activities of MURA.

##### **4.3 Supplementary Pension Benefits for Clinical Faculty (Helen Barton, Joe Laposa)**

A discussion session has been set with the following participants

- University Administration represented by Roger Couldrey (VP Administration) + University Actuaries (Mercer & Associates)
- 8 members of the retired Clinical Faculty led by Carl Moore
- MURA represented by Helen Barton, Joe Laposa, Kathy Overholt and Jack Evans
- Human Resources represented by Michele Leroux

A request by MURA to tape the proceedings has been denied. However, Kathy

Overholt and Michele Leroux will take notes. The role of MURA might be that of a mediator. The MURA contingent will have a preparation meeting prior to the May 13 meeting.

#### **4.4 Revised Portfolio Descriptions (Wayne Rouse)**

This is a work in progress and Wayne anticipates he will have it completed and on the web site by the end of the summer. Information has been provided on a number of the major portfolios. This needs to be brought into a common format. He will be requesting updates on a number of the portfolios.

#### **4.5 Bookstore discounts (Joe Laposa)**

Joe feels we need to get information from other retirees associations to see what contracts they have with their respective book stores. It might be possible for Helen and Marianne to make some inquiries during the upcoming CURAC meetings. Also, Helen may have some information from an earlier CURAC meeting that she can forward to Joe. After information gathering MURA will be positioned to pursue discussion with Donna Shapiro, bookstore manager, about bookstore discounts.

#### **4.6 Notification of new retirees, deaths, address changes (Joe Laposa)**

Information from Human Resources (HR) comes to Helen Barton and Joe Laposa who then forward it to those whose portfolios are immediately involved . Sometimes MURA receives information about address changes where it is not certain that the same information has been forwarded to HR. In this case we feel that we should forward this to HR. However, it is not certain that HR will accept information from third parties. Wayne is to check with Michele Leroux to get her take on this.

#### **4.7 Retirees in Online telephone directory (Helen Barton)**

There is no update on this item.

#### **4.8 Tuition Fees for Retirees 65+ (Lorraine Allan)**

Lorraine reported on the results of the most recent Board of Governor's meeting.

The Board received a proposal from the Finance Committee that retiree auditors and listeners must pay full rather than half fees for this privilege. The Board accepted the Finance Committee's recommendation. A student representative at the meeting pointed out that this would probably lead to complete black market activity.

This was followed by the query on free tuition for students age 65 and over. Again the Finance Committee recommended that this be cancelled as of 2012. It

appears that the well-argued letter that MURA sent to the Finance Committee arguing against this cancellation never made it to the Board of Governor's surveillance. For various reasons presented to the Board, this matter was referred back to the Finance Committee for further study. It may be that our concerns and efforts are not yet dead in the water. Lorraine recommended that MURA send a letter to Peter Smith (Associate Vice President, Academic) requesting the reasons for the Finance Committee wishing to cancel free tuition for students 65+. Any further MURA input to the Finance Committee needs to arrive prior to their next meeting on June 3.

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

- 5.1** A letter from the McMaster Pension Trust requested that MURA name a representative for the next year. After consultation Les Robb has agreed to be our representative for the next year. Joe will communicate this decision to the office of the Assistant Vice President, Administration.
- 5.2** A letter noting the new executive for MUFA has been received. For those wishing the details they can be acquired from the MUFA website.
- 5.3** Waterloo Insurance has give-aways for the AGM.
- 5.4** MURA has been invited to send two representatives to the Spring Convocation Dinner to be held June 10 in Convocation Hall. The executive will act on fulfilling this request.
- 5.5** Helen Barton announced that a new email correspondence list MURAFriends-1 has been created for those who are not McMaster retirees, but who wish to be on the MURA information mailing.

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

### **6.1 Joan Parker resignation**

Joe Laposa met with Joan Parker on Monday May 3 about her future intentions regarding MURA Council. Joan told Joe that she will not be standing for another year as MURA president. Also she stated that she will not be attending this month's AGM, nor will she assume the role of Past President. A resignation letter from Joan stating these intents has been received by the Secretary.

### **6.2 Signing Authorities**

No action will be taken on changing signing authorities until a new executive is fully established.

### **6.3 Meeting with Parking Services**

Joe Laposa and Helen Barton had a very profitable meeting with Terry Sullivan, Head of Parking Services. For the upcoming year nothing will change and McMaster retirees with transponders can still get free parking during the morning hours. Sullivan has asked that we avoid parking in Lots B, C and I whenever possible.

## **7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)**

Beth has been working with the auditor in preparing a statement for the AGM. She indicated that we should have Revenues in excess of Expenses of approximately \$600 for the year.

## **8. Information Reports from Committees**

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

No Report

### **8.2 AGM (Pam Penny)**

A detailed AGM draft plan had been circulated prior to our Council meeting. Council members volunteered for various activities of the AGM and the meeting timelines and activities were modified and agreed to.

### **8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)**

Helen has sent cards in memoriam of the following.

	<u><b>Department</b></u>	<u><b>Date</b></u>
Naresh Sinha	Elec. & Comp. Eng.	March 20, 2010
Elaine Hewitt	Obstetrics & Gynecology	April 9, 2010
Jessie Mackie	Building Operations	April 11, 2010
Frances McCrone	University Library	April 22, 2010
Terry Cleland	Telecommunications	May 3, 2010

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

No Report

### **8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)**

Total = 1958

## **8.6 MURAnews** (Kathy Overholt, Mary Johnston)

The next MURAnews is scheduled for mid July. There will be a substantial number of new retirees in July and it is important to reach them.

## **8.7 Nominating** (Helen Barton)

As noted above, Joan Parker has requested not to be considered for President or Past President

Since the nomination committee has already sent out a slate of nominee's for next year's Executive and Council that slate stands until the AGM. However, the Constitution allows for further nominations to be submitted to the Secretary up until a week prior to the AGM. Mike Hedden and Kathy Overholt, members of the Nominating Committee have submitted the following nominations to the Secretary.

Joe Laposa, President;  
Beth Csordas, Vice President.

Further nominations should be submitted to Helen Barton, Chair of the Nominating Committee or to the MURA Email site, since the Secretary will be absent in the period leading up to the AGM. Since nominations can be made from the floor at the AGM we should be prepared for a paper ballot should this occur.

At this time it is not clear about how the executive position of past president should be dealt with. There does not appear to be a contingency statement in our Constitution. If this is the case then it would be logical for Council to make a decision on this.

## **8.8 Pensions and Benefits** (Marianne Walters)

No Report

## **8.9 Special Events**

No Report

## **8.10 Trips** (Anne Sinclair)

Anne distributed a balance sheet that indicated a net positive \$ balance on the six trips she has run during the past year. In fact, each of the trips ran in the black.

## **8.11 Web Site** (Marianne Van der Wel/Helen Barton)

The web site has been updated to reflect the personnel changes in Council. Marianne has two volunteers who are familiarizing themselves with the website operation.

## **9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

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

The University President's report to the Board of Governors has been posted to the MURA Council Website. Results from the most recent meeting have been discussed in Item 4(h) above.

### **9.2 College and University Retirees Assoc. of Canada (CURAC) (Helen Barton)** No Report

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

The exchange of MUFA and MURA meeting agendas is now operating. Joe Laposa noted the desirability of the Presidents of the two groups holding informal meetings on items of mutual concern in the upcoming year.

### **9.4 CAW (MUSA)** No Report

### **9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)** No Report

### **9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)** No Report

### **9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)** No Report

## **10. Other Business** No other business.

## **11. Next Meeting** The next meeting of Council meeting will be Wednesday June 9, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in Togo Salmon Hall (TSH 122) – Note Change of Locale for June Meeting.

## **12. Adjournment** **Moved by** Helen Dietsche that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried** at 0345 P.M.