



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday October 14, 2009, 1:30 PM at the Student Centre Rm 224.

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

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Kathy Overholt.

1. Welcome & Regrets:

Joan Parker called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. She then turned the meeting over to Joe Laposa as her spokesman.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Council meeting minutes for September 9, 2009 for approval.

A few minor corrections were noted. **Moved** by Marianne Van Der Wel and **seconded** by Mike Hedden 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)

Thank you letters were sent out to donors since last September except to Council members. The next request for funds, to be sent in late October, will aim to increase the endowment and the awards to make up for the cost of living increases since the fund was instituted in 1992. The fund has recently achieved its original objective of \$32,000. An important question in today's economic climate is 'will the original objective of an annual 4% earnings on the endowment be achievable'? This is currently unknown but answers are being sought.

(b) Update -MURA Note Cards Report (Kathy Overholt)

No update.

(c) Update -Telecommunications: Online Directory (Helen Baron)

No update.

- (d) **Update -2010 – 25th MURA Anniversary** (Mike Hedden/Kathy Ryan)
Council agreed that the 25 ideas for the 25th MURA Anniversary, an item that was circulated previously, should be accompanied by the MURA mission statement.
- (e) **Update -Parking** (Helen Barton)
Until further notice it is business as usual- on-campus parking for retirees with transponders is free all day until at least the end of December.
- (f) **Update -Group of Seven Presentation** (Joan Parker)
A contract has been signed. The \$250 room rental fee is generously being covered by MUFA. Additional costs of about \$100 will be incurred in fees for the microphone and podium. The question was raised whether or not MURA should provide refreshments. It was concluded that under the circumstances this was not feasible. The event is being advertised on the MURA website, in MURAnews and through a card that accompanied the joint President/MUFA annual invitation to luncheon of retired faculty and librarians. There will be a presentation of MURA note cards to Jim and Susan Waddington which would be our way of thanking them.
- (g) **Update -Brochure for New Retirees** (Helen Barton, Marianne Van Der Wel)
This new brochure will be distributed to new retirees by Human Resources and will be posted at the MURA website.
- (h) **Should MURA be facilitating paid employment positions via MURAMEMBS-L The Union Position** (Jeff Chuchman)
Jeff reported that this question should be tabled pending an ongoing assessment being carried out by Annette Branch (Human Resources Recruitment).
- (i) **Update - Pension/Benefit Situation with respect to the current contract negotiations between the University and CAW555** (Helen Barton)
A new contract has been ratified. The pension issue is to be settled by an arbitration process which is presently underway.
- (j) **Update - Osteoporosis Canada asking for inclusion in the MURA Volunteer Program**
Request posted in MURAnews, Fall 2009, P 3.
- (k) **Update - Advertising Christmas Program of Geritol Follies**
Request posted in MURAnews, Fall 2009, P 4.
- (l) **Update - Spiro Panagiotou's offer to lead a trip of mainland Greece**
Posted in MURAnews, Fall 2009, P 6.
- (m) **Update – Efforts of MURA Pension's Committee to address the concerns of our retirees** (Joan Parker)

Assessment by Helen Barton and Les Robb included in MURAnews, Fall 2009, P 7.

4. Correspondence

A letter was received from Dorothy Jacobs with respect to the 25th Anniversary Celebrations. Dorothy mentioned, in her letter, that she was on the original MURA committee. Joan Parker noted that we should try to keep her informed of the ongoing arrangements.

5. President's Report (Joan Parker)

(a) The recent resignations of Geoff Evans and Margaret Jenkins create the need for their replacements. Helen Barton gave her thoughts on the desirable representation of potential replacements and offered a number of names. There was discussion which involved chairing the Pension and Benefits and Special Events Standing Committees and the MUFA liaison team. No decisions were taken but this remains an action item.

(b) The President's reception for new retirees takes place on Monday November 9, 4:30-6:00 PM in the University Club. As usual MURA has been invited to take part with the MURA President invited to give a short presentation. Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution of Name Tags, welcoming at the door, passing out chocolates and general socializing.

(c) The MURA Christmas Luncheon takes place December 7 at noon in Kenneth Taylor Hall (KTH)-Celebration Hall. Pam Penny has the arrangements well in hand and is assigning duties to MURA council members. As a departure from past practice, pre-booking and the payment of \$12/person is required by Friday November 20. A form on the back page of MURAnews is provided for this purpose.

6. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

No Report.

7. Information Reports from Committees

(a) AGM (Pam Penny)

No Report.

(b) Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Helen Dietsche sent bereavement cards to the families of Hazel Ward (School of Nursing) and to Maurice Dawson (Physical Plant).

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

No Report.

(d) Membership (Pam Penny)

The total membership in MURA as of October 12, 2009 is 1932.

(e) MURAnews (Joan Parker)

The next formal meeting for MURAnews will be in January, 2010.

(f) Nominating (Helen Barton)

No Report.

(g) Pension and Benefits (Helen Barton)

See article in MURAnews mentioned above in Item 3(i).

Helen conveyed several points from Les Robb's report to Council from the Salaried Pension Trust Committee's meetings of July 30 and Sept. 17, 2009:

- Senior Academic/Admin Officers and TMG future hires to the University will no longer be allowed to participate in the Salaried Pension Plan
- The investment performance as of June 30 is better than anticipated, with the fund outperforming benchmarks; i.e. the fund did relatively well in a bad market. No increases should be expected in January of course.
- The McMaster plan has not performed very well compared to other Canadian university plans in 2008; it has not been in the top half.

Jeff Chuchman commented that the Hourly Pension Plan has performed quite well in the past year, mainly because the fund is much smaller so that the investment portfolio has been kept much more conservative.

(h) Special Events

Note article in MURAnews P.5 with respect to Mum show in Gage Park and prior lunch at Royal Hamilton Yacht Club.

(i) Trips (Anne Sinclair)

There is a wealth of upcoming trips which are all listed in MURAnews, Fall 2009.

(j) Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny)

See 5(c) above.

(k) Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

No Report.

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

(a) University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No Report.

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

No Report.

(c) MUFA (Marianne Walters)

No Report.

(d) CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)

No Report.

(e) Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No Report.

9. Other Business

None

**10. Confidential Report on Supplementary Pension Benefits for Clinical Faculty
(attended by MURA Council Only)**

Helen Barton and Les Robb introduced the report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. After pointed questions, lively discussion and suggestions for clarifying amendments the following resolution moved by Marianne Walters and seconded by Joan Parker was presented.

‘The amended report is to be distributed confidentially to all of the parties involved for their comments, with feedback to be received within one month. Subsequently, unless there has been movement toward resolution of the dispute, the report will be publicly distributed accompanied by the respondents’ comments. The authors will consider incorporating comments based on new documentation from respondents within the text of the report before releasing it to the wider audience.’

Council voted unanimously in favour of the resolution.

11. The next meeting of Council meeting will be November 11, 2009 at 1:30 PM in MUSC 224. Neither the President nor the Vice-President will be present at this meeting. It was decided that another member of the Executive Committee will chair the meeting.

Moved by Al Fraser that the meeting be adjourned. Carried at 3:40 P.M.