



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Room 220.

Note. Any item marked with a ** denotes an action item.

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

Regrets: Lorraine Allan, Michele Leroux, Marianne Van der Wel.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting –March 9-for approval.

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded by** Beth Csordas

‘That the minutes be adopted as circulated’

Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

No Report

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign (Beth Csordas)

The amount in the fund remains at \$42,466.

The McMaster Development Office is planning this year’s “community” fundraising campaign in support of scholarships and bursaries. The general letter that is being sent out to the campus community can be modified and sent to all MURA members soliciting further support for our student awards program. Jenny is to send a sample of that modified letter that will be sent to retirees.

The disbursement of monies from the endowment fund was also discussed. It was decided that MURA would make the last payment at the old rate in March 2011 as was originally scheduled. The fund should then grow enough to start making payments at the higher level in 2011/2012.

4.2 McMaster On-line Directory and MAC I.D. (Helen Barton)

No update. This matter has been dealt with.

4.3 \$10 K out of province medical coverage - see 8.8

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 Waterloo Insurance (WI) Request for AGM Presentation

The WI representative making the request is no longer employed by the company. In correspondence with our previous contact, Joe ascertained that WI will provide brochures and a door prize for the annual general meeting (AGM). Joe also queried WI re: the dissemination of information in the summer MURAnews edition.

5.2 CURAC

5.2.1 Best Practices Report

The CURAC president sent a letter requesting one or two one-page reports on practices by associations that were particularly effective. Marianne Van der Wel has drafted a report on the newly updated web site for presentation to the CURAC AGM. This has been circulated to Council, seeking Council's feedback a.s.a.p.

5.2.2 Retired Faculty Without Emeritus Status

The CURAC president acting on concerns from associate members was requesting information on problems encountered by faculty without emeritus standing. At McMaster, only full professors become emeritus professors. However enquiries by Joe to Les Robb, MUFA and others indicate that at McMaster there are no penalties for not having the honorary rank.

5.3 Part-time Job Opportunity for Retirees

A request was received from Pro-Census (Innovation Park) whose CEO is a McMaster Graduate, seeking an Administrative Asst. for part time help and wondering if MURA could advertise the position. In situations of this sort it is fundamental to ascertain if the position falls under Mac Human Relations (HR) Guidelines or if is independent from them. If the former, then the job must first be posted with HR before MURA can place it in our communication stream. If it is the latter, then MURA is free to assess it, and post it or not as it sees fit.

5.4 HostPapa and Earth Day

HostPapa is a web site server that is a sponsor of Face-Book. It is asking MURA to help sponsor their Earth-Day 'Plant 10,000 trees' project that is aimed at various 3rd world nations. Our web-site advisors suggest that MURA should not be involved in this activity.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 MURA Supporting Groups re 3-Yr Budget

All parties have formally signed-on to this agreement. MURA's funding is now secure for another 3 year period. MURA's Treasurer has been presented with the original of the signed agreement; CAW Local 555, MUFA, and the President Deane's Office all have copies of the signed document.

6.2 Location for Christmas Party

A problem for this past year's lunch was that it was overcrowded. An alternative site for the coming years is the CIBC Banquet Hall on the 3rd floor of the Student Centre. It would cost about \$375 to rent this venue. All other costs remain the same for the coming year. After considerable discussion there was general agreement that a move to the new site would be advantageous for the Christmas lunch. This resulted in two motions as follows. **

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded by** Helen Dietsche

'That we move the location for MURA's Christmas lunch for the upcoming year to the CIBC Banquet Hall'

Carried Unanimously

Moved by Stefania Miller, **seconded by** Alan Fraser

'That MURA increases the luncheon price for attendees to \$15.00 per person. This represents an increase of \$3.00 over last year's charge.'

Carried Unanimously

6.3 Thank You to Nominating Committee

Joe thanked all members of the nominating for their first class work in designating a new slate of Councils members for the upcoming year.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

Beth presented a spread sheet showing the projected revenues and expenses to the end of the current year. At this time it appears that there will be a surplus of approximately \$2,000 over budget. Variation from budget is due primarily to lower Printing costs as well as lower costs for the Christmas Lunch and the Annual Meeting

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Pam Penny)

No report. See 6.2 for decision on venue for 2011 Christmas Luncheon.

8.2 AGM (Joe Laposa, Pam Penny)

There was general discussion on the detailed preparations for the AGM. Food prices will remain the same as for the 2010 AGM. Ann Sinclair will not need a Travel table. UTS will set up an information table. Al Fraser will provide an Award prize. Joe will approach Marianne Van der Wel to see if she is able to look after directional signs. Pam Penny will circulate a final Duties roster. **

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to April 13, 2011

Maria Szabo	Building Operations	March 3 2011
Letitia Irvine	Vice-President Academic	March 29 2011

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

Total membership as of April 13 is 2004.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The Spring edition goes to printing on Thurs. April 14 and stuffing will take place on Wed. April 20 at 1 PM in a room to be arranged by Kathy.

8.7 Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)

No Report. The nomination slate contained in last month's report will appear in the spring edition of MURAnews.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

Two meetings took place this past month between MURA and other parties to discuss the possible use of the 10K out-of-province McMaster insurance policy for retirees as a leverage to reduce rates from private insurers. The first meeting was with MURA's consultant Geoff Burman, in which he introduced potential plans with different insurers which could save retirees 50% or more in premiums. The second meeting included MURA, Burman and Roger Couldrey, Mark Haley, and Michele Leroux from the McMaster Administration. Three possible future scenarios have emerged in these discussions.

1. If McMaster is unwilling to change the existing benefit to allow the \$10,000 to be used as a deductible, or to accept the second alternative below, then a group policy can be arranged that MURA members could buy into for individual trips that would allow members to use the \$10,000 coverage as a **first payer** and later use the private group policy to cover additional out of province health costs. This would likely require the traveller to contact the claims departments of both Sun Life (for McMaster) and the group insurer and co-ordinate them. Although this makes the \$10,000 available, and allows the group policy to only commence paying after the McMaster \$10,000 coverage is used up, it is **not formally a deductible** and hence would not run into the problems with the current McMaster policy which does not allow the \$10,000 to be used as a deductible.
2. A better, alternative is for this to be done with McMaster's blessing and Sun Life (Europ Assistance) be instructed to work with whatever private insurer MURA endorses. That is, the claims departments would co-ordinate. This would enable the member/traveller to deal with only one claims department and would be of considerable advantage relative to the first option.
3. The simplest option would be to allow the \$10,000 coverage to be used as a deductible. This is a matter that is in the hands of McMaster and not Sun Life. Sun Life does what McMaster tells them -- not the reverse. This option could allow the deductible to be available only when dealing with the group plan that MURA endorses, or could allow it to be used with any plan that sells a deductible. This option would also require the claims

departments to co-ordinate and work with each other. This should be pretty straight-forward as such co-ordination is common in this industry.

All three of these options would provide the member with substantial savings on premiums, both because MURA would endorse a group plan and because the private insurance group plan would not need to pay the first \$10,000.

8.9 Special Events (Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)

Two special events are planned and these will be advertised in the spring MURAnews. The first of these involves a June tour of the new Engineering building which includes a reception. The second to the Kleinberg art museum is planned for the Fall.

8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)

All trips are subscribed and on schedule. There will be a trip to see Mary Poppins in late November.

8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

A report describing the revamped web site was circulated prior to the Council meeting. Marianne welcomed feedback a.s.a.p. The revamped site is timed to go live when MURAnews is distributed next week.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No report. The B of G has not met.

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

Marianne Van der Wel's trip to the CURAC AGM will be a little over budget because it is being held in Regina. Budgeting is based on averages. Thus in some years expenses are over and in others they are under budget depending primarily on travel costs to the CURAC AGM locales.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

There is no formal report. Negotiation between MUFA and McMaster may go to final offer selection or might be resolved by late-hour mediation.

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)

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. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. May 11, 1:30 PM in MUSC 220.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3.12 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried