



**McMaster University Retirees Association**

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

**Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, December 8, 2010, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Room 220.**

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

**1. Welcome & Regrets**

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

**Regrets:** Michele Leroux, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Van der Wel.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**2.1 Council Meeting –November 10 -for approval.**

Mike Hedden submitted some minor spelling and grammatical corrections for inclusion.

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

*“That the minutes be adopted as revised”*

**Carried unanimously**

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

**3.1 Update on number of claims against retiree \$10,000 Out of Province Emergency Medical Coverage over past 10 years.**

No report

**3.2 Update on HR and MURA database comparison**

No report

**4. Business Arising – updates on**

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

New total is \$41,658

Jenny Thomson has drafted new descriptions of the scholarship and prize with the increased amounts. It has been sent to the stewardship office for approval and will be forwarded to us when this takes place. \*\*

#### **4.2 Autumn Graduation Dinner and Convocation (Joe Laposa)**

Beth & Joe attended the dinner and reported that it was very enjoyable.

Pam & Mary attended Fall Convocation and the luncheon which followed. Patrick Deane gave a 25-minute address which was both heartfelt and intelligent. The luncheon was also very nice.

#### **4.3 MURA and Philanthropy Week campaign (Helen Barton)**

This was reported on last month (see November 10 minutes). Helen reported that the .url address for the MURA film clip will appear in the Winter newsletter. \*\*

#### **4.4 Prescription dispensing fees (Joe Laposa)**

The basis of this item was reported in the November minutes. Joe had written to Human Resources to ask if there is a list of local pharmacies which do not charge a dispensing fee over and above what Sun Life pays. The answer is no such list exists.

#### **4.5 Availability of President's reports to Board of Governors (Joe Laposa)**

Lorraine Allen had asked about publishing the President's reports to the Board. The President's Office has indicated that they will publish the reports on their web site and will supply us with the .url address for our information.

#### **4.6 Council photo (Joe Laposa).**

The photos which were taken before the November meeting have been passed to Marianne Van der Wel. Helen Barton reported that Marianne has already put one on the MURA web site under "Who we are". She also took lots of pictures at the Christmas lunch and used them to photoshop insert the missing people into the Council photo.

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

#### **5.1 Photos from New Retirees Reception**

We received a compact disc of photos from the reception. Joe reported that the photos are fantastic with a variety of different effects (e.g. sepia) and very high resolution. The cd has been passed on to Marianne V. who will create a slide show for the web site. \*\*

#### **5.2 Arthur Bourns - unable to attend Christmas Luncheon**

Joe reported that he received regrets from Dr. Bourns who is suffering from poor health this year but has every intention of coming to next year's event.

#### **5.3 Les Robb - continuation on Salaried Pension Committee**

Les Robb wrote that he is currently thinking this will be his last year as MURA pension trust committee representative. He will make a final decision in the New Year. \*\*

#### **5.4 Helen Dietsche - Timeliness in reporting retiree deaths to MURA**

Joe passed on, to Human Resources, Helen's concerns that retiree deaths are not reported to us in a timely fashion by HR. Very soon thereafter Helen received a report from them.

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

#### **6.1 Retirees working at the University**

Joe received an email from a recent retiree who wanted to work and was told that there is a University policy against hiring retirees. Joe wrote to Roger Couldrey to ask if such a policy exists and, if so, why. Roger reported that no such policy exists but there may be individual circumstances which prevent a person from being hired. He suggested that the person may contact Michele Leroux to discuss his particular case. Joe will follow up with the person who made the original query.

Helen B. mentioned it is her understanding that retirees cannot be hired to do substantially the same work as before they retired.

#### **6.2 Changes in account signing authority for Trips**

The Trips account requires that 2 of 3 designated persons (Anne Sinclair, Beth Csordas, and Joe Laposa) must sign cheques. There is a \$2887 GIC which comes due every year in September. As no instructions were given to the bank, it was rolled over. However, the executive want the money folded into the MURA accounts, so Anne will notify them before it is due in 2011. \*\*

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

#### **7.1 Update**

Beth said it appears that the Christmas lunch expenses will be only \$320 of the budgeted \$750, a number that was based on years when there was no subsidy. The President said that he would pay \$10 for the contracted number of attendees (163), a number that Beth will communicate to him. \*\*

#### **7.2 Three-Year Budget**

Helen Dietsche noted that she will need to buy stamps and the Cards budget should be increased each year by 45 cards X estimated postage. Beth will accommodate this in the budget.

Beth reported that MURA will begin meeting with the 3 sponsoring groups to ask them to renew their agreements. She mentioned that we needed to look at a three year budget in order to have some idea of what our costs would be. The costs would determine the amount of subsidy we would need to ask for from the supporting groups when they are approached in January. As in the past, these preliminary budget figures may be revised year to year.

She has calculated that the amount of subsidy needed, in order to have a minimal surplus/deficit over the three years, is \$9200 per year. This amount is lower than the previously agreed \$10,750/year because we will no longer have to pay \$1250 for the scholarship/prize. Also for the past years we have been running a surplus each year i.e. costs have not been as high as anticipated.

Stephania Miller thinks that we should continue to ask the sponsors for the same amount requested in the past (\$10,750) because we may need to top up the scholarship/bursary in the future. It was pointed out that we have \$20,000 in reserve already. Pam mentioned that we don't know from year to year whether the President will continue to subsidize the Christmas lunch. We also are reaching capacity seating in the current venue and may need to move the lunch to a larger space—the CIBC room in the Student Centre—which is not free. Joe mentioned that we don't provide a copy of our budget to our sponsors, but would if it was requested. It may be a good idea to assume that these two scenarios of increased costs will occur and budget accordingly. It was suggested that if we agree to budget, and ask for, a subsidy of \$10,750/year, Beth could add an expense line to the budget, such as Special Projects, in order to show only a small surplus/deficit each year. This account would be charged for unanticipated costs as discussed above or for 'special projects' which Council may agree to undertake.

**Moved by** Stephania Miller, **Seconded by** Helen Dietsche

*“that version 4 of the 3-year budget be changed to show \$10,750 against Supporting Groups and the appropriate change be made to Special Projects and the new document be referred to as version 5.”\*\**

**Carried unanimously.**

The executive will approve the change. \*\*

Kathy Overholt has written to request a meeting with CAW. \*\* Also a new letter to SEIU will be prepared to see if we can get it to participate in the sponsorship agreements. \*\*

Helen Barton explained that the reason this process is begun so early is that the sponsors may refuse to participate and we would then need to amend the Constitution to recommence membership fees.

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

### **8.1 Christmas Party (Joe Lapos, Pam Penny)**

The final contract with Paradise Catering was for 163 diners. Several people commented on the large number of draw prizes. However, there were also comments about the crowding at the tables (i.e. 9 per table are too many) and the difficulty of moving around the room. Helen Dietsche suggested that we decrease the seats per table and keep track of how many people we have to turn away.

Joe asked if we have sent thank-you notes to the organizations which provided draw prizes. He volunteered to write the notes.\*\* Pam expressed her thanks to all of the Council members who helped with the preparations.

Helen Barton noted that we gave out 17 of the 35 parking passes that were provided to us. About half of those were requested because the retirees' transponders didn't work. She will remind Parking that there are still some problems left over from the summer.\*\*

## 8.2 AGM (Pam Penny)

The Executive suggests that the AGM be slated for May 25, 2011. Pam will write to Larry Marsh, Paradise Catering Manager, to book Celebration Hall for both the 2011 AGM and the Christmas lunch at the same time.\*\*

## 8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Dr Donald Shepherd	Humanities - Classics	August 5 2010
George E Purnell	English	August 28 2010
Dr Owen Morgan	Humanities	September 1 2010
H Lawrence (Larry) Haisell	University Library	October 15 2010

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

No report

## 8.5 Membership (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

The current membership is 1980.

Pam provided a list of the number of **new** retirees in the past 5 years.

2005	60
2006	77
2007	105
2008	117
2009	81
2010	65 to October 1 <sup>st</sup>

## 8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The deadlines for the Winter issue of MURAnews are:

Trips	January 7
Final	January 12 (council meeting date)
To printing	on or before January 19
Envelope Stuffing	on or before January 26

## 8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

Helen Barton said that the Constitution requires that the nominating committee be composed of 2 Council members and 2 non-Council members in addition to herself as chair. She proposed that the committee members for 2011 be Pam Penny and Kathy Overholt from Council and Jim Kramer (retired faculty member) and Linda Grocott (retired TMG).

**Moved by Helen Barton, seconded by Helen Dietsche**

*“That the nominating committee for 2011 consist of Helen Barton (chair), Linda Grocott, Jim Kramer, Kathy Overholt and Pam Penny”.*

**Carried unanimously.**

## **8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters, Lorraine Allen)**

There was a discussion of the draft letter to go to Roger Couldrey, VP Administration, from Joe Laposa and Marianne Walters about the \$10,000 out-of-province emergency medical coverage provided as part of McMaster retiree extended health care benefits, and a letter on the same topic that has been sent to MUFA from Marianne Walters and Lorraine Allan. The letter to Roger will be revised before it is sent in light of the discussions. \*\*

There also was discussion regarding letting our membership know, as soon as the letter has gone to Roger, that MURA is taking action on this topic and making them aware of the issue. It was suggested that it is good to be open with our members regarding what we’re doing, that it is good for them to know we’re doing something, and that it’s good tactically for the VP to be aware that the MURA membership is aware of what’s being discussed. A concern was expressed that we cannot really explain much to our members before we get answers.

It was further decided that the other constituent groups (CAW, SEIU and TMG) should be notified of the actions that MURA is taking on this topic. \*\*

Helen Barton agreed to draft a letter for this purpose, which will be reviewed and sent by the executive and the respective liaison members of Council. \*\*

Helen will also contact Bruce Frank to ask who the contact person should be for the TMG group. \*\*

A list of supplementary questions will be prepared before the requested meeting with Roger. \*\*

## **8.9 Special Events (Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)**

Shari reported that she and Mary are hoping to arrange an event in late winter/early spring, possibly a visit to the art gallery in Kleinberg. There have been further suggestions that events could be planned for the RBG under glass, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and other museums.

Joe reminded them that any planned events should be publicized in the Spring newsletter. \*\*

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

No report

## **8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)**

Helen reported that Marianne is working on our web site to use drop down menus rather the current methodology. Marianne is also concerned about the trips page as it is not kept current. She has suggested that she might link it to the trips pages in MURAnews. \*\*

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

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

The next meeting is on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Lorraine will ask if a link to the President's reports yet exists. \*\*

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

CURAC has a new deal with CARP which is slightly better than the regular CARP membership fee. Helen pointed that CARP frequently discount their fees which make them cheaper than the newly negotiated rates.

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

See Item 8.8.

## **9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)**

A meeting with CAW has been requested.

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

No report

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

Cliff reported that there appears to be a crunch coming to the plan. It sounds like the employees may have to double their contributions.

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

No report

## **10. Other Business**

### **10.1 United Way Campaign Update**

Pam Penny reported that the United Way will be sending out an email reminder that the campaign is "going green" this year. Unlike other groups, the retirees got a paper pledge form.

### **10.2 Potential Meeting with Human Resources**

Joe reported that at the Christmas lunch, Mark Haley suggested that he and Michele get together with Joe and Beth.

### **10.3 Potential Problem with On-line Directory Registration**

Helen Dietsche reported that there may be a problem with the McMaster ID required to register to be in the on-line Faculty/Staff Directory. A friend of hers exchanged several emails with (Helen thought) HR and has never received a satisfactory resolution of her problem. Helen Dietsche will report further on this to the executive, who will make further inquiries if necessary. \*\*

## **11. Date and Location of Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 1:30 P.M. in MUSC 220.

## **12. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Helen Dietsche at approximately 4:05 pm  
*“that the meeting be adjourned”*.

**Carried**

**31/12/2010**