



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, March 9, 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, Mary Johnston, Joe Laposa (Chair), Michele Leroux, Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Marianne Van der Wel, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Al Fraser, Lorraine Allan, Mike Hedden, Shari Mercer, Pam Penny, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting –February 9-for approval.

Moved by Stefania Miller, **seconded by** Helen Dietsche

“That the minutes be adopted”

Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

3.1 Update on HR and MURA database comparison

Michele reported that the first run of who’s on our database that is not on HRs is complete. She is checking with their lawyer to see what if any information she can release to us

3.2 \$10 K out of province/country insurance policy

Michele said that they need to know how many trips retirees have taken, both nationally & internationally, in the past year. The question that needs answering by our members is did you or did you not travel within the past year. If the answer is yes then she needs to know how many times a retiree travelled. Helen Barton said that she can seek this information via the list serve but not until after March 26th. MURA representatives will be meeting with Roger Couldrey, Mark Haley and Michele Leroux on March 25th but Helen is busy with the Science Fair and can’t do it before March 26th. Marianne Walters commented that our

insurance broker/investigator, Geoff Burman, hasn't indicated that he needs that kind of information in his investigations. Cliff Andrews commented that if insurance was cheaper, more retirees could afford more travel. Joe Laposa noted that he had asked Michele to check with Sun Life what the answer would be to the question, if a retiree had a first time out of province health claim of \$9000 with an insurance reimbursement of \$7000, how much coverage would be available from McMaster? The answer was \$8000.

- 3.3** The monthly spreadsheet from HR used to highlight changes. This is no longer the case, so MURA is forced to investigate what the changes are and why they were made. Michele proposed that HR send a copy of the release form that employees fill out to MURA. She will send us a sample for our consideration

4. Business Arising – updates on

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

The current total for the endowment fund is \$42,466, which represents no change over the past month. Helen & Beth are meeting with Jenny Thompson with respect to the University's new campaign which starts in April. MURA may send a letter to retirees to coincide with the campaign. Retirees will also be invited to the University Doors Open events that are to be held in April.

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

Helen Barton reported that UTS has figured out why retirees were having problems. UTS has changed the instructions and they are posted on our web site. MAC ID is not the old 7-digit employee number

- 4.3** Retirees working at the University (Joe Laposa)

Mark Haley sent a letter on February 22nd with statement of the University's official positions on this issue. This was copied to Council members. MURA may publish it for the information of all MURA members.

- 4.4** \$10 K out of province medical coverage - see 8.8

- 4.5** Bridge Payment Gap before Old Age Security (Helen Barton)

Helen reported that Michele confirmed that the pre-retirement meeting with employees makes it clear when the bridge funding starts and stops, both orally and in writing

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

- 5.1** Waterloo Insurance (WI) Request for AGM Presentation

WI explored the possibility of making a brief presentation at the upcoming AGM. The MURA executive feels that this would not be appropriate. It recommends that we will continue to send their advertising with our newsletter. Additionally WI wanted contact with MUFA and no problem was perceived in providing them with MUFA's email address. Stefania asked why we feature them at all. One reason is that Waterloo is the carrier for the CURAC group insurance plan. Secondly, some of our members have realized substantial savings through WI.

5.2 Group of Seven presentation at University Club

MAPS is sponsoring the Waddington's 'Group of Seven' presentation. The details of this presentation has been sent to our members on list serve.

5.3 Flowers for Council members in hospital

The question has been raised if MURA has a policy on this? It is not a budgeted item hence donations would have to be on an individual basis. One approach would be to notify council by email to see if Council members wish to contribute to a flower arrangement.

5.4 Joe reported that former Board of Governors Chair Ed Buffett has died.

5.5 Letter from Liz McCallum about advertising two trips to our members

Retiree Liz McCallum is organizing two trips in 2012 which meet our requirement that outside trips must contain an educational or cultural component and have a clear connection to McMaster retirees. One trip features Graeme Roebuck presenting lectures at Stratford on Avon in England. The second features Jack Evans leading an excursion to Dieppe and Normandy. Liz will be holding an Open House in April for promotion of the trips.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 MURA Supporting Groups re 3-Yr Budget - Memo of Agreement (Joe Laposa)

Joe reported that the Clinical Faculty said No to our funding request. SEIU never responded. Cliff had talked to Ted Mansell who said that our request had been passed on to the national office

6.2 Appointment of MURA Treasurer for 2011-2012

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

"That Beth Csordas be appointed as MURA Treasurer for 2011-2012"

Carried unanimously

6.3 Appointment of MURA Secretary for 2011-2012

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

"That Wayne Rouse be appointed as MURA Secretary for 2011-2012"

Carried unanimously

6.4 Appointment of MURA delegate to CURAC's AGM in Regina

Marianne Van Der Wel has been nominated as she is already involved with CURAC

Moved by Stefania Miller, **seconded** by Kathy Overholt

"That Marianne Van Der Wel be appointed as the CURAC representative for 2011-2012 and that we cover her travel, food, fees, and accommodation"

Carried unanimously

6.5 Meeting with HR's Karin Middleton

Wayne and Joe met last week with Karin who has been assigned as our direct contact with HR. The meeting was friendly and established contact

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

All funding support groups have paid their fees for the current year for a total of \$10,750. Beth contacted Bob West to act as our auditor for this year. The President's Office has paid the Christmas lunch subsidy and has agreed to a subsidy of \$10 per attendee for the 2011 lunch.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Pam Penny)

No report.

8.2 AGM (Joe Laposa, Pam Penny)

Joe & Pam are to meet this Friday with Larry Marsh, the manager of Paradise Catering to decide on the menu. Last year's costs have been provided to them by Beth. Helen said that opt-out contest will operate again this year

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to March 9, 2011

Dr John Davies	Geography & Earth Sciences	Feb 4 2011
James Storing	Physical Plant	Feb 9 2011
Dr Jen-Shih Chang	Engineering	Feb 27 2011

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

Total membership as of March 9 is 2001. There are now about 900 people on the email list.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The schedule of dates for the Spring issue are:

Deadline for submissions	- April 4 th
To Printing	- April 14 th
Stuffing day	- April 20 th

8.7 Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)

The nominee's names for our new Council were circulated and a brief biography of each was presented by Helen.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Mary Johnston

"That the report be approved as submitted"

Carried unanimously

Note : The report is attached as Appendix 1.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

MURA will meet on March 22nd with Geoff Burman for an update on his discussions with various insurance companies. To date, Manulife has said it could offer a 50% discount! The meeting on March 25th with Roger, Mark & Michele will hopefully get the university on board so that all parties are pulling in the same direction.

8.9 Special Events (Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)

Two special events are planned and these will be advertised in the spring MURANews.

8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)

No report. Anne has requested some signed cheques from MURA

8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne is still working on the draft web site. Her target date for completion is the end of March. She will send an email to have us test it, hopefully by the next Council meeting.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No report from Lorraine. Joe noted that today he received the web link to the President's latest report

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

The CURAC newsletter link is on the MURA web site

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

No report

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)

No report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff reported that the Hourly Pension Committee had a meeting recently. The consensus was that all the university plans are having a tough time and that the University investment firm is ultra conservative.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

No report

10. Other Business

No other business.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. April 13, 1:30 PM in MUSC 220.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3:05 PM

“that the meeting be adjourned”.

Carried

APPENDIX 1



McMaster University Retirees Association

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March 3, 2011

MURA Nominating Committee, 2011

Report to MURA Council, March 9, 2011

The appointed 2011 Nominating Committee has met, deliberated and is now pleased to forward the following report for Council approval. All candidates have stated their willingness to serve.

PRESIDENT (one year, to 2012):	Joe Laposa
VICE-PRESIDENT (one year, to 2012):	Marianne Walters
COUNCILLOR (three years, to 2014):	Kathy Heywood
COUNCILLOR (three years, to 2014):	Janice Rischke
COUNCILLOR (three years, to 2014):	Harold Siroonian

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen I. Barton".

Helen I. Barton, for

Helen Barton, Chair
Linda Grocott
Jim Kramer
Kathy Overholt
Pam Penny