



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 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, Mike Hedden, Mary Johnston, Joe Laposa (Chair), Shari Mercer, Pam Penny, Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Al Fraser, Michele Leroux, Marianne Van der Wel.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Council Meeting, April 13-for approval.

Moved by Stefania Miller, **seconded by** Mike Hedden

'That the minutes be adopted as corrected'

Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

Michelle in an email to Joe Laposa noted that there are **no** updates at this time. Lorraine Allan said that she had talked to two people who are retiring this June and neither had yet had an exit interview by Human Resources, which is supposed to be part of the retirement procedure. This matter will be pursued with Michelle Leroux by Joe Laposa. It was noted that by Helen Barton that Karin Middleton's name is now Karin Hewlett. This might cause some confusion when reaching her by phone but apparently her old email address is still functioning.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)

At \$42,456 there has been no change in the amount since the recent mailing to Alumni soliciting funds. It was unclear if MURA was mentioned in the Alumni letter and this needs to be checked out.**

4.2 \$10 K out of province medical coverage meeting MURA and Geoff Burman held on May 4 is covered in **8.8**

4.3 Pro Innovation CEO felt that the company could solicit part time help directly through MURA without conflicting with HR regulations. This opportunity was publicized via muramembs-1. It is unknown if the company has hired a retiree.
a retiree.

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 Convocation

An invitation for two MURA representatives to attend spring Convocation has been sent to Joe.

5.2 Website (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne sent an email to the executive in which she

- reported an update to the web site home page to note the AGM date and the need to RSVP.
- discusses the possibility of making the web site WIFI friendly (**WiFi** allows for wireless Internet connection through a wireless router within a local area usually a few hundred meters).
- raises the possibility of a MURA Facebook Fan Page

5.3 Pension Trust Committee

Les Robb will chair this committee for one more year. He notes that he will be very heavily occupied in the fall of 2011 with the provincial election.

5.4 10K Out-of-Province Insurance

An email from Patrick and Ellen Ryan was sent thanking MURA for their work on making the plan more useful.

5.5 Counselling Request

There was a request from a retiree for counseling help from MURA to aid in getting back in the job market. Helen Barton has offered to accompany this person during talks with Human Resources if the person is concerned about doing this alone.

5.6 Website

Marianne Van der Wel was seeking comments on how Council found the restructured website. Comments from Council members were most positive and can be generally summarized in the phrase 'people found it very user friendly'.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Waterloo Insurance

Joe will meet with Michael Marco (WI) to arrange the transfer of materials to be made available for the AGM

6.2 MUFA Negotiated Agreement with University

The copayment of benefits negotiated in the new agreement will affect all faculty that retire after 2012. An electronic copy of this agreement is to be circulated to Council members by Wayne.**

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

The current financial balance sheets have been forwarded to the auditor. The surplus for the year is calculated at \$2049. The new Council should address this matter the matter of continuing surpluses. **

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Pam Penny)

No report.

8.2 AGM (Joe Laposa, Pam Penny)

There was general discussion on the detailed preparations for the AGM that centred on the duties roster circulated by Pam Penny. The matter of a gift to the guest speaker Walter Peace was raised.

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

that a 'Titles' gift certificate of \$50 be presented to Dr. Peace along with a MURA notecard package

Carried Unanimously.

Beth Csordas will obtain the gift certificate.**

Wayne will check if Walter Peace's wife will attend the AGM lunch.**

There have been no nominations for Council from the membership at large as yet. Helen Barton will get some scrap paper cuts for use in the event there are nominations from the floor at the AGM.**

Helen Barton will send last year's AGM package to Joe Laposa and Beth Csordas. **

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to May 11, 2011

Dr Edith Herman Medicine - OT/PT April 17, 2011

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

Total membership as of May 11 is 2003. Opt Ins for email communication are increasing modestly.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The spring edition was sent to our members on schedule. The summer edition will be planned in June and sent out in July. Details will be announced at the June 8 Council meeting.

8.7 Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)

The nomination slate from Council appeared in the spring edition of MURANews.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

Human Resources provided a letter to Joe Laposa recognizing that Geoff Burman has been appointed by MURA to explore arrangements with private insurers to make better use of our present out-of-province travel benefit, and agreeing to include him in discussions with the University and Sun Life in considering plans which would be cost neutral to the University. Also HR has provided some of the requested information on past use of the out-of-province insurance.

MURA met with consultant Geoff Burman on May 5th to discuss which approach to follow to set up a group plan, and how to deal with retirees who do not have some or any of the \$ 10 K benefit available. In order to consider the additional cost of a group plan to the University it became apparent that additional information was needed from Human Resources about the present arrangement with Sun Life. In particular, we need to know when private insurance is held in addition to the McMaster group benefit if Sun Life is the "first payer" on any claim. The group agreed that there was a need for a meeting with HR and a Sun Life representative, but the date of May 12th proposed by Michele Leroux was unacceptable, due to the lack of availability of MURA members.

An e-mail to Michele Leroux subsequent to the meeting asking about the group plan as "first payer" prompted an unclear response. However, she did propose a meeting with Mark Haley, herself, and a Sun Life representative, and MURA representatives, including Geoff Burman, on Wednesday June 22. This meeting has now been scheduled for that date from 10am - 12 in Room 224, MSUC.

8.9 Special Events (Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)

Two special events are planned were advertised in the spring MURANews. The first of these involves a June 29 tour of the new Engineering building which includes a reception. The second to the Kleinberg art museum is planned for October 13 and will include lunch.

8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)

All trips are subscribed and on schedule. There will be a trip to see Mary Poppins sometime in late November and an Alaska cruise next summer. Anne distributed a financial statement current as of April 30, 2011.

8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

See Items 5.2 and 5.6.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No report. The B of G met May 5 with a skimpy agenda. There will be a student tuition increase to the upper limit allowed by the provincial government. The president is talking in general terms to substantially change the methods of instruction to deal with increasing student numbers and limited revenues.

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

Marianne Van der Wel's is attending the CURAC AGM that takes place May 11-13.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

There is no formal report. Negotiation between MUFA and McMaster have been resolved. All faculty who retire after 1012 will now be involved in co-payment schemes for benefits (see item **6.2**).

Peter Sutherland will be MUFA President in the coming year. This is a repeat performance for Peter at this post.

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. June 8, 1:30 PM in **TSH 122** (Note change in locale).

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3.28 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried