



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

**Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –
Wednesday, November 10, 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, Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Al Fraser, Mike Hedden, Mary Johnston, Joe Laposa (Chair), Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Michele Leroux, Shari Mercer, Stefania Miller, Marianne Van der Wel.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting –October 13 -for approval.

A number of changes to the provisional minutes as posted were introduced, particularly to the section on Human Resources.

Moved by Mike Hedden, seconded by Al Fraser that the minutes be adopted as revised. Carried Unanimously.

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

3.1 Report on how many medical claims by retirees had been made against the \$10,000 policy in the past 10 years.

Michele sent a message for Council, saying she has forwarded MURA's request for a reply and is awaiting feedback. **

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign (Beth

Csordas/Helen Barton)

The fund, at \$41, 483, is basically unchanged from October's report.

4.2 Revised portfolio descriptions (Wayne Rouse)

Revised portfolio descriptions were posted on the MURA- only website this past week and all councillors are ask to make revisions to the sections they are most concerned with. Already a number of revisions have been noted. These will all be gathered together and sent for final posting on the website by the end of the year. **

4.3 President's reception for new retirees – Council Involvement (Joe Laposa)

The reception was felt to be a success with a good representation from MURA. There were fewer retirees attending than previous years, probably because there were fewer who retired.

4.4 Autumn Graduation Dinner and Convocation (Joe Laposa).

Fall convocation activities will take place November 18 and 19. Joe Laposa and Beth Csordas will attend the dinner reception at the Student Centre on the 18th. Pam Penny and Mary Johnston will attend the Installation of the new president to be held at Hamilton Place on the 19th.

4.5 Academic Awards and Endowment Fund - thank you notes (Beth Csordas/Helen Barton)

Helen, Beth and Joe have formulated a common message to put on thank you notes to donors to the MURA Endowment Fund. The task involves sending out about 60 hand-written notes. This has been completed.

4.6 Clinical Faculty Pension Issue (Joe Laposa).

MURA helped facilitate a dialogue between the retired Clinical Faculty represented by Carl Moore and colleagues and the McMaster Administration represented by Roger Couldrey. Essentially the two protagonists have established a medium for consultation and both agree that MURA facilitation is no longer needed. The MURA intervention has served its purpose and can, hopefully, be closed down.

4.7 Human Resources and MURA Database Comparison of membership numbers (Joe Laposa).

Joe edited the MURA membership data base (to ensure privacy) and forwarded it to Human Resources. The object is to compare the MURA database to find the extent of disagreements in numbers with the HR database. So far there has been no acknowledgment from HR with respect to this initiative.

4.8 Video on Philanthropy to the University (Beth Csordas, Helen Barton).

Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Joe Laposa and Wayne Rouse took part in a video to support National Philanthropic week. The video will ultimately be edited to a 1 minute performance. Council waits in great anticipation and some ribaldry to see their stars perform.

4.9 Trips Committee – new member (Joe Laposa).

A potential new enthusiastic participant in the Trips Committee had identified herself at the reception for new retirees. Unfortunately this enthusiasm subsequently was dampened when the reality of her personal commitments changed.

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 University of Saskatchewan Retiree's Assoc. requesting information On how MURA handles volunteering.

Helen Barton has drafted a summary response to this request. In it she stressed that MURA's program was developed in conjunction with the Universities' Advancement section and that the University committed resources to the program. She stressed the care needed not to infringe on employees interests and rights and also, that it needs vigorous advancement to achieve success. Helen will forward this summary to the University of Saskatchewan Retiree's Association. **

5.2 Bob McNutt's Status with MURA.

Bob is eligible for associate membership in MURA as he receives a pension from a sister university.

Moved by Helen Barton and **seconded by** Kathy Overholt that Bob McNutt be appointed an associate member of MURA. **Carried.**

Wayne agreed to notify and welcome Bob into MURA. **

5.3 Waterloo Insurance Request.

Waterloo Insurance has a time-limited offer for retirees and would like to get this offer disseminated. It was decided to send notice of the offer via MURAmembs-1 and also to have about 100 brochures available to members at the Christmas lunch. It was also suggested that Waterloo Insurance might wish to offer a door prize for the lunch. Helen will handle the message in MURAmembs-1 **and Joe will look after getting the brochures**.

5.4 Prescription Dispensing Fees Query

A MURA member has recently been charged dispensing fees for the first time and was wondering if this was an infringement on an agreement between pharmacy and the university. Human Resources state that there is no such agreement. For anyone over 65 yrs the government covers a portion of the dispensing fee and our Sun Life plan covers the remainder. For those younger, the Sun Life plan covers \$6.50, but it is up to the pharmacy to set a dispensing fee and whether to waive fees above our coverage. Some charge and some don't and some may change at any time. It was agreed that the situation should be explained in the next MURAnews edition in January. **

5.5. CURAC Request for Regular Membership Fee (\$300) for July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Moved by Helen Dietsche and **seconded by** Helen Barton that we pay the bill.
Carried**

5.6 A recent McMaster retiree has heard that McMaster retirees are not being rehired by the university, and has asked for clarification.

**Joe Laposa will forward a privacy-insured form of the request to Human Resources and Vice President Roger Couldrey.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Christmas Lunch Invitations for Special Guests

To date, the following guests have all accepted invitations to be guests at the Christmas lunch

President Deane and his wife
Chancellor Wilson and his wife
Virginia Aksan, President of MUFA
The MURA prize winner

6.2 Signing Authority Changes

Signing Authority Changes have been completed for our 2 credit union accounts.

Signing authority change on the trips account, to be changed to two of Beth Csordas, Joe Laposa and Anne Sinclair needs to be done a.s.a.p. **

Anne will need signed cheques by January 9 to pay for upcoming trips. **

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

7.1 Update

Beth reported that we are still running under budget for the year. She needs a requisition for the latest MURAnews printing costs. **

7.2 Three-Year Budget - approach to sponsor groups

In years past this has been successful with very precise timing. It is presented below as a series of steps.

- In January the Treasurer invoices for the final year payment of the 3-Yr budget.
- The new 3-Yr budget is prepared in the fall (2010)
- Approaches to the various funding support groups are generally based on the number of their retirees who belong and are supported by MURA.
- CAW is usually approached first since they must take any request for support to their executive committee for approval.
- After CAW support is indicated, MUFA is next solicited.
- To date there has been no support from the Clinical faculty of the University. Their numbers are dwindling but they have been and will be continue to be supported by MURA. They should be approached once again and be informed that MURA supported them with major effort in the pension rebate discussions.
- There is some evidence that SEIU may be ready to support their retirees in MURA. Cliff Andrews is a key player in this scenario and Helen will contact Cliff about these possibilities. **
- Finally the University President will be presented with our needs with as much documentation from the other sources listed above as possible.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Lunch (Joe Laposa, Pam Penny)

- Responses from special guests
See 6.1 above.

- Request re United Way Appeal Campaign

The United Way wishes to reach as many retirees as possible since they contribute about ¼ of the total McMaster giving. Although MURA does not officially support the United Way, Council is willing to send a campaign message that originates from United Way officials via MURAmembs-1. **

- Who says grace

Council agreed that there should be no grace offered at the Christmas lunch.

- Payment by HR attendees

The 3 people who have indicated they will attend the lunch will be charged at the same rate as the retirees

- Signs

Marianne Van derWel, who has the signs, with aid from Mary Johnston, will look after the placing of signs. **

- Name Tags

Kathy Overholt will distribute and retrieve the MURA name tags. **

- Parking

Helen Barton will obtain parking passes to be made available to those attending the lunch who need them. **

- New Bookstore Deal

As well as the 20% discount on gift ware and clothing those with the catalogue 'Books for Everyone' can get 20% discount on books listed in the catalogue. Joe Laposa will ensure that these catalogues are available at the registration table. **

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny)

No Report

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Death notices received up to November 10, 2010

Annelise Giddins Psychiatry Sep 11, 2010

Elizabeth Brown Facility Services Oct 2, 2010

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

Currently we officially have 1980 members which is almost unchanged from last month.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The next edition will be published in January. The committee will meet the week of November 14.

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

OCUFA (Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations) has recently done a survey of various university benefits and they vary widely. A number of universities have substantially better out-of-province/out-of-country health benefit plans for their retirees, than does McMaster. MUFA has been considering the 10K insurance benefit for McMaster retirees and may seek changes to the benefit in upcoming negotiations with the university. MURA continues to be involved in this and hopefully any improvements could be made retroactive. A meeting of the MURA pensions & benefits committee will be set up a.s.a.p. to generate suggestions to MUFA as to how the benefit might best be changed.

8.9 Special Events

If special local events such as trips to art galleries, museums etc. require bus travel, Anne Sinclair is quite willing through her contacts to facilitate hiring of the buses.

8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)

The trips budget has a current balance of \$3,596.39 which will allow a \$500 transfer to MURA general accounts. Anne also noted that a 15 cabin luxury cruiser is being refitted and will sail the Thames from end to end. She is looking to booking the cruise and combining it with local bus outings in the Thames Valley for sometime in 2012.

8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

No Report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

In the October 21 meeting that Lorraine was unable to attend there did not appear to be much of significance to MURA. Lorraine obtained a copy of Patrick Deane's report to the board which has now been posted on the just council web site. Lorraine will send future presidential reports directly to Marianne Van der Wel for posting with copies to Wayne. **

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

No Report

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

See Item 8.8

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)

No Report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

Al noted that the union members lost ground in their recent negotiations.

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No Report

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

No new Report

10. Other Business

10.1 Secretary for December.

Kathy Overholt has kindly agreed to serve as secretary for the Christmas lunch and the December Council meeting. Joe Laposa invited Kathy to attend the executive meeting on Wednesday Dec. 1, at 9:30 a.m. in MUSC 230.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday December 8, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in MUSC 220.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried** at 3:40 PM.