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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association,
Wednesday September 8, 2010, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Rm 220.

Present: Lorraine Allan, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Mike Hedden, Joe Laposa (Chair), Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Wayne Rouse, Marianne Van der Wel and Marianne Walters

Regrets: Al Fraser, Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer, Pam Penny, Anne Sinclair. Michele Leroux.

1. Welcome & Regrets:

Joe Laposa called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Beth Csordas that the Council meeting minutes of June 10, 2010 be adopted as corrected. **Motion carried.**

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

There was no report. During discussion it was agreed that Joe Laposa should seek a meeting between Michelle Leroux and the MURA executive within the next two weeks to discuss items of mutual concern.

4. Business Arising – updates on

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

Beth announced that the current level of the Endowment Fund is \$41,483 which is an increase of \$1,200 from last June's meeting.

Beth raised a number of matters regarding future and past donations as follows.

A meeting has been arranged between Jenny Thompson and Karen McQuigge and the retirees association regarding future fundraising opportunities. Items on the agenda include the next steps with the MURA scholarship and prize fund and plans for next year's campus community campaign which encourages giving back to McMaster from the various campus constituents, faculty, staff and students, and also includes the university event series, 'Doors Open McMaster'. Another item to be discussed at the meeting would be the possibility of including retirees in the various projects and events.

Helen has queried by email if it's possible to have the MURA Fund added as a Gift Designation choice on the online donation page. The MURAnews committee has been talking about how to promote donations and think that they would really like to feature the online option and making a gift "in honour or memory", but feel it would be much more appealing to people if they could "pick" MURA from the list rather than having to write it in as a Special Instruction. In response, Jenny Thompson had a "fund specific" web page created for the MURA fund.

Finally Beth noted that we have fallen behind (Sep 09 to Aug 10) in our thank you notes to MURA donors, but we need an updated donor list before we can act on this.

4.2 Revised portfolio descriptions (Wayne Rouse)

The updating of the portfolio descriptions is coming along well. There are still a few updates that need to be dealt with. It was agreed to by Council that the revised portfolio descriptions should be posted on the web with notification to Council that they should be checked for accuracy and/or need of further revision.

4.3 Bookstore discounts (Joe Laposa)

Joe wrote to Donna Shapiro on possible discounts for MURA members. Donna turned the query over to Stacey Gabitous. Stacey indicated that there are no special deals for MURA members or for anyone else in the McMaster Community. However, she did indicate that events could be organized possibly accompanied by special perks. Discussion took place about possibilities of organizing a special event at the bookstore following the Christmas luncheon. Joe Laposa said he would pursue this possibility with Stacey.

4.4 Abolishing tuition for students over 65 (Joe Laposa)

This is currently a non-issue having being put on hold by the University

Administration.

4.5. MURA Treasurer (Joe Laposa)

Joe gave a brief history on the recent situation regarding MURA treasurer. Beth Csordas currently is treasurer and vice-president. She does not wish to be president in the future. She will remain as vice-president to the end of the 2010-2011 year after which she would step down from the vice-presidency but continue to act as treasurer. Council endorsed this scenario. Kathy Overholt moved that we express our delight with Beth's decision to continue in both portfolio roles. Seconded by Stefania Miller. Carried.

4.6 Committee changes, portfolio reassignments (Joe Laposa)

It was noted that Kathy Overholt will be acting as liaison with CAW.

MURA needs a Special Events chair or co-chairs. The possibility of Shari Mercer and Mary Johnson taking part in this portfolio was raised, and Joe Laposa will explore this with Shari and Mary this upcoming Monday, when they return from Cape Cod. A number of names were mentioned of people who might contribute to Special Events.

4.7 Parking (Helen Barton)

There have been a number of problems with retiree parking that have arisen this summer. Helen will set up a meeting between herself, Joe and Beth and Terry Sullivan in his office. In addition to resolving current problems the idea of instituting permanent retiree parking permits will be raised at this meeting.

4.8 McMaster Online Directory (Helen Barton)

The installation of this system is almost complete and the procedures to follow will be outlined shortly on the MURA retiree's website and will be additionally noted in MURAnews.

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 The McMaster President's reception for new retirees

This will take place on Thursday Oct. 14 commencing at 0430. MURA volunteers help welcome the new retirees, work on the registration desk supplying name tags and generally smooze telling everyone what a great organization we are. A sign up sheet was circulated and finished with 7 volunteer's names. Wayne will contact our absent members about the event and will look after name tags for those attending.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Christmas Lunch Invitation to President and Mrs. Deane

Both President Patrick and Mrs. Sheila Deane will attend our Christmas luncheon as guests.

6.2 Convocation Dinner on June 10

Joe attended the convocation dinner. He reported that it was a most enjoyable experience and he recommends it to others in the future.

6.3 New Retiree Letter

Joe has prepared a new retiree's letter of welcome from MURA and forwarded it to Stephanie Ellul in HR on June 11, 2010. He has received no acknowledgement or feedback and will now follow this up.

6.4 Signing Authorities

Signing Authority changeover to the new executive needs to be undertaken soon. Beth will attempt to find out just what and who are needed and establish mutually acceptable dates for this august event.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

7.1 Beth tabled an updated treasurer's report indicating that MURA finances are healthy.

7.2 It was **moved by** Beth Csordas and **seconded by** Mike Hedden that Bob West be appointed auditor for the 2010-2011 financial year. **Carried unanimously.**

7.3 Discussions on MURA's next 3-year financial contract negotiations should be initiated at the October 6 Executive meeting.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Luncheon (Pam Penny)

It was uncertain if Pam Penny had met with Paradise Catering to get a per meal quote that will allow us to set a price/head for the luncheon. This is somewhat urgent as it must be included in the fall MURAnews. Joe will contact Pam and pursue a meeting if this has not already taken place.

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

No Report

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

A thank you was extended to Shari Mercer and Pam Penny who covered for Helen during the summer.

The following have passed on since our last report.

Blakely MacFarlane	Dept. of Surgery	Apr. 16, 2010
Lee Brooks	Psychology	Jun. 2, 2010
Arthur Gladwin	Electrical Engineering	Jun. 6, 2010
Beatrice Pickett	Library	Jun. 28, 2010
Donald Dawson	Economics	Jul. 9, 2010
Dora Haisell	Student Laison	Jul. 9, 2010
Elizabeth Waring	Housing and Food Services	Aug. 3, 2010
Roger Bouchard	Media Production Services	Aug. 5, 2010
Raymond Fuca	Building & Operations	Aug. 5, 2010
Clark Pinnock	Divinity College	Aug. 15, 2010

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

Members as of September 4, 2010 totalled **1978**. This compares to a total of **1960** members as of June 9.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

There have been accolades for MURAnews. This includes a readership from CURAC our national body. A great job from all involved.

Kathy announced the following dates for the fall mailing.

- Sep. 15 Deadlines for submissions
- To printing by Oct. 6
- Oct. 13 Envelope stuffing MSC 220, 12:30 to 13:30

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

Anyone who wishes to play a larger role in MURA leadership should contact Helen Barton as Beth Csordas will not be standing for the position of Vice President for next year.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

No Report

8.9 Special Events

As noted previously Joe will be approaching Mary Johnston and Shari Mercer re leadership roles in the Special Events program.

8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)

No Report.

8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne met with Patricia Chan in August. During this past summer Patricia created a page containing links to MURA news articles written in the past few years relating to Pensions and Benefits to create easier access to such articles. The link to this new page is currently on the public MURA web site and on its MURAnews page. Marianne was wondering if Council would like to meet Patricia. It was generally agreed it would be worthwhile and Marianne will extend an invitation.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

The B of G had a short meeting in June that was mainly devoted to Peter George's retirement. Roger Trull did a very impressive Power Point presentation on the last financial campaign. Lorraine thought that this might be available if anyone was interested. The Board will be having a retreat in October.

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

Helen noted that AROHE, the international Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (mostly U.S. membership), of which CURAC is a member, has produced a list of the various activities of retirement associations. It makes for very interesting reading.

Marianne Van der Wel circulated a draft version of the CURAC manual that has been translated into French.

9.3 MUFA Liaison (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

The President of MUFA is arranging a meeting between MUFA, MURA and chair of the remunerations committee to discuss mutual concerns and more specifically the 10K retiree insurance policy of which there seems little information on how it can or should be used.

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)

No Report.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No Report.

9.6 CAW/Hourly Pension Liaison (Cliff Andrews)

No Report.

9.7 Salaried Pension/Benefits Liaison (Marianne Walters)

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Barton that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried at 3:45 P.M.

12. Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday October 13, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in MUSC 220. Note: This meeting will be preceded by envelope stuffing at 12:30