



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 1:30 PM in MSU, Room 224.

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

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Lorraine Allan, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Karin Hewlett, Mary Johnston, Joe Laposa (Chair), Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Anne Sinclair, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Van der Wel, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Kathy Heywood, Wayne Rouse, Janice Rischke.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting, March 14, 2012 (for approval)

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded by** Mary Johnston

“That the minutes be adopted as presented”

Carried unanimously with no discussion.

3. Human Resources Report (Karin Hewlett)

3.1 Additional responses from HR letter to non-MURA retirees

Joe received an information package this morning. This results in 16 additional names on this list and 3 or 4 returned by Canada Post with bad addresses.

3.2 MURA’s reception of notification of retirees’ deaths

Joe noted that sometimes there is a major time lapse between public obituary notices and HR notification to MURA. Karin explained that HR must rely upon official notification by the deceased’s family or executor and cannot proceed using public obituary notices alone. Joe asked if there is any use in our notifying HR when we see the public obituary notices. Karin responded that MURA should continue with that practice. **

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Volunteer Outreaches

4.1.1 City Kidz (Helen Barton)

The information received from the organization has been posted on ListServe, has been referenced on the MURA website and will appear in MURAnews. **

4.1.2 VON (Helen Barton)

Joe received from VON a list of available volunteer jobs. He has forwarded the information to Helen, Mary and Kathy. This has been posted on ListServe, will be referenced on the MURA website and will appear in MURAnews. **

4.1.3 Volunteer Hamilton Lunch ‘n Learn (Joe Laposa)

The McMaster contact, Mary Koziol, is on a personal leave of absence and, as a result, a proposed pre-meeting for April 12th or 13th is cancelled. The main event, however, will take place on May 15th. The details, parking issues, etc. have yet to be addressed. When asked if the event was just for McMaster people, Joe replied he thought this was the case. Helen said that she and Mary Johnston will create an announcement for the newsletter.

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4.2 Christmas Lunch Concerns (Pam Penny)

Janice and Pam are to meet with MSU on May 4th to sort out the venue and make bookings for the 2012 Christmas Lunch.

4.3 Retiree Query re eye glasses coverage (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff has heard about a member in the TMG retiree group under age 65 that had a claim for optician’s eye exam denied. Karin responded that she didn’t think eye exams are covered in the benefits plan and other Council members concurred. Helen Dietsche noted that the expense can be claimed on income tax.

4.4 Broker Advantage recognition (Marianne Walters)

Marianne with input from members of the Pension and Benefits Committee has prepared an article for MURAnews on the considerable help provided by Geoff Burman in clarifying with HR the use of our \$ 10,000 benefit as a deductible on additional travel insurance, and the nature of the services offered by his company “ Broker Advantage”. The Committee will also be working on suggestions for providing more information about our retiree emergency travel coverage on the MURA website.

4.5 MURA Trips Policy (Anne Sinclair, Kathy Heywood, Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)

Shari noted that there is a current policy to be found on the web site. The Trips Committee will work on suggestions for updating that policy in time for the next executive meeting.

4.6 (for future action) Promotion of MURA retirees in service sectors

At the last Council meeting the idea of a directory of services (e.g. electrical, travel) was proposed. Marianne Van der Wel noted that this would entail a considerable amount of work. After discussion Joe concluded that a consensus felt that no further action should be taken at this time.

4.7 (for future action) List of local Achievement Centres for web site

Pam volunteered to compile a list if Council wishes.

Mary mentioned that there was a reference to these centres in a fitness article in MURAnews last year and she will consider doing a future article on centres. **

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 CCAS volunteer activities

Helen Barton will advertise this on List Serve shortly. **

5.2 Termination of free banking for seniors

Joe received an email from an external organization reporting that RBC have already scrapped free banking services for future seniors and TD have just announced that they are cancelling Plan 60 for future seniors. The communication wanted us to encourage members to help fight this. Council agreed that Council shouldn't take further action.

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded by** Mary Johnston

“That Council take no action on this request.”

Carried unanimously.

5.3 CARP reduced rate membership

Joe received email from the CURAC president to say they have negotiated a reduced rate for a one-year membership to CARP plus Zoomer mag from \$34.95 to \$24.95. Helen stated there will be a small announcement of this in MURANews with web link and offer to mail form to anyone who would like one. **

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 MURA Trips

Joe- talked to Anne Sinclair after last meeting and she has decided not to organize any further trips for MURA.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

7.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising

The fund at \$48,569 is up \$475 since February. The Alumni is to invite donors to the MURA AGM lunch and Karen McQuigge has confirmed there will be a cake and photographer. McQuigge believes there is plenty of time to work on details. Helen Barton noted that invitations are to be mailed out right after MURANews goes out. Pam stated that we need to know how many will be attending. Beth will let Alumni know that we're concerned about the timing. **

7.2 Audit preparations

Bob West will need the books by May 16th and will send his report by May 21st. There will be no problem with getting the Printing done.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Pam Penny, Janice Rischke)

No Report

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny, Janice Rischke)

- Joe will prepare a slide show. **
- Helen Barton will provide a projector. **
- Cliff has a tentative agreement for PA system but wondered if Paradise can provide backup? Pam will investigate. **
- Pam emailed Parking about handicap parking and was assured there would be a roped off area plus an attendant. However, Helen Barton added that Parking have never followed through in past.
- Prizes. Wayne offered to provide one prize. ** Cliff is to contact Al Fraser to see if he

would also contribute a prize. ** Kathy will approach Bookstore to ask if they will donate a tee shirt, sweatshirt or ball cap. **

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to Apr. 11, 2012

Sophia Berenbaum	Psychiatry	February 21 2012
Helen Dwyer	Centre for Continuing Education	February 15 2012
Cesar Rouben	French	March 9 2012
Sharon Branton	Health Sciences Library	March 10 2012

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

The current membership is

Members	1788
Survivors	282
Total	2076

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Everything is on schedule.

8.7 Nominating (Laposa)

Joe has sent report to Mary for inclusion in MURAnews.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

No Report

8.9 Trips (Anne Sinclair, Kathy Heywood, Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)

The Chicago trip is next week and Shari is working on the other upcoming trips. Mary has 26 people signed up for Art Gallery tour tomorrow.

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Some features of the MURA web site do not work with ipads and touch screens. Marianne has consulted her expert who will provide a fix, or else, Marianne will do some coding.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No report. The meeting is next week.

9.2 CURAC (Joe Laposa, Marianne Walters)

9.2.1 Victoria 2012 AGM - Information about best practices

Marianne Walters is scheduled to present short talks at the CURAC AGM on the MURA endowment fund and MURA's no-fee membership. She has met with Beth to get the history of the scholarship/bursary program and has met with Helen Barton to understand how the "no MURA fees" came about.

9.2.2 Ontario Regional Conference Autumn 2012

Joe saw confirmation in the CURAC newsletter that this regional meeting is scheduled

and that details will follow.

9.2.3 St. John's Nfld 2013 AGM

This conference will be held on June 12-14.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

No report.

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)

Kathy Overholt reported that Janice has written to Matt Root to request a meeting, but as yet has received no reply.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison

Cliff Andrews has heard that hourly staff are having trouble getting negotiated incremental pay increases.

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No report.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

No report.

10. Other Business

10.1 Special tuition rates for alumni.

Joe received a query re whether there is a special tuition rate for alumni over 65. Council believes that over 65 tuition rates apply to everyone, but recommend that the inquirer be referred to the Registrar's Office. **

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. May 09, 2012, 1:30 PM in MSU 220.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3:08 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried

09/05/2012