



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, Dec 14, 2011, 2:00 PM at MSU, Room 220.

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

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Kathy Heywood, Mary Johnston, Joe Laposa (Chair), Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Janice Rischke, Wayne Rouse, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Van der Wel, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Lorraine Allan, Al Fraser, Michele Leroux, Anne Sinclair.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting –November 9, 2011 (for approval)

Moved by Kathy Overholt, **seconded by** Beth Csordas

'That the minutes be adopted as corrected'

Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

3.1 Update on HR and MURA Database Comparison

Via email Michele requests that MURA send her a few sentences describing why it is worthwhile for retirees not on the MURA membership list to become listed. This will go into the letter being sent by HR to retirees not in the MURA database. Joe will deal with this with the help of the letter to new retirees that list MURA benefits. **

3.2 Sun Life Travel Insurance Plan

Via email Michele notes that a meeting with Sun Life re: their new travel insurance plan cannot be arranged until early February. She will recommend possible dates for it next week. **

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)

The endowment fund total = \$45,886 which is up \$250 over the last month.

4.2 CURAC (Joe Laposa)

4.2.1 Ontario Regional Conference

The conference has been postponed to the fall of 2012. MURA's involvement will be an action item for the 2012-2013 Council to implement.

4.2.2 Best Practices

CURAC has sent a questionnaire asking for associations' best practices that will be discussed at the spring national meeting in Vancouver. It was felt that MURA should not be strictly bound by the questionnaire's request for two items and that worthwhile items we could discuss include

- Bursary grants to students
- Unique funding and inclusiveness
- Representation on Board of Governors
- Special events and trips
- Newsletter and web site

4.3 Autumn Graduation Dinner (Marianne Walters)

Marianne and Beth attended the dinner and had a good time.

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 Cowan Insurance

Unless they are associated with McMaster or CURAC in some official way MURA should not be involved in promoting insurance companies just because they offer group plans.

5.2 Co-Pay arrangements for faculty

McMaster faculty who retire from July 2012 onward will be contributing toward their own post-retirement benefits. Subsequently other university groups will be doing likewise. It is likely that MURA will have requests to advice on benefits under these co-pay plans. During Joe Laposa and Marianne Walters' meeting with President Deane, Deane favoured keeping MURA informed of the co-pay arrangements and following this Joe Laposa received a letter from Roger Couldrey to this effect. Joe will reply to this letter in appropriate fashion. **

5.3 Waterloo Insurance Second Medical Opinion Coverage

WI has developed a Second Medical Opinion add on for those already holding homeowners insurance with the company. They would like MURA to notify our membership about this but Council felt that the company can communicate that information themselves to their current and prospective policy holders. Hence MURA will take no action.

5.4 Database comparison

According to Roger Couldrey this will be acted upon by HR a.s.a.p.

5.5 McMaster Seminar on Higher Education

A query from a MURA member questioned why the first seminar couldn't have been led by a Canadian. Council did not indicate it wished to act on this suggestion because it really lies outside our mandate. The member was advised to direct his comments directly to President Deane.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch was deemed to be successful. We will need to book early for next year's lunch. The suggested date is Tuesday Dec 4 which is the day after classes end and

before exams start **. The following problem areas were identified arising from this year's event.

- There were a number of parking problems in spite of Helen Barton's best efforts to alert Parking and solicit their cooperation. There was not enough space. There were no attendants available to help with general problems and with handicapped persons in particular.
- Two buffet tables are needed (2 lines each) to speed up the service which took up to 45 min. to complete.
- Refreshing of depleted food platters was slow and held up the line.
- Vegetable dishes were cold because there were no sterno heating units in place.
- The bar was badly placed, being right next to the serving line.
- The room was crowded so that it was difficult to navigate around the tables. This could be alleviated if there were fewer Christmas trees and if the coat rack was moved outside the dining room allowing the tables to be more widely-spaced.

Pam Penny will liaise with the manager of Food Services, Larry Marsh, in order to establish the date for next year (Dec. 4) and to discuss the problem areas noted above**.

6.2 December 8 Meeting with Mary Koziol.

Helen Barton, Joe and Wayne met with Mary, who works in the President's Office as Assistant to the President, Special Community Initiatives. Her mandate is to explore the University's engagement with the community by activities such as outreach into the community, research, classes and volunteer activities by groups. To date her efforts have concentrated on documenting activities that are ongoing or have been recently initiated. MURA briefly introduced to Mary our activities, which have been largely confined to the university community. Mary noted three groups with university involvement. The first of these is 'Volunteer Hamilton'. The second is the 'Student Open Circles' in which students carry out volunteer work in the community and the third is the 'Student Success Centre' career mentors program? Volunteer Hamilton has space for and facilitates 'lunch and learn' programs where they can offer ideas and advice to small groups during, as the name suggests, a luncheon period. If MURA wants to get our members more involved in community volunteer activities this 'lunch and learn' format could be a place to start.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

7.1 MURA Donor reception

In lieu of a separate donor reception it is suggested that a thank you to donors be included with the AGM. We can ask Patrick Deane to thank the donors on behalf of the university and Alumni Affairs will donate a Donor's Cake. There may be a few donors who are not MURA members, which has budget implications for the total luncheon bill, but we won't know that until we get feedback from invitations and can deal with it at that time. Adequate space in Celebration Hall is not seen as a problem.

7.2 Christmas Luncheon

Overall the luncheon total cost was about \$200 under budget.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Pam Penny, Al Fraser, Janice Rischke)

This topic was dealt with in Item 6.1.

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny, Al Fraser, Janice Rischke)
No Report

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to Dec 14, 2011

Mary Smith	Office of the Registrar	October 24 2011
Maria D'Agostino	Facility Services	October 29 2011
Willi Rudi Berkmeier	Facility Services	October 29 2011
Davina Warden	Facility Services	November 1 2011
Mervyn Cain	Physical Plant	November 11 2011
Eva Dups	Building Operations	November 22 2011

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)
No Report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

The current membership at 2073 is holding fairly steady.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Jan. 11-Deadline for news article input

Jan. 20- Printing

Jan 25 or 26- Stuffing

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

The nomination committee which comprises the chair + 2 Council members and 2 nonmembers must be formed by January 11, 2012. Helen would like suggestions of possible members for the committee.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

A Pension and Benefits Committee meeting will be needed in January.

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

Shari reported that two new trips are in the planning stages, one in the summer and one in the fall. A retiree queried why MURA doesn't offer more Canadian trips.

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne reported on current updates of the Web site. These include better channeling of links to pension information and to various perks. The MURAnews Archives on Pensions and Benefits has been broken into

- Pensions
- Health and Benefits

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No Report

9.2 CURAC (Joe Laposa) – MURA Delegate to April 2012 AGM

Marianne Walters has agreed to be the MURA delegate to the CURAC AGM to be held in Vancouver. Marianne Van der Wel noted that the Winter Newsletter is ready but not on the website yet, and also that the Spring issue is also not on the website.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

No Report

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)

No Report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No Report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff reported that the plan fell short of the amount needed for upward indexing. The pension committee will be reviewing the performance of their investment company in January.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

Report has been filed in MURA Council Website.

10. Other Business

There is now a weekly 'McMaster Update' that is sent by email to the McMaster All Users List. Helen Barton is exploring with UTS how retirees can request to be added to this list.**

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. Jan 11, 2012, 1:30 PM in MSU 220.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 310 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried

03/01/12