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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Room 220.

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Lorraine Allan, Al Fraser, Anne Sinclair, Marianne Van der Wel.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting –December 14, 2011 (for approval)

Moved by Kathy Overholt, **seconded by** Harold Siroonian
'That the minutes be adopted as presented'
Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

3.1 The letter to MURA members for whom we have no contact information should be sent out in February. It contains input from MURA and will be vetted by MURA before it is sent. In the interim, it is necessary for the lawyers representing HR to review the letter.

3.2 Meetings between Sun Life, HR and MURA re: out of province (country) health insurance are on schedule for Feb. 2, 2012.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)
The endowment fund total = $47,471 which is up $1845 over the last month. Additionally $1900 have been pledged which brings the grand total close to $50,000.

4.2 The MURA pension & benefits committee and executive will meet with a Sun Life representative and HR personnel to discuss Sun Life plans for retirees

out- of- province travel health insurance, Feb. 2, MUSC 203, 10::00-11:30 AM. Marianne Walters has arranged a post-conference meeting for the MURA pension and benefits committee and executive to discuss the Sun Life-HR proposition. It will commence at 11:30 AM in MUSC 302

4.3 HR letter to non-MURA retirees (Joe Laposa)

Joe has sent notes to be incorporated in HR's letter to MURA members who are not on our mailing list (See 3.1 above).

4.4 CURAC AGM (Joe Laposa)

Joe has contacted CURAC re: our representative at the AGM and MURA's potential presentations.

4.5 Information re retiree Co-Pay calculations (Joe Laposa)

Joe has contacted Roger Couldrey thanking him for confirming our understanding that he will keep us informed on substantive aspects of the retiree Co-Pay calculations.

4.6 Cowan Insurance (Marianne Walters)

Marianne could not reach our contact with Cowan Insurance to inform her of the MURA policy on advertising group plans, as she is away until January 17th. Marianne will contact her shortly after that date.**

4.7 Christmas Lunch – (Pam Penny)

4.7.1 Date for 2012 Luncheon

The CIBC Banquet Centre has been booked for Tuesday Dec. 4, 2012.

4.7.2 Liaison with Parking and Food Services re 2011 concerns

Pam is waiting to hear back from Parking re. problems involving the 2011 Christmas Party. Helen Barton would like to be involved in these discussions**. The Christmas Lunch Committee will be meeting with Food Services to discuss the 2011 catering concerns**.

4.8 McMaster Update

Helen has been seeking information re: MURA members who are not receiving 'McMaster Update' via email. It appears that some members with McMail Email addresses and some without get the 'Update' and others in each category do not. Helen continues to pursue this with UTS. She is seeking as much information from members as possible to aid her case.**

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 Salaried Pension Plan Solvency Relief

All retired salaried Pension Plan Member received a letter from Mark Haley (HR) re. McMaster's application to the Ontario Government for

Pension Plan Solvency Relief. Les Robb will be discussing the implications of this move in the upcoming MURAnews.

5.2. Waterloo Insurance

A one page WI brochure will be sent out in MURAnews Winter Edition. WI will cover additional mailing costs if any are incurred.

5.3 Open Circles Community Action Volunteer Program

Helen Barton + 5 other retirees attended a presentation by the Open Circles Community Action Volunteer Program held on Jan. 6. Students already had their placements for regular commitment during the winter term. The few remaining openings did not suit the schedules of any of the MURA attendees. Helen noted that there are other types of volunteer commitments such as a one-day volunteer effort in March. At this time, Helen is the liaison person for Open Circle-MURA interactions.

5.4 Pension Plan Management Query

A retiree queried if the McMaster Pension Investments included portfolios other than those based in Canada-USA. Les Robb addressed this inquiry with a Yes! European investments are still held by the Pension Plan although hopefully it has been ridded of toxic ones.

5.5 Community Engagement

Mary Koziol (President's Office, Special Community Initiatives) wrote to Joe that she has been in contact with Michael Gustar of Volunteer Hamilton. The latter is very enthusiastic about MURA's involvement and would 'love to do a Lunch n/Learn with MAC retirees'. Mary will arrange to link Michael directly with MURA.

5.6 MURA Christmas Lunch Slideshow

The slide show is slow to download and there is no indication when this has been completed. Query Marianne Van der Wel on the chance she can add a clock or something similar.**

5.7 Ilene J Busch-Vishniac

Our Provost & V.P. Academic will be taking up a new post as President of the University of Saskatchewan at the end of the current academic year.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Council Photo on Website

It has been posted.

6.2 Appointment of MURA Council Treasurer for 2012-2013.

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded** by Helen Dietsche
'That Beth Csordas be appointed as MURA Treasurer for 2012-2013'.
Motion carried unanimously without discussion.

6.3 Appointment of MURA Council Secretary for 2012-2013.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Harold Siroonian
'That Wayne Rouse be appointed as MURA Secretary for 2012-2013'.
Motion carried unanimously without discussion.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

Beth will send out invoices to our funding supporters within a few days. **

8. Information Reports from Committees

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

Beth reported that the Christmas Party's total cost was $287.59 which was well under the budget of $485.

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny, Al Fraser, Janice Rishke)

This is McMaster's 125th Anniversary Year. Pam queried whether or not MURA should do something in recognition at the AGM. She will liaise with the University Anniversary Committee to see if something appropriate could be pursued.**

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche

To January 11, 2012

John Buckle	Security Services	October 19 2011
Dr. James Fraser Mustard	Medicine/Pathology	November 16 2011
Andrew Brink	English	November 25 2011
Pawlo Chabluk	Facility Services	December 7 2011

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 (a) Membership (Pam Penny)

Current membership is 2076.

8.5(b) Lunch Bunch (Pam Penny)

Pam noted that when she steps down from Council there is none to replace her as chief organizer. It was suggested that she should canvas the current Lunch Bunch attendees asking if anyone is volunteering to step up to lead. If not then it will disappear.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Kathy confirmed the following dates
Jan. 11(today)-Deadline for news article input
Jan. 20- To Printing
Jan 26- Stuffing

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

It was **moved** by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Wayne Rouse

'that the nominating committee comprise the following'
Joe Laposa – Chair
Shari Mercer – Council Member
Harold Siroonian – Council Member
Jim Kramer – Outside Member
Bob West – Outside Member

The motion was **carried unanimously**.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

No Report. For information on upcoming meetings with Sun Life see Item 4.2.

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

Shari noted that the committee has a trip lined up for every month in 2012. There are also additional day trips in the pipeline. A 'snow-trip' to Agawa Canyon is being organized for 2013.

8.10 Web Site **(**Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne welcomes feedback with respect to anything on the web sites. Pam noted that if 'lunch-bunch' is cancelled it will need removal from the web site.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan) - See two associated reports attached.

There was no discussion arising from the reports.

9.2 CURAC (Joe Laposa)

Our input to the April AGM has been made and we have paid our dues.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

Marianne noted that she and Lorraine will update MUFA on MURA's interest in, and access to, the results of the 'CO-PAY' calculations. .**

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)

No Report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No Report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No Report. Cliff has submitted a short report for the MURAnews winter edition.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

No Report. Les has submitted a report for the MURAnews winter edition.

10. Other Business

10.1 Helen Barton received a file of photos of the 'President's Reception for New Retirees' held last fall. She is condensing them for all, who wish, to see.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

February 08, 1:30 PM in MUSC 224.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 02:50 PM

'*That the meeting be adjourned'*

Carried

08/02/2012