



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 1:30 PM at MSU, Room 220.

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

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Lorraine Allan, Cliff Andrews, Helen Dietsche, Kathy Heywood, Karin Hewlett, Joe Laposa (Chair), Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Mary Johnston, Janice Rischke, Marianne Van der Wel.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting –February 08, 2012 (for approval)

Moved by Shari Mercer, **seconded by** Kathy Heywood

‘That the minutes be adopted as presented’

Carried unanimously with no discussion.

3. Human Resources Report (Karin Hewlett)

3.1 Responses from HR letter to non-MURA retirees

Karin reported that the first returns from the letter gave 29 returns. It is not clear whether these included those whose addresses had been changed or lost, or those who had not opted for MURA at retirement or a combination of both. There are about another 12 respondents who have not yet been forwarded from HR.

3.2 MURA’s reception of notification of retirees’ deaths

Karin will look into possible reasons why the names of some MURA members who are known to have died have not been forwarded from HR.** She suspects that probably it is because HR has not been officially notified by the family.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 City Kidz (Joe Laposa)

Joe had contacted City Kidz about their work with inner city children living in poverty, and asked how MURA member volunteers might be able to help. A response from Leanne Gaudreau, Coordinator of Volunteer Development for ‘City Kidz’ details the available opportunities and the steps involved in volunteering. This email should be posted on the MURA website, and referenced MURAmembs-1 and in the spring issue of MURAnews.**

4.2 Volunteer Hamilton Lunch ‘n Learn (Joe Laposa)

A meeting including Mary Koziol, Lunch n'Learn personnel and interested MURA participants has been booked for May 15 at Lunch n'Learn's downtown Hamilton site. A preparatory meeting will be scheduled by Joe in April to establish guidelines for the May meeting. ** Helen Barton will prepare an announcement re. the May meeting for MURAnews.**

4.3 Christmas Lunch concerns (Pam Penny)

Pam discussed the concerns that arose from this past Christmas Lunch. She is scheduling meetings with key personnel about parking problems such as extra handicapped parking spaces and the smooth flow of lunch so everyone gets fed within a reasonable time frame.

4.4 Retiree query re commuted value of McMaster pension (Joe Laposa)

HR, through an email from Karin, does not feel that MURA should be involved in this problem, nor should it attempt to speak for HR or to the problem, which is very complex and not well understood. It's a problem for a tax consultant with international expertise that can be provided on a per fee basis. HR has engaged such a consultant and regularly informs enquirers on this. Joe will forward Karin's comments to the party making the request. **

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 Volunteering with VON

The VON is seeking volunteer help from MURA members (e.g. meals on wheels). This is seen as an activity worthy of support through our normal communication avenues for volunteer work. The request will be forwarded to our *ad hoc* volunteer committee. **

5.2. Knowledge sharing study

This request was from a non-McMaster graduate student wishing to survey newly retired and about-to-retire MURA members. After discussion Council decided that MURA cannot support requests of this nature from non-McMaster students. There is concern with bombarding our members with too many requests. Joe will respond to the student. **

5.3 Ancaster Senior Achievement Centre

Council agreed that all of the local Achievement Centres that support senior activities should be noted on our web site and ultimately in MURAnews when we have a comprehensive list of these agencies. Joe will inform the Ancaster Centre about this. ** Council does not support mailing out specific brochures as inclusions in MURAnews.

5.4 Special announcement in support of McMaster students

This announcement concerns support of McMaster students from TD Bank Group. Frank McKenna, vice-chair of the group, will make the announcement and President Deane has invited Joe to the event to be held in Alumni Hall, University Club, on March 26. Joe will attend the event.

5.5 Mark Haley's Letter

Mark Haley sent a letter to Joe summarizing the recent meeting between MURA, Sun Life and HR. The results of this meeting were reported upon in our February MURA Council minutes and the letter has been filed.

5.6 McMaster Business Cards

Patricia Chang (MURA consultant on web site) wishes to print business cards with her emeritus status and the McMaster logo, and would like information on how/where to get this

done. Joe will inform her that Printing Services may help and that she should contact Bruce Frank because there are guidelines on the use of the logo. **

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Nominating Committee

Joe thanked the nominating committee for their input and expertise in providing a slate of candidates for MURA Council.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Joe Laposa, Beth Csordas)

7.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising

No Report.

7.2 University subsidy for 2012 Christmas lunch

Joe reported that the office of the President has agreed to subsidize our Christmas Luncheon for the upcoming year at \$10/head.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny, Janice Rischke)

The date has been set for Tuesday Dec. 4 and the contract has been drawn up. Further action is on hold until after the AGM.

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny, Janice Rischke)

The venue and buffet in Celebration Hall will be the same as last year. A quote for the event has been sent to the executive. Pam inquired about who was supplying the cake for the McMaster Anniversary celebration. No one at the meeting knew.** She discussed the budget and various arrangements. Decisions will be needed in April about the display tables that will be needed. Cliff will look into getting a microphone for the event** and also ask Al Fraser if he wishes to contribute a prize**.

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to Mar. 14, 2012

Leslie Shemilt	Chemical Engineering	December 20 2011
Richard Bader	Chemistry	January 15 2012
Christa Leuth	Facility Services	January 29 2012
Maria Malisa	Facility Services	February 8 2012
James A Hutcheson	University Technology Services	February 13 2012
Ross Lake	Parking & Transit	February 20 2012
George W Kay	Operations & Maintenance	February 21 2012
Elsie A Chisholm	Housing & Conference Services	March 4 2012

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

The current membership is 2076 which has remained fairly constant in the last few months.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Kathy announced the following dates for the spring newsletter.

Deadline for Submissions	April 11
Printing	April 19 or 20
Stuffing	April 26

8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa)

Joe presented a list of Nominating Committee recommendations for new members to Council. The committee comprised Joe Laposa (Chair), Jim Kramer, Shari Mercer, Harold Siroonian and Bob West. The recommendations are as follows.

President (one year to 2013)	Marianne Walters
Vice-President (one year to 2013)	Jack Evans
Councillor (three years to 2015)	Helen Barton
Councillor (three years to 2015)	Diane Coventry
Councillor (three years to 2015)	Linda Grocott

Moved by Harold Siroonian, **seconded by** Kathy Overholt
'That the nomination list be accepted as presented'
 Carried unanimously after discussion.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

There was general discussion on how to recognize Geoff Burman's 'Broker Advantage' a project that everyone favoured because of the outstanding service that Geoff has provided and the perceived high quality of his products. Marianne noted that there were two places on the web site where 'Broker Advantage' could be noted. It was also recommended that the company should also be listed in the MURAnews as one of the companies that could be advantageous to MURA members. Council agreed with Marianne's general intent to acknowledge 'Broker Advantage', leaving it to the Pension and Benefits Committee to work out the details. ** It was also agreed that the Committee should examine the web site sections dealing with pensions and benefits to ensure that they reflect current needs and reality. **

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

Shari noted that the one-day, multi-day and Alaska cruise were all well-subscribed. Shari raised the question regarding how much MURA should be involved with trips that are led by MURA members. After a wide-ranging discussion Council recommended that the Trips Committee should devise a policy on the types of trips that MURA should be supporting and/or sponsoring, and report on this to Council via the MURA Executive. **

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

No Report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

Lorraine reported on some of the information available on the President's newly-revised web site and on various rumors and leaks. It is perceived that there will be a lot more hands-on involvement and demands for performance evaluations from government.

9.2 CURAC (Joe Laposa, Marianne Walters)

Marianne needs information on the topics she is slated to address at the AGM**.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)
No Report

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)
No Report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison ()
No Report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)
No Report

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)
The report was previously circulated with agenda. There was no discussion.

10. Other Business

10.1 Listing of MURA members' services (Helen Dietsche)

Helen raised the possibility that the MURA web site could carry a listing of various services offered by MURA retirees involved in the professional, service and trade sectors that may be useful to MURA members as well as promoting our own entrepreneurs. This idea elicited some favourable discussion but no decisions were made. It represents an item for further action**.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. Apr. 11, 2012, 1:30 PM in **MSU 224**. Note different room.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3:55 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried

March 25, 2012