



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, May 09, 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 Barton, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Kathy Heywood, Joe Laposa (Chair), Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Janice Rischke, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Karin Hewlett, Mary Johnston, Marianne Van der Wel.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting –April 11, 2012 (for approval)

Moved by Kathy Overholt, **seconded by** Harold Siroonian

‘That the minutes be adopted as corrected’

Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Karin Hewlett)

In Karin’s absence there was a discussion about upcoming retirees and their membership in MURA. Joe will email Karen asking if a new or prospective retiree gets a check-list of what he/she agrees to. If this is not the case, then Joe will request that such a sign up list be reinstated by Human Resources. ** Helen Barton and Lorraine Allan will work on a statement for the web site on how one becomes/became a member of MURA. **

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)

The endowment fund total = \$48,669 which is up \$100 over the last month.

4.2 Volunteer Outreaches (Joe Laposa, Helen Barton)

- The Lunch & Learn meeting scheduled for Tuesday May 15 will comprise only a small group.
- Helen Barton and Marianne Walters attended a meeting with ‘Volunteer Hamilton’ which they found very informative.

- Laura Escalante is stepping down as MURA’s Development/Alumni Office support person for the ‘Retiree Volunteer Network’. Her responsibilities will be taken up by Meggie MacDougall.
- An email was received from the ‘Hamilton-Halton Alzheimer’s Society’ initiating contact to share with our membership, some of the opportunities to engage with that organization in volunteer roles. It appears that volunteers need very specific training for these endeavors, but this is not totally clear. Beth Csordas has emailed for further information into what MURA members might actually contribute, but has not yet received a reply.

4.3 Christmas Lunch Concerns

To be covered under Item 8.1.

4.4 Broker Advantage Recognition

Geoff Burman has been given the link to the MURANews article re: his company and will also be provided with hard copies of MURANews.

4.5 MURA Trips Policy (Joe Lapos)

Joe has received a revised MURA Trips Policy document from Shari Mercer. It was read and discussed during the March 2 Executive meeting. The Executive is seeking some further information and clarification which they will relate to the Trips Committee and a meeting with the Executive has been scheduled for the second half of their June 6 meeting. This will be held in KTH 103 (1030-1130 A.M.).

4.6 CARP Reduced Membership Rate (Helen Barton)

Helen was to investigate deadline date and send offer (if still valid) out via muramembs-l. **

5. Correspondence (Joe Lapos)

5.1 MURA Trust Committee Representative

The dates for next year’s four meetings of the Pension Trust Committee have been set. MURA has not yet been able to finalize an appointee but various options are being explored. It is felt to be important that the representative replacing Les Robb will be able to act for two years or more in this role.

5.2 Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE)

AROHE is an international organization representing retiree’s societies and groups in higher education. CURAC is a member AROHE. AROHE is holding its next annual conference in North Carolina and MURA has been invited to attend. AROHE will be notified by Joe that MURA will not participate.

5.3 Dundas Community Services – Seniors Successful Aging Expo

Pam Penny forwarded an email to Joe asking if MURA wished to set up a table at the Successful Aging Exposition to take place in Dundas. Executive did not see occupying a table at this event for this year, but is very supportive of the event and wishes to advertise it to members. Pam will provide information to Helen Barton for dissemination on ListServe.

5.4 Mary Koziol communicated that, as part of President Patrick Deane’s ‘Forward With Integrity’ initiative, four task forces were convened to address each of the priority areas he outlined:

community engagement, research, internationalization and the student experience. The position papers are now available online at

(http://www.mcmaster.ca/presidentsoffice/priorities/tf_report.html) ;

there are options for submitting feedback. She mentioned that feedback from the retiree population on these papers would be welcome; in particular, retirees are specifically mentioned as an important group in considering community engagement efforts.

- 5.5** Michael Gustar from Volunteer Hamilton sent an email to Mary Koziol and others at McMaster, to be forwarded to MURA and other interested groups concerning volunteering with CUSO. Helen Barton will forward descriptive information to MURA members.**

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

Joe distributed 'Thank-You' cards to Anne Sinclair, Kathy Overholt, and Pam Penny who are stepping down from Council this year after having served for 13, 6 and 6 years respectively.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

Beth distributed the annual Treasurer's Report which is basically the one that will be used in the auditor's report to the AGM. It shows that estimates and expenditures are on target and that there is a small surplus in the annual budget. Outstanding items represented GIC's that were transferred from the 'Trips Account' to the MURA general account. Income from Trips represents the anticipated transfer of \$600 plus the transfer of funds in the Trip's Account GIC to the MURA general account.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Pam Penny, Janice Rischke)

A meeting with Theresa (MSU) resulted in a firm booking for December 4, 2012. Various solutions to congestion at the 2011 Lunch were discussed. Potential solutions involve two separate serving lines, a bar set up outside the banquet hall and general efforts to provide a freer flow of traffic. Extra tables will increase expenses to approximately \$550. Details for the event will be fleshed out in fall meetings.

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny, Janice Rischke)

MSU (Laura Escalante) will be providing various extras including an anniversary cake to the proceedings. There is a 5 min slide presentation of McMaster Changes through Time that will be incorporated into Joe's slide presentation. Pam will ask Laura to forward the presentation to Joe.** Helen Barton will provide ballot paper in case there are nominations from the floor for Council positions during the AGM. ** Marianne Van der Wel and Mary Johnstone will look after signage. ** Pam will distribute a schedule of events and duties for the event to Council.

**

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to May 9, 2012

Marguerite Boux	Labour Studies	February 1 2012
Betty Cave	Student Health Services	March 19 2012
Florence Matthews	Facility Services	March 29 2012
Christine Feaver	Economics	April 14 2012

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

In response to queries made at the April Council meeting Helen noted the following.

According to the Constitution all members of Council, whether Elected or Ex-officio, can vote on motions. However, if an elected Council member requests a recorded vote, then only elected members may vote. Ex-officio members of Council include the Secretary, Treasurer, Council Committee Chairs who are not elected members of Council, the Director of Human Resources at the University or delegate, and the Honorary President.

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

The current Council membership (all categories) is 2095.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Kathy initiated a brief discussion about an apparent hoax re: cell-phone sign up for no-call by telemarketers. It appears that cell phone numbers are not, at this time, released to telemarketers. However, in any case, it doesn't hurt to sign up. This message has been transmitted to our members through our normal electronic channels.

Re: Summer issue of MURAnews Kathy noted that the first meeting on this issue will take place in the first week of June and that the final printing and distribution will take place about the end of July.

8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa)

The nomination slate will be part of the package distributed to AGM participants.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

No Report

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

Shari reported that everything is going well.

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne has no update yet for the web site in terms of making it work for touch screens. She is now featuring the AGM on the home page. She and Mary are posting the signs for the May 30 AGM.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

Patrick Deane could not attend the meeting but a 'Power-Point' slide presentation dealt with results from the major 'task-force' reports and integrations between them. Lorraine is impressed with the thoroughness and rapidity that the task-forces did their research and reporting. Results of the open session can be found on the President's web page.

Closed Session results (reported to MUFA) dealt with the fact that the 'Systems' practices at McMaster are unsustainable and renewal of these is an urgent agenda item.

9.2 CURAC (Joe Laposa, Marianne Walters)

Three items discussed at the AGM especially caught Marianne's attention. These were

- CURAC's concern for its low image
- A proactive move to improve their member's homecare possibilities and experiences
- The lack of training of trustee representatives on university pension boards

Marianne will prepare a short piece on her observations at the AGM for MURANews (summer edition). **

MURA will address concerns with item 3 through Les Robb tutoring his replacement trustee on interactions with the Pension Trust Committee. Additionally, Les will be ask to address Council on 'The Role of a Trustee' at a fall meeting. **

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

Lorraine raised the question of whether MUFA and MURA members should be advised that they can park in any of the lots at any time of the day. The matter was referred to the Executive for further discussion and resolution. **

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)

The meeting that Janice has been attempting to set up with Mathew Root has not yet been scheduled.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No Report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No Report

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

No Report

10. Other Business

Marianne Walters expressed a special thanks to Joe Laposa for all of his efforts on behalf of MURA in his roles as acting President and President.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. June 13, 2012, 1:30 PM in MSU 224.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3:40 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried

30/05/2012