



McMaster University Retirees Association

1280 Main Street West,
Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L8, Canada

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23171

Home: 905 528 6506

E-mail: wayne.rouse3@yahoo.ca

<http://www.mcmaster-retirees.ca>

Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, Oct 12, 2011, 1:30 PM at MSU, Room 220.

Note. Items marked with a ** denote action items.

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Lorraine Allan, Helen Barton, Helen Dietsche, Mary Johnston, Al Fraser, Kathy Heywood, Joe Laposa (Chair), Shari Mercer, Pam Penny, Anne Sinclair, Janice Rischke, Wayne Rouse, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Beth Csordas, Michele Leroux, Kathy Overholt, Marianne Van der Wel.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Council Meeting, Sept 14 (for approval).

Moved by Shari Mercer, **seconded by** Harold Siroonian

'That the minutes be adopted as corrected'

Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

3.1 Update on HR and MURA database comparison

See Item **6.1**

3.2 Sun Life Website and \$10K Information Update on \$10 K out of country (province) emergency medical coverage

MURA received an email from Michele Leroux indicating that Sun Life currently cannot provide WEB information to retirees re. their status on the balance in their 10K emergency medical coverage. A phone call is still the only path to obtain this information.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Helen Barton for Beth Csordas)

As of Oct. 11 the fund balance was \$45,416. A letter (1500 recipients), requesting further financial input to the fund, from the Alumni Office and signed by last year's part-time prize endowment recipient, has just been mailed.

There has been no further information on a planned President's reception for this past year's donors. Helen Barton and Beth Csordas will investigate this**.

4.2 Letter to HR re database comparison (Joe Laposa)

An email request to Michele Leroux (Human Resources) has been sent requesting that HR pursue contact with members who are on HR's list but not on MURA's list in an attempt to make MURA's list more complete. MURA's list at present represents about 1740 members. It is recognized that this may have low-priority with HR because of their heavy work load

4.3 TD Group Insurance (Joe Laposa)

This insurance group in conjunction with the Alumni Association are offering special group rates on home and auto insurance which also applies to MURA retirees There was discussion on whether or not this should be emailed through the Alumni Office or through MURAmembs-1. It was felt that the Alumni Office probably does not have an adequate mailing list for McMaster retirees and that the message should be sent through MURAmembs-1. This also will allow MURA to edit the email to conform to MURA's policy on endorsements.

4.4 New Retirees Reception on November 1 (Joe Laposa)

Invitations to the New Retirees President's Reception were just emailed coincident with this Council meeting. Joe polled those in attendance and 12 Council members indicated they would be attending. This number will probably increase with those unable to make the Council meeting making their decisions.

4.4 \$10K Out of Province Emergency Medical Coverage (Marianne Walters)

Marianne reported on a meeting with herself, Helen Barton and Geoff Burman in his office, to determine what his expectations were, now that there is no need to identify a coordinated plan since our \$10K benefit can be used as a deductible on any additional private travel insurance plan, and also to discuss currently existing problems with his JourneyMan insurance website. Geoff understands that there is no longer a need for a coordinated plan, and would be pleased if MURA were to identify his JourneyMan Insurance plans to members, along with other insurers. Geoff's website at present is still a work in progress" and it is premature to direct our members to it. At this time MURA is not recommending any particular plans. For those asking, MURA (i.e. Marianne currently) can offer various possibilities including summaries of travel insurance for Snowbirds (Toronto Star and Readers Digest). Marianne feels that we ultimately might want to derive a short list of those plans offering good rates and/or reduced rates to those electing to use their \$10K as a deductible There is no urgency to provide such a list, and because Geoff has been so helpful to MURA in this area, Marianne would like to give him a few months to get his website in good order before having the Pension & Benefits Committee meet to discuss and move forward on this.

Helen Barton and Marianne have prepared an article for the MURAnews fall edition to assist members in deciding whether or not to use the \$10K McMaster benefit as a deductible on additional private travel insurance.

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 MURA Retiree Author

In response to a particular request, Council agreed that that future issues of MURANews will include a column announcing books published by our retirees entitled *Books Published by McMaster Retirees***.

5.2 Forward with Integrity from Patrick Deane

See Lorraine Allan's report below in item **9.1**.

5.3 Query re Discounted CARP Membership

The President of CURAC has been emailed re. discounts for CARP membership. No reply has yet been received.

5.4 Waterloo Insurance

The Waterloo Insurance liaison person is to meet with Joe to discuss prizes that they may offer for upcoming events such as the Christmas luncheon. Joe queried if we should have facilities for advertising companies whom we liaise with, such as a listing on the web site. Helen Barton will explore with Marianne Van der Wel the feasibility of setting up such a category on the MURA web site**.

5.5 Humanitarian Trip Description

An email from a retiree describing his trip to Italy for humanitarian purposes has been edited and will be included in the fall MURANews.

5.6 Labour Studies Certificate Program

Notification of this program being offered by CAW for retirees represented by this union has been circulated through MURAmembs-l.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Comparison of List of Recent MUFA Retirees with MURA Database

Of the total MUFA retirees in the last 3 years about 10% have not been forwarded from HR to MURA. This could represent those not wanting contact, or could represent those somehow falling through the cracks. Joe is actively pursuing with Michele Leroux to attempt to contact those retirees who are not on our data base but are on the HR data base. See also Item **4.2** above.

6.2 MURA Office Mailbox Repair

The mailbox has been repaired.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

No Report

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Pam Penny)

Pam, who will not be able to attend the Christmas luncheon (Al Fraser will take the reins), has been very busy with preparations. The CIBC Banquet Hall in the Student Centre has been booked for Dec. 5, 1030-1700 h. The booking includes all the Hall set-up arrangements for the buffet lunch, cash bar and all the extras required, i.e. podium, audio equipment, etc. The food has been ordered through Paradise Catering, who will also provide decorations in the Hall. Although there was a slight increase in the food cost this

year, everything is still within Budget. Pam will email Beth Csordas to check how much of the budget can be devoted to prizes**.

8.2 AGM (Joe Laposa, Pam Penny)

As a result of Lorraine Allan's comments that President Patrick Deane is eager to address groups such as ours on the future of undergraduate education (See 9.1 below) the following motion was proposed

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded by** Helen Barton
'that President Patrick Deane be invited to address our AGM as the principal speaker'
Carried unanimously.

Pam will book Celebration Hall for May 30 but see if that room is available for May 29 and May 31 to try to fit the President's busy schedule if that is necessary**.

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to October 12, 2011

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Eleanor Jane Wright | Institute for Materials Research | July 30 2011 |
| Dr William Barnes | Surgery | August 6, 2011 |
| Donna Chovanec | C E & B | August 31, 2011 |
| Dr Robert Joyner | Faculty of Business | September 8, 2011 |

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

The current membership is 2076

8.6 MURAnews (Mary Johnson for Kathy Overholt)

Mary reported that the fall edition is nearly complete and will go to press the week of October 16. Kathy Overholt will be making arrangements for folding and stuffing.

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

No Report

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

All trips are either fully booked or well-subscribed. All financial transactions will be complete in April and Anne plans to have her financial books audited by May 1 to hand over to Shari at that time.

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

No Report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

The President's web site (which is linked to the MURA web site) has not carried the President's Report to the B of G in recent months because of personnel changes in the President's office. This should be resolved shortly.

Lorraine reported on the BofG Retreat held on September 30. The retreat was focused on President Deane's recent letter – '*Forward with Integrity: a letter to the McMaster Community*'. The letter does not propose policy but rather deals with philosophical ideas on university undergraduate education. Deane is especially keen that students get involved with the community as part of their course work. It was apparent from discussion in the group sessions with the Faculty Deans that there is considerable enterprise in this direction already, as well as considerable enthusiasm for further involvement in this direction. Lorraine noted that Patrick Deane is eager to speak on his ideas anywhere and at any time and she advanced the idea that he could be invited to address the MURA AGM. Deane in his comments on quality of education in Ontario noted that he is in a minority of those university presidents willing to admit that undergraduate education in the province is under considerable stress.

Wayne is to circulate to Council the web address to access the President's letter.**

9.2 CURAC (Joe Laposa)

No Report

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)

No Report

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

Les' Report for Sept. 22 was attached to the agenda for this meeting.

10. Other Business

No other business.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. Nov. 9, 2:00 PM in MSU 220

(Note: The change in start time from our usual).

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3.10 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried

26/10/11