



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, Sept 14, 2011, 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, Mary Johnston, Kathy Heywood, Joe Laposa (Chair), Michele Leroux, Shari Mercer, Pam Penny, Kathy Overholt, Anne Sinclair, Wayne Rouse, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Van der Wel, Marianne Walters.

Regrets: Al Fraser, Janice Rischke.

Joe Laposa welcomed Kathy Heywood to Council and Kathy gave us a brief biography of herself.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Council Meeting, June 08 -for approval.

Moved by Mary Johnston, **seconded by** Pam Penny

'That the minutes be adopted as corrected'

Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

3.1 Update on HR and MURA database comparison

Michelle reported that legally a data base comparison cannot be done. The reason given was that MURA is not a part of the employer (McMaster). She thinks though that MURA can request that those who are not on the MURA database but are on the HR database can be approached by HR seeking permission to allow their contact information to be forwarded to MURA. This would include those for whom we have an incorrect (outdated) mailing address if we remove this group from the MURA database we send for comparison. This will be pursued by Joe Laposa.**

3.2 Update on \$10 K out of country (province) emergency medical coverage

Michele reported that there had been no negative feedback from the information that the 10K retirement out-of-province insurance can be used as a deductible when seeking favourable rates on additional insurance. HR cannot tell an individual how much of their \$10K is unspent but this information can be obtained from Sun Life who keeps its records very current. Lorraine Allan asked if this information could be added to each individual's website and Michele thought that this

could be done. This information should be included when we further discuss the 10K deductible and additional insurance with our membership.**

Michele was asked to request that Sun Life add individuals' unspent \$10K amount to the personalized "my Sun Life" online information web site. **

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)

On August 18, Beth and Helen met with Brennan Reurink from Alumni Advancement. Brennan is now in charge of the MURA Scholarship and Prize Fund. A new letter will be sent to retirees the end of September seeking further support of the endowed fund. It will be signed by Marsha Schofield who was the recipient of last year's prize. As part of Philanthropy Week in November, Alumni Advancement plans to send thank-you notes to all current year's donors. As well, they plan to have a Retirees Reception at Alumni House to be hosted by President Deane. All retiree donors, past and present would be invited. The endowment is currently funded at \$45,366, compared to \$45,016 on June 8.

4.2 \$10 K out of province medical coverage meeting (MURA, Geoff Burman, University Administration, and Sun Life) meetings held on June 22 and meeting on August 16 (MURA and Geoff Burman).

Marianne outlined the main features of the two meetings and further developments. Information on the June 22 meeting was included in the summer edition of MURAnews which confirmed that the \$10K McMaster Plan can be used as a deductible when seeking reduced rates from additional insurers. In the August 16 meeting at MURA's request Geoff Burman (GB) presented qualitative comparisons of five different insurance plans which might be coordinated with our McMaster group benefit, but no quantitative information was available. Subsequently, again at MURA's request, GB has produced a fairly comprehensive spread sheet that allows \$ comparisons between the five different insurance plans as well as with CAA and CARP, and the percent reduction in fees available if some or all of the \$10K can be used as a deductible. Les Robb and Lorraine Allan produced several simplified versions of this spread sheet data that facilitate our making meaningful comparisons. The question of whether we should identify one or more specific insurers to coordinate with our McMaster group benefit is being revisited, now that we know we can use this benefit as a deductible on any insurance plan that offers that option. Some questions arose about the accuracy of GB's numbers in specific cases, but it is agreed that his knowledge and analysis has been most helpful. Without his input it is doubtful that we would have gotten the University to agree that we can use our benefit as a deductible. At this time Marianne and Helen Barton plan to visit GB in his office to talk about a range of matters including the fact that his web site is not as user-friendly as had been previously suggested.** Marianne and Helen will also produce an article for the next newsletter on the pros and cons of using the \$10 K as a deductible.**

4.3 Committee Membership Review (Helen Barton)

Helen referred to the previously circulated list on committees and their membership querying if there were any mistakes or additions. None were noted. She also announced the intent to modify the existing Council-member lists on the websites so that there were three current lists on the 'Just-Council' website and one on the general MURA website.**

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 Improvements in Existing Benefit Plans

A retiree inquired about the very small \$15/visit for physiotherapy. MURA has no control over this and the query was forwarded to Human Resources (HR). They also have no control over it. This might be worth MUFA, CAW or SEIU pursuing in negotiations to get a better benefit for future retirees (see Item 9.3).

5.2 TD Group Insurance

TD Group Insurance has special rates in auto and home insurance for McMaster Alumni and MURA has been assured that these rates apply to our members as well. The Alumni Association will be forwarding an announcement which (with editing) MURA will pass on to our members. Joe is to contact the Alumni Assoc. re: this announcement.** It was also suggested that the edited announcement could be sent by the Alumni Association to retirees, using the University's database of retirees.

5.3 New Retirees Reception on November 1

All MURA Council members will be invited (email invitation) to attend the President's reception for new retirees on Tuesday, November 1, 4:30-6:00 PM. Joe will contact Beth Mackay (event organizer) inquiring if a letter from MURA to new retirees encouraging their attendance would be appropriate.** Wayne will supply Council name tags.**

5.4 CURAC – re MURA Scholarship Fund

Marianne Van der Wel was emailed by John Meyer (Past Pres. of CURAC) with specific questions regarding the MURA Gerontology Award and possible presentation of the nuts and bolts of the MURA scholarship fund at the CURAC AGM next spring. Marianne turned this over to the executive for decisions and further interaction with Meyer.**

5.5 McMaster Thesis Coordinator

An email from Christina Bryce (Thesis Defence Coordinator) was noting opportunities for Professors emeriti to participate in theses defences. She noted the need was especially great in September due to the high volume of defences. This information has been distributed through the MURA listserv.

5.6 Registered Nurses Association of Ontario

The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario hosted 'A dialogue with Candidates (provincial election) on health and social issues. It took place on Wednesday, Sept 14, 7 PM in the Spectator Auditorium. This information was distributed through the MURA listserv.

5.7 President's Senior Advisor - Associate University Secretary

Bruce Frank (University Secretary) circulated notice Esme Davies is now working as Senior Advisor to McMaster's President and that her previous position as Associate University Secretary has been taken up by Mark Downard, a McMaster Alumnus.

5.8 Use of University Libraries

An inquiry from a retiree asking about getting permission to use the University Libraries was forwarded to Marianne Walters for response and to Marianne Van der Wel so she can send the appropriate web link to help with the inquiry.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 Promotion of non-MURA Trips in MURANews

Joe noted that Anne Sinclair's is stepping down as MURA trips organizer at the end of this MURA year but wishes to keep her MURA clientele informed of the one trip/year that she plans to continue as a travel agent. In keeping with MURA policy, such trips can be promoted through MURA dissemination media if they contain an educational/cultural component and are led by a McMaster retiree.

6.2 Invitations to Christmas Luncheon

Joe as for Council's OK to invite honorary guests to the Christmas luncheon. Council approved the parties he noted and added a few others.**

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

Beth's tabled financial report noted that we were approximately 1/3 of the way through the financial year and that our projections are on target. The amount shown for postage is net of the expected rebate from Waterloo Insurance for the extra cost of including their brochure with the Summer MURANews.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Luncheon (Pam Penny)

The CIBC Hall is booked for Monday Dec 5, 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Pam is filling out the booking form. It is assumed that our booking fee will include necessary aids such as screen & projector and microphone and that they will be set up. Pam will check this.** Paradise Catering will be providing the lunch as usual and Pam will be coordinating with their manager, Larry Marsh. Pam cannot attend the luncheon and Al Fraser will handle the organizational work for the day.

8.2 AGM (Joe Laposa, Pam Penny)

The AGM date was set for Wednesday May 30 in Celebration Hall. Pam and Joe will initially be arranging the booking and details with Larry Marsh.**

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to September 14, 2011

Margaret Eastman	University Libraries	June 1 2011
Elizabeth Cahill	Housing & Conference Services	June 10 2011
Mary Colbourne	Hospitality Services	June 21 2011
Frederick Hargreave	Health Sciences - Medicine	June 15 2011
Dr Grant Smith	Psychology	July 1 2011
Ross McAndrew	Civil Engineering	July 3 2011
Walter Tansley	Physical Plant	July 25 2011
Eleanor Wright	Institute for Materials Research	July 30 2011
Irma Acs	Building Operations	August 15 2011

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No report.

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

Total membership as of Sept 14 is 2068. Pam noted that Council should forward an annual update of the number of regular members for posting on the HR website. annually. Annual Action Item for the Membership Chair**.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Dates for MURAnews (Fall Edition) were announced by Kathy as

Final Submission-Oct. 6

Printing- Oct. 17

Stuffing (tentative) Oct. 21 (Friday)

Kathy especially noted the need for news** about

- Pension committee
- Trips
- Children's Party
- Christmas luncheon including venue and costs (subsidy vs. no subsidy)
- Children's Christmas party
- Geritol Follies
- Board of Governor's Liaison

8.7 Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)

No report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

See Item 4.2

8.9 Special Events (Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)

Mary and Shari noted that they are having a difficult time getting enough people to fill the bus for the Kleinberg trip. This raised the further problem of a general lack of support for special event activities. They felt that having both a 'Trips' and a 'Special Events' Portfolio involved a lot of overlapping effort and that the two portfolios should be combined with an expanded membership. Anne Sinclair is in enthusiastic support of this proposal.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded by** Kathy Heywood *'That the 'Trips' and 'Special Events' Portfolios be combined into one 'Trips-Special Event' with the membership and specific mandate yet to be decided'*

Carried unanimously

8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)

Anne reported that all upcoming trips are fully subscribed. She also listed a number of Christmas events that are being planned. Anne announced that after 13 years she will retire as trips organizer at the end of the current MURA year (May). She does plan, however, as a travel agent to design one trip a year with cultural/educational content that she hopes to offer to her MURA clientele as well as others.

8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

No Report.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

Lorraine reporting on the B of G meeting this past June noted that President Deane in his address to the Board mentioned that several new government-mandated procedures will be likely. These include the need for prior approval before any new university satellite campuses are created, more differentiation in programs between Ontario universities and the likelihood of new funding arrangements. The presentation on the new downtown Hamilton McMaster health facility impressed Lorraine and it seems now to be a go-ahead with the support of the city. Lorraine has tried to establish a web link that allows the President's address to the B of G to be readily accessed. To date this has produced mixed results and will be pursued by Lorraine and Joe.**

9.2 College and University Retirees Assoc. of Canada (CURAC) (Joe Laposa)

No Report.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

It was suggested that MUFA might consider including the following items for future retirees in future negotiations with the University: increasing the \$15/visit limit for physiotherapy treatment, and the possibility of faculty continuing the travel insurance coverage they had before retirement into their retirement years by taking over the payment of the premiums. It was suggested that matters MUFA might consider in future negotiations with the University concerning their retiring members include the most practical use of the \$10K out-of-province insurance as a deductible, increasing the \$15/visit limit for physiotherapy treatment, and the possibility of faculty continuing the life insurance policy they had before retirement into their retirement years by taking over the payment of the premiums.

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)

No report. However it was noted that this liaison has been passed on to Janice Rischke to chair, with Kathy as a member of the "team".

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No report.

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No report. Cliff noted that the funding of the pension plan has yielded better results than were expected.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

No report.

10. Other Business

10.1 Retiree Volunteer Network (Helen Barton)

Kathy Heywood and Marianne Walters will work with Helen in Volunteer Network activities. Work on re-vitalizing the network will start in November when the University Advancement staff member who works with MURA on this project is available.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. Oct 12, 1:30 PM in MSU 220.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3.45 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried

12/10/11