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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association – Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Room 224.

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Kathy Heywood, Mary Johnston Joe Laposa, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Janice Rischke, Wayne Rouse, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Walters (Chair), Marianne Van der Wel, Bob West.

Regrets: Linda Grocott

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting –March 13, 2013 (for approval)

Moved by Kathy Overholt**, seconded by** Mary Johnston
'That the minutes be adopted as presented'
Carried

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

No Report

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Sun Life emergency medical travel insurance

There has, as yet, been no meeting with Sun Life / Royal Sun Alliance . Marianne has requested that Michele Leroux find out if they and HR are available to attend the MURA executive meeting on May 1.** Barring this, she has asked Michele Leroux to suggest alternative dates for a meeting **

4.2 Photos of MURA scholarship and award winners

It is planned to feature the MURA scholarship and award winner in the Spring MURAnews along with short excerpts from their letters .of thanks. Parts of their statements may also be included in next year's 'seeking support' campaign. See Item 7.

4.3 MURAmembs-1 emails (Helen Barton)
No Report

4.4 Working committee MURAmembs-l and MURAnews – (Mary Johnston et al)
Mary reported that the committee met on Monday Apr. 8 and will shortly submit a report on their conclusions on 'best practices' to Council. In terms of material that is submitted to MURAmembs-l and MURAnews, the committee feels that the ongoing methods of vetting submitted material is working well. They also feel that the committee, or a version thereof, should remain as a standing committee to help deal with problematical situations. Particularly problematically cases could also be examined by MURA executive and taken to Council if necessary.

4.5 CURAC brief on Morneau Report (Bob West, Cliff Andrews)
Bob West's report, (Cliff Andews was unable to input to the report prior to today, but concurs with the general conclusions), was circulated to Council prior to today's meeting. The report is a critique of the critique that CURAC made on the Morneau report. In the broadest of terms, the brief sees many positives in the Morneau report (as does CURAC). It is very much a work in progress. No one is certain whether or not the government is pursuing it actively, after the recent changes in leadership and the suspension of government activities, but the general aims appear to be beneficial to retirees. One is referred to the brief for more detailed information.

5. Correspondence (Marianne Walters)

5.1 The G. Dale Buchanan family sent a card expressing thanks from the family for the MURA condolence card.

5.2 An e-mail from Peter George inquiring if MURA Trips & Special Events might include the Ancaster Senior's Centre as partakers in MURA organized events if space were still available. This elicited a lively discussion which was generally in favour of offering spaces to other organizations if MURA members' needs were already met. The discussion was tabled until the May 8 meeting during which time the Trips & Special Events Committee will have met to consider their recommendations.**

5.4 CURAC request
CURAC has requested that MURA host the 2014 national conference. Marianne and Mary Johnston outlined the recent history of the conference and the role of the hosting institution. The following points were noted.

- The hosting committee typically invites partners to take part in the meetings and help with financing. If MURA undertakes this venture, partners to consider could include the University of Guelph, Brock University, Niagara College and Mohawk College. Ontario Colleges do

not normally each send a delegate to the conference – they have a provincial organization, so one or two delegates represent them all.

- The conference covers 2 days, with a reception the preceding evening. Usually 70 – 100 delegates attend.
- The conference must raise its own funds to cover expenses. Registration fees for the conference provide only partial coverage. CURAC does not provide any funding . Two recent conferences (York University and University of Victoria) have made a substantial profit. Any profit is split equally between the Host and CURAC.
- The Host institution provides the theme and the program for the conference.

If MURA hosts the conference, Mary Johnston has agreed to Chair or Co-Chair the organizing committee. The committee should comprise about 10 fully- committed members, each assigned to a key task.

Before any final commitment, MURA must check with Conference Services re: available dates in May or early June, 2014.** It is important that the necessary facilities are available on campus.

If a suitable date is available, Mary and Marianne Walters will solicit the support of President Deane which is essential since this will be a McMaster function. **

If the above two initiatives are successful then MURA is in a position to commit to hosting the conference. With that in mind the following motion was made:

Moved by Helen Barton**, Seconded by** Marianne Van der Wel
that MURA should, in principle, host the annual CURAC conference
Carried

5.3 Economical Select

Economical Select has provided a number of unaddressed, unstamped flyers to be mailed to our retirees These can be addressed, stamped and sent out by Mail Services with the costs being picked up by Economical Select. ** The flyer can be copied and sent out to our members on MURAmembs-l. **

6. President's Report (Marianne Walters)

6.1 Appointment of Secretary & Treasurer for 2014

Beth Csordas has agreed to serve as Treasurer during 2014.

Moved by Joe Laposa, **seconded by** Harold Siroonian
that Beth Csordas be reappointed as Treasurer for 2014
Carried

Wayne Rouse has agreed to serve as Secretary during 2014 but wishes to step down in May 2014. If a replacement secretary should wish to start prior to the end of 2014, which can be arranged.

Moved by Joe Laposa, **seconded by** Harold Siroonian

that Wayne Rouse be reappointed as Secretary for 2014

Carried

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

The MURA endowed fund at $53,402 is up $755 from the last reported figure in February.

Beth and Helen Barton met with University Advancement on April 9, 2013. Kris Gadjanski, Senior Development Officer is the new contact person who will be working with MURA on the solicitation of funds.

Plans for the Fall 2013 campaign were the main focus of the meeting. The intent is to have a request for funds ready for mid-October. The request would be prepared and mailed by University Advancement. MURA would supplement this with notices in MURAnews, on the web-site and in emails. The focus will be on student recipients. If possible, the 2013 recipients will be identified in time to ask them to participate in the campaign. As a fall-back, this year's recipients would be contacted.

Beth and Bob West have agreed on a date for her to turn over the financial files for auditing.

With respect to the budget the following motion was made.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded by** Harold Siroonian

that money from the special projects budget be moved as needed to support the 2014 CURAC Conference

Carried

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Luncheon (Janice Rischke)

Janice has reserved Dec. 4, 2013 (last day of classes) for the luncheon. This date is approved by Council.

8.2 AGM (Janice Rischke)

Janice has made all of the arrangements with Paradise Catering for the lunch and audio-video for June 4. She will arrange for two guest draw prizes (one for attendance, the other for those who choose to opt-out of the MURAnews mailing). ** Wayne Rouse will provide a gift for the guest speaker. **

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

DEATHS to April 10 2013

Thelma Hodgson	FHS - Education Services	October 11 2012
Violet Croydon	History	March 7 2013
Edythe Rochkin	Registrar's Office	March 7 2013
Dr. Terence Kennett	Physics & Astronomy	March 11 2013
Dr Fritz Widmaier	Modern Languages	March 13 2013

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)
No Report

8.5 Membership (Linda Grocott)
The current total membership total is 2162

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)
Kathy has made arrangements for Mail Services to deliver the newsletter and addressed envelopes prior to stuffing, and to pick them up for subsequent mailing. She will be monitoring it closely to ensure that there are no glitches in the new arrangement.

8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa)
Joe has prepared an item on the 2014 nominations for the Spring MURAnews.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Jack Evans)
No Report

8.9 Trips (Kathy Heywood, Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)
An updated listing will go out in the Spring MURAnews. Most events are well- subscribed. Unfortunately, the Quebec City trip had to be cancelled because of insufficient subscribers.

8.10 Web Site **(**Marianne Van der Wel)
Marianne reports that the web sites are up-to-date.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Marianne Walters)
No Report. The next meeting is Thursday April 18.

9.2 CURAC (Marianne Walters)
See Item **5.2**

9.3 MUFA (Marianne Walters)
MUFA and the university have agreed to a new 4-year contract which contains a number of changes from the present. For details one should

consult the MUFA website. None of the changes will affect existing retirees; only currently employed faculty and/or new retirees.

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)
No Report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)
No Report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)
See Item 4.5.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)
See Item 4.5.

10. Other Business
None

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting
Wed. May 8, 1:30 PM in MSU 230.

12. Adjournment
Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3.45 PM
'*that the meeting be adjourned'*
Carried

22/04/2013