



**McMaster University Retirees Association**

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

**Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association —Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Room 318.**

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

**1. Welcome & Regrets**

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

**Regrets:** Lorraine Allan, Linda Grocott, Bob West.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**2.1** Council Meeting –November 14, 2012 (for approval)

**Moved by** Kathy Overholt, **seconded by** Helen Barton  
*‘That the minutes be adopted as circulated’*  
**Carried**

**3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)**

**3.1** Update on EuropAssist training to improve customer service

Ron Kalbfleisch at Sun Life is helping with a review of EuropAssist practices. He will arrange for a formal letter to be sent to MURA explaining the action that has been taken with respect to EuropAssist.

**3.2** Termination of notification to MURA of passage of spousal survivors

This was a misunderstanding. Notification will continue.

**3.3** Additional information on benefits to new retirees

Retirees under age 65 years. do not have coverage for routine eye exams under OHIP. They must check with Sun Life to see if they have medical coverage under their specific University plan.

Mary Johnston suggested that in pre-retirement workshops it would be good to outline to imminent retirees about changes in coverage that arise after retirement for those under 65 years. vs. those older than 65 years. It was suggested that a couple of MURA Council

members be invited to attend pre-retirement workshops as they might offer some useful suggestions for future workshops. Michele said she would facilitate that happening.

In response to a question, Michele Leroux noted that most retiree booklets outlining benefits are available on-line. Exceptions apply to long-standing agreements that retain only a few retirees. MURAnews should note that if our members brochure is not available on-line that they should contact HR.\*\*

#### **4. Business Arising – updates on**

##### **4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)**

The fund at \$50,064 has increased by \$600 in the past month. This does not include \$600 that was received during the MURA Christmas luncheon. Donation request cards will now be sent out in the New Year.

##### **4.2 Response to our reply to the Community Engagement Position Paper**

MURA has received acknowledgement by Laura Harrington of its receipt as well as assurance that comments will be given serious consideration Further, we can expect to hear from them to identify key contacts in the future.

##### **4.3 Ad Hoc Committee Succession Report**

Discussion of this report that has been submitted by Jack Evans has been deferred to January's Council meeting.

##### **4.4 Fall Convocation Dinner**

Marianne Walters and Mary Johnston represented MURA at the Convocation Dinner.

#### **5. Correspondence (Marianne Walters)**

##### **5.1 CURAC Newsletter**

The CURAC AGM will be held in St. Johns, Newfoundland. CURAC has issued a Discussion Paper on Health Issues for Retirees and has requested a response from member groups by the end of January. Several points were made concerning this Paper. First, what appears to be an error on the last page needs correcting, second the purpose of this document is unclear and third, the end of January is too soon. Marianne will respond to CURAC re: these concerns.\*\*

##### **5.2 MUFA Newsletter Oct/Nov 2012- Report on possible changes to University Pensions in Ontario**

Martin Dooley has written on the topic in the most recent MUFA newsletter and this will be forwarded to MURA Council. \*\* In general, Ontario Faculty Associations are raising the same question as MURA which is *what role will associations play in drafting these changes?*

##### **5.3 Marianne reported that Lorraine Allen's health condition is not improved and that she has made the decision to move into palliative/hospice care.**

#### **6. President's Report (Marianne Walters)**

##### **6.1 Christmas Luncheon (Janice Rischke)**

184 registered and 174 attended. The registration form lacked space to fill in the names of non-MURA guests. This will be rectified for the upcoming year. \*\* More coat racks are needed, and coat racks will be moved outside of the main room, while the bar \*\* should be moved into the area occupied by one of the coat racks this year. \*\* No fruit tray was provided. \*\* Kathy Overholt sold 15 cards without having a booth setup. Everyone seemed to have a good time!

**6.2 Meeting with Economical Select (formerly Waterloo Insurance) Representative**

Economical Select will continue to send out a brochure with the MURAnews Winter edition once or twice yearly. Paper inclusions in the snail mailed copies get a much better response than electronic inclusions in the emailed MURAnews. Economical Select provided 6 gifts to the Christmas luncheon.

**6.3 Designation of Observer to the Board of Governors**

The first meeting that Marianne Walters will attend is on Thursday Dec. 13.

**6.4 Ordering office supplies**

Kathy Overholt has kindly volunteered to take over the ordering of supplies.

**6.5 Increasing MURA notecard sales**

See Item 6.1 – Christmas Luncheon. Helen Barton has offered to think of new approaches to increase sales.

**6.6 MURA auditor**

**Moved by** Beth Csordas, **seconded by** Harold Siroonian  
*that Bob West be appointed auditor for 2012-2013 financial year*  
Carried unanimously

**7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)**

Beth reported that the MURA Bank of Nova Scotia account can be used and will replace the McMaster Credit Union for our regular operational transactions. The necessary changeover in signing authority will take place today following our Council meeting.

**8. Information Reports from Committees**

**8.1 Christmas Luncheon (Janice Rishke)**

See Item 6.1.

**8.2 AGM (Janice Rishke).**

Celebration Hall has been booked for Tuesday June 4 for the AGM.

**8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche) To Dec. 12**

Vivian Campbell      Humanities - Music    November 1 2012

**8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)**

No Report

**8.5 Membership (Linda Grocott)**

No Report

**8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)**

Deadlines for the winter edition

News Receipt January 9

Printing January 24 or 25

Mailing January 30 or 31

The Committee will need 1500 hard-copy brochures and an electronic brochure from Economical Select.\*\* Cliff Andrews suggested that we include a note on possible changes to the Ontario University pension plans. Cliff will coordinate this and solicit help from Les Robb and Bob West. \*\*

**8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa, Helen Barton)**

After discussion the following was agreed to

Chair, Joe Laposa

Council Members, Helen Dietsche, Janice Rischke

Non-Council Members, Joe to contact and select from Les King, Betty-Ann Levy,  
Heather Grigg, Jan Peer\*\*

**8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)**

No Report

**8.9 Trips (Shari Mercer)**

All trip plans are going well. Shari is planning on approximately 1 trip/month in the New Year and will have information prepared for the winter MURAnews\*\*.

**8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)**

Photos from the President's retiree's reception and the Christmas luncheon will be posted in January.

**9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

**9.1 University Board of Governors (Marianne Walters)**

Meets on Thursday Dec. 13.

**9.2 CURAC (Marianne Walters)**

See Item. 5.1.

**9.3 MUFA (Marianne Walters)**

Marianne, Jack Evans Lorraine Allan and Martin Dooley had a telephone conference in which they discussed the EuropAssist problems. This led to the direct action by HR and Sun Life discussed in Item 3.1.

**9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)**

Janice will look into the status of CAW workers who are still working after age 65 Yrs. to see whether or not they are covered by a university Blue Cross plan.\*\* Also CAW has signed a new contract. Matt Root doesn't think that this affects retirees but Janice will follow up on this.

\*\*

**9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison(Dianne Coventry)**

No Report

**9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)**

The committee met re: the development of a new handbook to be released sometime in the future.

**9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)**

The rate of return (3.6%) has not been sufficient to activate any pension increase for retirees in the upcoming financial year. The Report to MURA Council of the Pension Trust Committee Meeting will be forwarded to MURA Council by the secretary.

**10. Other Business**

None

**11. Date and Location of Next Meeting**

Wed. January 09, 1:30 PM in MSU 318.

**12. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Helen Dietsche at 3:35 PM

*'That the meeting be adjourned'*

**Carried**

03/01/2013