

## *McMaster University Retirees Association*



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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

### **Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association —Wednesday, Feb 13, 2013, 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, Jack Evans, Linda Grocott, Mary Johnston Joe Laposa, Michele Leroux, Kathy Overholt, Wayne Rouse, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Walters (Chair), : Marianne Van der Wel, Bob West.

**Regrets:** Kathy Heywood, Shari Mercer, Janice Rischke,

#### **2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**2.1** Council Meeting –January 9, 2013 (for approval)

**Moved by** Harold Siroonian, **seconded by** Mary Johnston  
*‘That the minutes be adopted as presented’*

**Carried**

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

##### **3.1** Sun Life Travel Insurance (circulated)

Michele detailed the current situation with this initiative on the part of Sun Life in cooperation with HR. She encouraged MURA Council to meet with Sun Life-Royal Sun Alliance representatives to discuss the potentials. A question raised was “What does this new offering have to compete with other plans?” One suggestion was that if a meeting should occur, it might be good to invite Geoff Burman of Broker Advantage to give Council an independent assessment of the offered plans

##### **3.2** CAW – Change in drug coverage for new CAW retirees.

CAW members who retire after Jan. 01, 2013 will have drug benefits based on Drug Formulary Rx.05. The formulary has a specific list of drugs that are covered. The benefit booklet describing the new agreement has not yet been completed.

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

##### **4.1** Economical Select

This company, recently renamed from ‘Waterloo Insurance,’ did not submit their brochure /to be mailed with materials for the MURA Winter Newsletter as had been agreed.

Apparently the brochure is not yet available. Attempts at communication with their representative have been difficult. A cautionary note from this, for the Newsletter team, is to not publish anything in future newsletters unless all of the materials for the documentation have been received by the deadline date. Their representative, Chase Anderson, has asked to meet again with Marianne, and she will follow up on this. \*\*

#### **4.2 CURAC Health Care Discussion Paper**

There will not be a MURA response to this paper. However some members have responded individually.

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

#### **5.1 Financial and Life Planning Workshops**

These ongoing McMaster-sponsored workshops are of interest to MURA since they convey information to our future members. Mary Johnston will be our contact person to receive information and attend future workshops. She plans to attend the Feb 21, 2013 workshop. She will strive to provide useful feedback to the workshop organizers.

#### **5.2 Letters from MURA Scholarship and Award recipients**

Two very thoughtful and erudite letters from this year's grant awardees were read by Marianne Walters. The first was from Roschi Wagley, the recipient of the MURA Scholarship. It expressed how important the grant was to furtherance of the recipient's scholarly career. The second was from Krystal King who was the MURA Award winner. Krystal noted how she has had to deal with severe physical problems prior to, and in undertaking her university program in gerontology. The bursary has been very important in facilitating her ongoing academic activities. Her letter, with her permission, could serve as a promotional item in our Scholarship and Endowment fundraising activities on the importance of supporting students in their endeavours. This could be pursued by MURA. \*\*It was also suggested that arrangements should be made for photos of the two recipients \*\*

#### **5.3 MURAmembs-l e-mails (Helen Barton)**

Helen read a list of emails that had been sent out to the listserv since the January Council meeting. As a result of some negative feedback to one sent recently, it is evident that there is a need to review the criteria applied to all of our MURA transmissions such as MURAmembs-l and MURAnews. For example, there is a question of what designation to apply to retirees-their official designation when they retire from the university vs. a designation of their choosing. A second example is how we handle a commercial enterprise by one of our members as compared to a book another member may have published in his/her retirement.

It was proposed and agreed to by Council that a working committee be formed comprising Beth Csordas, Marianne Van der Wel and the MURAnews group. Mary Johnston will arrange the initial meeting(s) of this committee. \*\*

#### **5.4 Monitoring for events/lectures of interest?**

Helen Barton noted that information on lectures such as the Whidden and George Thomas presentations were not forwarded through MURAmembs-l earlier because of the very late notification from the university. Marianne Walters will investigate how information on

university talks is disseminated to enable MURA to better inform its membership about these events. \*\*

#### **5.5. A member's Experience with mixed messages from HR and Sun Life**

A retiree living out of Ontario provided an account of the difficulty she experienced in attempting to get from Sun Life and HR a clear answer to her questions about benefits. Although resolution was finally achieved, it is another example of the persistence required of the retiree. Marianne wrote the person having the problems with thanks for keeping MURA informing of the problem and its resolution.

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

#### **6.1 MUFA Newsletter**

MUFA newsletter had a touching tribute to Lorraine Allan. Marianne noted that Lorraine bequeathed her body to the McMaster University Education Program in Anatomy. In response to the request from several Council members, Marianne is going to investigate how this can be done. \*\*

#### **6.2 Meeting with Michele Leroux**

Jack Evans and Marianne Walters met with Michele. It was evident to Jack that HR had been having some frank discussions with Sun Life re the number of problems with service, especially by their Europ Assist representatives, experienced by our members. He felt that MURA was instrumental in pushing these discussions concerned with acceptable resolutions along.

#### **6.3 Future meeting with Michele Leroux on membership.**

Linda Grocott and Helen Barton will discuss with Michele Leroux the problems getting information about our membership and seek some resolutions to the problems. Mary Johnston and Marianne Walters will attend the meeting to learn about the issues. \*\*

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

**7.1** Academic awards and endowment fund raising at \$52,172 is up about \$2500 from the last report in December

**7.2** The university endowment request letter was to go to printing today.

**7.3** Beth will send out invoices to our financial support backers this week. \*\*

**7.4** MURA has not yet received the subsidy in support of the Christmas Luncheon from the President's office. \*\*

### **8. Information Reports from Committees**

#### **8.1 Christmas Party (Janice Rischke)**

No Report

#### **8.2 AGM (Janice Rischke)**

No Report

#### **8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)**

## DEATHS to February 13 2013

William 'Skip' Poehlman	Engineering	December 1 2012
Catherine Cameron	Science - Kinesiology	December 16 2012
H Robert Morgan	Obstetrics & Gynecology	December 25 2012
Dorothy Ringach	Operations & Maintenance	December 26 2012
Robert Connolly	Physical Plant	January 8 2013
Norma Gallagher	UTS	January 27 2013
James Stewart	UTS	Feb 2 2013

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

No Report

### **8.5 Membership (Linda Grocott)**

The current membership at 2155 is down from our last reported number because of recent deaths.

### **8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)**

Kathy had two phone calls relating to articles in the winter newsletter.

### **8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa)**

Joe noted that there have been no new nominations from our membership resulting from the Winter MURA newsletter. A meeting of the nominating committee is scheduled for Feb. 26 and Joe will report on their deliberations to Council at the March 13 meeting.

### **8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Jack Evans)**

No Report resulting from committee activities.

### **8.9 Trips (Kathy Heywood, Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)**

No Report

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

Pictures from October's President's New Retirees Reception have been posted. Marianne is working on the pictures from the Christmas luncheon.

## **9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

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

No Report. The next meeting is March 7.

### **9.2 CURAC (Marianne Walters)**

No Report

### **9.3 MUFA (Marianne Walters)**

Marianne has had no recent contact with MUFA. She noted that the joint University-MUFA committee is currently meeting.

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

No Report

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

Dianne met with Dave Bridgert, the SEIU liaison person. Their committee was to meet on February 5 but so far Dianne has heard nothing back with respect to possible SEIU support for MURA. She will keep pursuing an answer.

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

The hourly pension committee recently met to be briefed about the possible implications of the Morneau report. Various points were discussed, with respect to possible benefits and to the financing of the plan should it be implemented. It was also noted in the committee meeting that the university has opted to insert an additional \$20,000/month, to reduce the hourly pension fund deficit at a faster pace.

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

No Report

**10. Other Business**

None

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

Wed. March 13, 1:30 PM in MSU 318.

**12. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Helen Dietsche at 2:55 PM

*'That the meeting be adjourned'*

**Carried**

17/02/2013