



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, June 13, 2012, 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, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Jack Evans, Linda Grocott, Kathy Heywood, Karin Hewlett, Mary Johnston, Joe Laposa, Shari Mercer, Pam Penny, Kathy Overholt, Janice Rischke, Wayne Rouse, Marianne Van der Wel, Marianne Walters (Chair) .

Regrets:

Harold Siroonian, Bob West.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting –May 09, 2012 (for approval)

Moved by Kathy Overholt, **seconded by** Shari Mercer

‘That the minutes be adopted as corrected’

Carried unanimously

3. Human Resources Report (Karin Hewlett)

3.1 New retiree check-list

Karin reported that new retirees get a package with copies of the MURA release form and the MURA letter for new retirees. There should rarely be retirees who are not informed about MURA and the need to answer yes/no for MURA membership . Occasionally special retirement arrangements are made that may delay the process or circumnavigate it.

3.2 Website statement “How One Becomes a Member of MURA (Helen Barton, Lorraine Allan)

The statement on the web regarding MURA membership has been reviewed and a few explanatory sentences have been added. These statements emphasize that one is automatically a member unless they choose to opt out. However, MURA is only informed of the new retirees who authorize HR to release their personal information to MURA.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)

The endowment fund total = \$48,769 which is up \$ 100 over the last month.

4.2 Review of Annual General Meeting

Janice Rischke felt that people seemed to enjoy themselves. The food and service were good. There was a paucity of fruit and vegetables which seemed to be much in demand. Parking arrangements were in place and handicapped travelers were well-served. A general observation was that the carpet in the hall was in need of a good cleaning. Marianne Walters will convey this sentiment to management**. Marianne expressed her thanks to everyone who worked diligently to make this event a success.

AGM Minutes (Draft)

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded by** Mary Johnston

'That the AGM Minutes (Draft) be adopted as corrected and become the AGM minutes (Provisional), to be presented at the 2013 AGM'

Carried unanimously

4.3 Meeting with Parking re retiree parking (Marianne Walters, Helen Barton)

This meeting concerns information for retirees re: all day parking. The meeting has not yet been arranged.

4.4 Lunch & Learn meeting of May 15 (Helen Barton)

There was a lack of interest for this meeting at this time and it was cancelled. Mary Johnston suggested that it might generate more interest if the potential role for retirees was more explicit. Helen stated that we should give it another try in the fall to see if it can work.

4.5 Alzheimer's Society volunteer roles (Beth Cordas)

When Beth contacted the Society they had no further volunteer needs for the project they were currently involved in. However, they are now seeking volunteers who will take part in a visitors program for Alzheimer's patients. This request will be sent out to our membership on Listserve.

4.6 MURA Trips policy update

The Trips Committee and Executive had a very fruitful meeting and the Executive in agreement with the Trips Committee will produce and submit a revised statement on Trips Policy to a Fall Council meeting. One of the decisions that will be undertaken immediately is to roll the Trips bank account into the MURA account. This is detailed in Item 7 below.

4.7 MURA Response to Community Engagement Position Paper

Mary Koziol invited MURA and McMaster retirees in general to respond to this position paper. Several members noted that retirees are not an important component of this document. A rejoinder was that MURA needed to have a role and that we had been invited to do so. One of our roles is that we have been and will continue to inform out members of volunteer needs and opportunities. It was agreed that MURA should respond a.s.a.p. and to this end the following Ad Hoc group has been designated. Their document will be circulated to Council for feedback and then submitted to Executive for approval before it is forwarded to Mary Koziol.** The Ad Hoc committee comprises the following members
Lorraine Allen
Helen Barton
Mary Johnston
Marianne Van der Wel

5. Correspondence (Marianne Walters)

5.1 CURAC and CURAC Ontario Regional

Marianne Van der Wel has posted the CURAC newsletter on the MURA web site. The first Ontario Regional CURAC meeting will be held on October 15 (Monday) somewhere in the GTA. There will be a morning and afternoon session with discussion facilitators. A number of possible discussion topics have been mentioned. There are as yet no details on enrollment fees or other expenses. Delegates will be responsible for their own luncheon and travel costs. It is envisioned that Council members would wish to car pool and that MURA may help subsidize their costs to an amount unknown at this time. Firmer details will be forwarded when the regional committee's plans are more firmly known.

5.2. Pension Trust Committee MURA representative

Bob West has been appointed as MURA's representative on the Pension Trust Committee. He will liaise with Les Robb to familiarize himself with the operations of the Pension Trust Committee.

5.3 Convocation Dinner June 14

Beth Csordas and Wayne Rouse will represent MURA at this event.

6. President's Report (Marianne Walters)

6.1 Constitution and Council Membership

Marianne read the sections of the constitution that deals with voting members. All elected and ex-officio members of Council are eligible to vote. This includes the HR delegate (Karin Hewlett) and the Chair of the Web Committee (Marianne Van der Wel). As was noted in the May 09, 2012 minutes, the only time there is an exception, with respect to voting privileges, is if an elected Council member requests a recorded vote. In this circumstance only elected Council members can vote.

6.2 Appointment of Committee Chairs and Liaison

Under appointments of committee chairs and liaisons there are two categories.

- A. Appointments of elected Council members, to be made by consensus of Council. These are
 - Dianne Covington - Liaison for Hourly Employees
 - Linda Grocott - Chair of the Membership Committee
 - Shari Mercer - Chair of the Trips Committee
 - Janice Rischke - Chair of the Christmas Luncheon Committee
 - Janice Rischke - Chair of the AGM Committee
- B. Appointments of those who are not elected Council members that require a motion in Council. The following were proposed in this category:
 - Lorraine Allan-Chair of Pensions and Benefits Committee
 - Kathy Overholt-Chair of MURAnews Committee

The following two motions were formalized in Council

Moved by Shari Mercer and **seconded by** Helen Barton
that Lorraine Allan be appointed Chair of the Pensions and Benefits Committee

Carried unanimously.

Moved by Marianne Van der Wel and **seconded by** Janice Rischke

that Kathy Overholt be appointed Chair of the MURAnews Committee
Carried unanimously

6.3 Circulation of MURA Council Lists

Helen Barton passed around three separate lists, each containing different information on Council members, so that all could check that this information was correct.

6.4 Communications to MURA

- Kathy Overholt will continue to answer the office phone
- Marianne Walters will handle the email mura@mcmaster.ca
- Marianne Walters will pick up the mail from the office mailbox
- Helen Barton will handle muramembs-l list updating.
- Helen Barton will monitor muramembs-l e-mails C

6.5 Focus for 2012/13

Marianne Walters does not envision any major new involvements for the coming year. She foresees that Pensions and Benefits will remain an area of major endeavor and that MURA member's involvement in volunteering will continue to grow.

6.6 Involvement in Committee Work

Marianne urged Council members over the summer to consider if they wished to become involved in particular committees or activities and/or possibly to change their present committee involvements. Leading from this will be the finalizing of a new committee list in the Fall.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

7.1 Beth reported that to date expenses for the AGM totalled a little under budget.

7.2 Signing Authority for the MURA McMaster Credit Union account

Moved by Beth Csordas, **seconded by** Jack Evans

that the signing authority should include the President (Marianne Walters) the Past President (Joe Lapos), the Treasurer (Beth Csordas) the Secretary (Wayne Rouse) and the Chair Trips/ Special Events (Shari Mercer) and that the signature of any two would constitute legal signing authority

Carried unanimously

Moved by Beth Csordas, **seconded by** Kathy Heywood

that the Chair of the Trips Committee should only sign for Trips events

Carried unanimously

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Janice Rischke)

The Christmas luncheon is booked for Dec. 4 in the CIBC Hall. More details will be forthcoming during the fall meetings.

8.2 AGM (Janice Rischke)

No Report

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to June 13, 2012

Dr. George Round	Mechanical Engineering	January 21 2012
Nick Stojan	Physical Plant – Maintenance	March 3 2012
Nyal Wilson	Civil Engineering	March 17 2012
Agni Hristopoulos	Hospitality Services	April 3 2012
Dr. B. William Shragge	Surgery	April 20 2012
Douglas Pearson	Physical Plant - Maintenance	April 23 2012
Dr. Elizabeth Latimer	Family Medicine	April 28 2012
William Scott	Institute for Materials Research	May 14 2012

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)

The current membership is 2102.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Kathy announced the following dates for the summer edition of MURAnews.

July 11- Deadline for all articles

July 20 – Copy goes to Printing

July 26 – Mailing

Kathy noted that Mail Services could be moving to West Campus but this has not been finalized. It could provide some challenges for the mailing procedure.

8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa)

No Report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

Marianne and Lorraine will liaise in turning over the chairmanship of the portfolio.

8.9 Trips (Shari Mercer)

Everything is going well with lots of interest in the trips which will take place in most months during the summer and fall of 2012.

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne reported the following.

- The newly revised statement on what constitutes MURA membership will be posted shortly.
- She is working on posting the photos from the AGM and attempting to get the best method of reducing photo download time.
- The problem with remote device links to the website is still under investigation.
- She would very much like to be able to introduce self-editing on the web site for MURA members but this is still down-the-road.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

- The meeting of June 7 is available on the University President's web site.

- The finance committee delivered a consolidated budget for 2012-2013. It shows a modest improvement in the universities' overall finances.
- A new budget model is being introduced and tested and is close to be finalized.
- David Wilkinson, who is currently Dean of Engineering, will start his new posting as McMaster Provost and Vice-President Academic on July 1.
- John Capone, currently Dean of Science, will be leaving the university to become Provost and Vice-President Academic at the University of Guelph.

9.2 CURAC (Marianne Walters) – Ontario Regional Conference

See Item 5.1.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

No Report

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)

Janice and Kathy Overholt recently met with Matt Root and Rosemary Viola, President and Vice-President respectively of the local branch of CAW. CAW negotiations with McMaster for the upcoming year's contract agreement have just commenced. They also were informed that SEIU has a new president, so that it's perhaps time for MURA to approach SEIU again for funding support.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

No Report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

The Pension Committee met on June 4. The pension plan investments performed fairly well this past year given the circumstances.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

No Report

10. Other Business

Marianne confirmed that the Executive and Council would continue to meet on the first and second Wednesday's of each month during the coming year.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. September 12, 2012, 1:30 PM in MSU 220.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3:15 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried

24/06/2012