



McMaster University Retirees Association

1280 Main Street West,
Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L8, Canada

Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23171

Home: 905 528 6506

E-mail: wayne.rouse3@yahoo.ca

<http://www.mcmaster-retirees.ca>

Wayne Rouse, Secretary

**MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
–Wednesday, May 8, 2013, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Room 220.**

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

Regrets: Kathy Heywood

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting – April 10, 2013 (for approval)

Moved by Marianne Van der Wel, **seconded by** Harold Siroonian

‘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

The MURA executive and pension and benefits committee met with Michele Leroux (Human Resources) and representatives from Sun Life (Ron Kalbfleisch) and Royal Sun Alliance (Marianne Brebers) the latter being involved with travel insurance. The two companies have combined to offer an individual private out-of-province travel insurance package available for anyone. McMaster retirees who are receiving post-retirement benefits from Sun Life would be eligible for a discount of 2-3% depending upon the policy selected. It is also possible to use some or all of their McMaster group travel insurance benefit of \$10,000 as a deductible to reduce the cost of the RSA additional policy. The RSA

representative stressed that every situation is different and it is important to communicate with the companies by telephone to obtain a reliable and understandable benefit plan. While neither McMaster Human Resources nor MURA will be endorsing this plan, Human Resources will be documenting the availability and details of the plan first, then MURA will communicate this to their membership.** Discussion was wide-ranging and quite technical. Several commented on the continuing need to inform our members about what to consider when purchasing additional travel insurance. The importance on being absolutely honest in responding to health questions was stressed to avoid potential problems when a claim is made.

4.2 Economical Select

The most recent brochures delivered by Economical Select were distributed to MURA members with Canadian addresses who are not part of the electronic mailing list. The invoice from Mail Services has been sent to Chase Anderson at Economical Select.

4.3 Response to Peter George re MURA trips

There is a positive response to opening our trips to other groups. It is envisioned that the best way to process this is through 'Friends of MURA'. Helen Barton suggested that any group joining should name two contact persons through whom the Trips information can be funneled. Shari Mercer explained that the trips are driven by deadline dates and that deposits must be in by deadline dates. Thus MURA members cannot be preferentially treated if they do not apply by these deadline dates. She does not see this as a problem.

4.4 Policy regarding communication of information circulated

The policy document was opened for discussion but there were no questions.

5. Correspondence (Marianne Walters)

5.1 Susan Todd e-mail

Susan queried if MURA could send information to members re: imminent funeral services. The answer is No! because MURA gets information far too late to aid in this process. Helen Barton will respond to Susan's email explaining the situation.**

5.2. Appointment of Pension Trust Committee representative

Moved by Joe Laposa, seconded by Shari Mercer

'That Bob West be appointed as MURA's Pension Trust Committee representative'

Carried

6. President's Report (Marianne Walters)

6.1 CURAC 2014 Conference

Mary Johnston and Marianne Walters met with Laurie Ham & Dianne Carment re accommodations for this annual conference. It was determined that meeting room and accommodation rooms are available for the dates May 28-May 30, 2014.

Subsequently they met with Mary Williams, Vice-President of Advancement. The net result is that President Patrick Deane is fully supportive of this venture, that he or a delegate will welcome the conference attendees and that the university will support the meeting with \$3000. As a result of this university commitment the following motions were made.

Moved by, Kathy Overholt, seconded by Janice Rishke
that MURA host the annual CURAC meeting, May 28-30, 2014

Carried

Moved by, Helen Barton, seconded by, Janice Rishke
That Mary Johnston be the Chair of the 2014 CURAC organizing committee.

Carried

Mary Johnston will automatically be a member of the CURAC Board for one year and thus should have her expenses to the St. Johns annual conference fully covered by CURAC. This requires an application.**

Marianne Walters as MURA President is eligible for a subsidy to attend the meeting. Council agreed she should pursue this. This requires an application.**

6.2 Mandatory upgrading of MAC ID password

MURA members along with other university members will need to upgrade their MAC ID password annually. The process for this will be explained by UTS in the near future.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

The scholarship fund stands at \$54,322.

Beth spoke to the circulated report which showed the actual revenues and expenditures up to April 17. Charges for the last issue of MURAnews plus other minor adjustments will change the estimated surplus from \$2921.24 to \$911.48

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Janice Rischke)

The contract with catering services has been submitted by Janice and awaits response and final agreement.

8.2 AGM (Janice Rischke)

The AGM duties list that was circulated with the agenda raised a few minor questions and corrections. To date, 49 people have signed up for the AGM. Amongst current assignments the following were determined.

- Marianne Van der Wel and Helen Barton will work on a visual presentation for the AGM
- Marianne Van der Wel and Helen Barton will document the meeting with photos
- Shari Mercer will give a verbal presentation of the current status of Trips and will also distribute a few flyers describing the trips to each table at the AGM
- There will be a 'Volunteer Table' at the AGM and Helen Barton invites anyone will volunteer information (needs) to provide information.

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

DEATHS to May 7, 2013

Charles Woolever	HS - Obs & Gyn	March 27 2013
Wanda Bujalski	Library	March 30 2013[

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Linda Grocott)

The current membership total is 2163

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Summer Edition

June 12 for final receipt of materials

August 1 for mailing

8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa)

No Report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Jack Evans)

No Report

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

No Specific Report. Trips are going as planned.

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

No Report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Marianne Walters)

The last meeting was April 18. The president's report is on the web site. Discussion centred on the general theme 'Forward with Integrity'. 20 proposals *on enhancing the student experience* have been funded and new proposals *on the integration of teaching and research* are being entertained.

9.2 CURAC (Marianne Walters)

Discussed under item 6.1

9.3 MUFA (Marianne Walters)

No Report

9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Janice Rischke)

No Report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Diane reports that she has been in touch with SEIU and that they need a statement on \$ amounts needed and what it will be used for. Diane has already submitted materials to management so probably just a compact statement on needs and uses is needed. Helen Barton and Joe Laposa will work on this from their existing materials.**

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No Report

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

The committee meets on May 9. One agenda item deals with *returns on investments*.

10. Other Business

10.1 Helen Barton gave a heads-up that *the learning portfolio project* for undergraduate students may be seeking retirees as mentors and may have information available at the volunteer table at the AGM.

10.2 Joe Laposa will be acting chair for the June 12 Council Meeting. Both new and retiring council members are invited to this meeting.

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. June 12, 1:30 PM in KTH 103 (NOTE; Different Venue)

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3:10 PM
'*that the meeting be adjourned*'

Carried

12/05/2013