



**McMaster University Retirees Association**

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

**Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 1:30 PM at MSU, Room 220.**

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

**1. Welcome & Regrets**

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

**Regrets:** Lorraine Allan, Beth Csordas, Linda Grocott, Karin Hewlett, Bob West.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Council Meeting –Sept. 12, 2012 (for approval)

**Moved by** Jack Evans **seconded by** Kathy Overholt

*'That the minutes be adopted as corrected'*

**Carried**

**3. Human Resources Report** (Marianne Walters for Karin Hewlett)

**3.1** Identification of eligible dependents for continued Sun Life benefits following the death of an active or retired McMaster employee.

A new process that will provide surviving spouses with their own I.D. is being devised. This will allow them to access and do transactions on line. Thus surviving dependents become the plan member.

**3.2** Revision of the Extended Health Care Claim Form written for the surviving dependent.  
As of now survivors are eligible to sign a health claim form.

**3.3** Problems with Europ Assist customer care with respect to their serious misinformation and negation of legitimate health claims resulting from emergencies that occurred during travel abroad. Michele Leroux is working with a Sun Life representative on this problem.

**4. Business Arising – updates on**

**4.1** Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Helen Barton)

The fund at \$48,994 has not changed since September. Beth and Helen Barton are working with Alumni Advancement to design a donation card that will be sent out to retirees soon. The goal is to increase the endowment by \$15,000 over a 3 year period. When the goal is met this should allow the scholarship to be increased from \$1250 to \$2000 and the prize to be increased from \$350 to \$550.

#### **4.2 MURA trips policy update (Wayne Rouse)**

There was no report. There is to be a joint meeting of Trips Committee-Executive to iron out some outstanding queries before a revised report is brought to Council. There was some discussion about cruises and the wording with respect to cruises on the first draft of the Trips Policy document. This will be discussed in the joint meeting. \*\*

#### **4.3 MURA response to Community Engagement Position Paper (Walters; Allan, Barton, Johnston and Van der Wel)**

Marianne Walters noted that the university is still accepting submissions and that, after MURAnews is sent out, the ad hoc committee will devise a draft statement.

#### **4.4 Meeting with Parking re retiree parking (M. Walters)**

Marianne is still seeking a meeting with Terry Sullivan to discuss the issue of A.M.-P.M parking for retirees.

#### **4.5 Ad Hoc Committee on Succession Planning (Jack Evans)**

Jack noted that it is easy to define the problem but solutions are harder come by. He suggested that the nominating committee should consider both Executive posts but also Chairs for committees when drawing up a list. After discussion it was agreed that the job of the nominating committee is an ongoing one and not limited only to the winter months. The ad hoc committee will report with recommendations to Council a.s.a.p. \*\*

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

#### **5.1 CURAC Ontario Regional Meeting**

Since Ontario CURAC sent out the wrong mailing address for registration they had to extend the registration closure date and it really wasn't known how many actually planned to attend. As a result MURA didn't encourage members to register through ListServe. In the end there will be only two MURA representatives at the regional meeting.

#### **5.2 Report on information sent on Listserve and/or MURAnews**

Two ListServe items were circulated this past month.

#### **5.3 Report on correspondence with Univ. of Ottawa Ph.D. Student**

Marianne had a cordial response when she explained we do not circulate requests for participation in research studies from non-McMaster researchers.

#### **5.4 Correspondence with Ellen Ryan re community service by older volunteers**

Ellen Ryan provided an update on community activities related to creating support for Older Volunteers. In her response to Ellen, Marianne advised her of MURA's need to update our network of campus volunteer activities and asked if she could identify someone who would take on a leadership role in this area. Ellen said that she would be on the lookout for someone. Ellen will write a short piece for MURAnews encouraging retirees to become involved in community volunteer activities.

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

### 6.1 Reception for new retirees

No firm date has yet been set for this reception. We only know it is in the planning stage because Beth Mackay emailed Helen Barton asking for a list of recent retirees, which MURA cannot supply for privacy reasons.

### 6.2 Meeting with Michele Leroux and Karin Hewlett

Marianne, Michele and Karin covered a wide range of topics in a very useful meeting on Sept. 26. This included discussions on MURA website update of out- of- province/country emergency medical insurance, HR website update of out- of- province/country medical insurance and Sun Life's plan to provide contacts for private out of province/country emergency medical insurance by this fall. The MURA website update needs some work before it is posted on the MURA public web site. It was suggested in Council that the information card needs a higher resolution scan as it is hard to read\*\*. A number of problems that have arisen with Euro Assist are being discussed with Sun Life by HR. When Karin goes on maternity leave Michele will take over the MURA portfolio and will be reporting directly to Roger Couldrey.

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

No Report

## 8. Information Reports from Committees

### 8.1 Christmas Party (Janice Rishke)

Everything is booked for the luncheon on Dec. 4. The following motion was made.

**Moved by** Mary Johnston, **seconded by** Marianne Van der Wel

*that the cost of the Christmas Luncheon be increased from \$15 to \$16*

**Carried**

### 8.2 AGM (Janice Rishke)

Since the MURA Quebec City trip is the week of May 28 Janice will seek to book Celebration Hall for a couple days after the May 24 holiday weekend or in the first week of June. She will communicate her recommendation to Executive\*\*. Beth is asked to contact Bob West re: the timing with respect to the auditor's report\*\*.

### 8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to October 10, 2012

Everett Knight	Modern Languages & Linguistics	June 3 2012
Edith Archer	Dean of Women	Sept. 6 2012

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

No Report

### 8.5 Membership (Linda Grocott)

The current membership is 2141 which is an increase of 8 over September's total.

### 8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Production is under control. The deadline for submissions is Oct 10 (today). Marianne

needs to write the President's Corner\*\*. Envelope stuffing will be either Oct. 25 or 26.

**8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa)**

No Report. However, there was some discussion on the composition of the nominating committee and how members are selected.

**8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Lorraine Allan)**

No report. However, Marianne Walters announced that Jack Evans will serve as vice-chair of Pensions and Benefits for the balance of the MURA operating year.

**8.9 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)**

Shari listed the activities that are subscribed. These include one-day trips to Niagara-on-the-Lake, X-mas lights in Owen Sound, Ballet, Dundurn Castle and the multi-day trip to Quebec City.

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

No Report

**9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

**9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)**

No Report

**9.2 CURAC (Marianne Walters)**

No further Report

**9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan)**

No Report

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

No Report

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

Diane is arranging a meeting with the SEIU and will provide the name and address of the President of SEIU to Marianne Walters so she can invite him to the Christmas Luncheon.

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

No Report

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

Bob's report was circulated prior to the Council meeting. There was no discussion of the report.

**10. Other Business**

None

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

Wed. Nov. 14, 2012, 1:30 PM in MSU 220.

**12. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Helen Dietsche at 3.20 PM  
*'That the meeting be adjourned'*

22/10/2012