



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, September 12, 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, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Janice Rischke, Wayne Rouse, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Walters (Chair), Bob West.

Regrets: Joe Laposa, Marianne Van der Wel,

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Council Meeting –June 13, 2012 (for approval)

Moved by Jack Evans, **seconded by** Mary Johnston

'That the minutes be adopted as presented'

Carried

3. Human Resources Report (Karin Hewlett)

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

Several problems have arisen with spousal (dependent) survivors of the McMaster Benefits plan who have tried to submit claims directly on line for deposit into their bank account.

This has apparently resulted from issues relating to ID numbers. HR has been working on this with the problem cases and hopefully there will be recognized ID numbers assigned to survivors and there may be no further problems. Karin will report back to Council on the potential resolution of this problem. **

3.2 Revision of the Extended Health Care Claim Form written for the surviving dependent.

The Sunlife health claim forms require the signature of the McMaster retiree but there is no provision for the spousal (dependent) survivor. Karin is working with Sunlife representative to resolve this problem. She will report back to Council on the potential resolution of this problem. **

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.

During the past three months, three retirees have contacted MURA re: rejected claims for emergency medical while travelling outside Canada. In the case of one retiree, Europ Assistance (EA) ruled that the McMaster 10K did not cover out-of-Canada travel. In the other two cases, EA rejected the claim for some of the services deemed by the attending physician to be related to the emergency care. With Karin's intervention, two of the cases have been resolved in the retiree's favour; one is still outstanding. Karin is working with her contact at EA to get a better understanding of the "rules" used by EA and will meet with Lorraine in the near future.**

3.4 Problem with Drug Claim to Sunlife

Bob West raised an issue regarding payment of the cost of a prescription for a compounded drug (a mixture of different drugs) assuming that the Ontario Drug Benefits (ODB) program would pay for this. The compounding pharmacist says that ODB does not pay for compounded drugs and the ODB person contacted didn't know as compounded drugs are not included in the ODB formulary. Bob subsequently contacted Sun Life and together they are working on a resolution.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)

The fund at \$48,944 has increased by \$175 since June last. Beth and Helen Barton had a meeting with Alumni Advancement and it was agreed that a new approach is needed in the upcoming fundraising campaign. One idea was that a card with graphics be sent out by mid-October. This might emphasize that a larger endowment would allow an increase in the award which would help offset rising tuition costs. Council endorsed this approach and left it in Beth and Helen's hands to proceed.**

4.2 MURA trips policy update (Wayne Rouse)

Wayne sent out the revised policy to Council by email prior to the meeting. It had been vetted by the Travel Committee and the Executive. Because the financial aspects of multi-day coach trips will now be totally handled by the tour company, this may require some minor changes in the wording of the revised document before its acceptance by Council. The Travel Committee is exploring this and a final adoption of the revised document is suspended until the October Council meeting.**

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

M. Walters has contacted Mary Koziol asking if any MURA members have responded to the position paper and to see if there is still time for a response. She is waiting to hear back from Mary.

4.4 Lunch & Learn meeting (Helen Barton)

Helen noted that there was a very poor response to a meeting last spring and feels that we should not pursue it further at this time.

4.5 Meeting with Parking re retiree parking (M. Walters)

Marianne is seeking a meeting a.s.a.p. to discuss the issue of A.M.-P.M parking for retirees.

5. Correspondence (Marianne Walters)

5.1 CURAC Ontario Regional Meeting

Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters and Janice Rischke are attending this meeting as Council delegates.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded by** Wayne Rouse

that Council will reimburse delegates expenses for the one-day meeting.

Carried

The response to the CURAC meeting has been light and the organizers are seeking more participants. An invitation will be circulated to other MURA members through Listserve.

**

5.2.TD Insurance – Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance

The above insurance group plans are supported by the McMaster Alumni Association.

Council agrees that information on this insurance group should be circulated to our membership through Listserve and MURANews. **

5.3 Hamilton Catholic Children's Aid Society

This group needs volunteer drivers for their programs. They reimburse volunteers for mileage expenses and the necessary police check. Council agrees that we circulate this need through Listserve. **

5.4 Third Level Learning

There is already a branch of this program that is designed for Seniors, in Burlington and Hamilton now has a newly-created branch. It will start with a lecture series at Innovation Park. This initiative will be described in the fall edition of MURANews. **

5.5 Ronald McDonald House Hamilton

This is a new request. There are volunteer opportunities both at RMH and at the MUMC Children's Centre. This fits MURA supported activities and will be advertised through Listserve and MURANews. **

5.6 Ph.D. Candidate (University of Ottawa) request for retiree participation

Because of concern for overloading our membership with requests MURA Council has a policy that we will only support requests from McMaster students who are supervised by McMaster faculty. Marianne Walters will inform the above student of our inability to help with the request. **

6. President's Report (Marianne Walters)

6.1 Composition of MURA Committees

/The composition of MURA committees as previously circulated was accepted by Council. Janice Rischke will approach Linda Grocott requesting that she serve on the Christmas Luncheon and Annual General Meeting committees. **

6.2 MURA Initiatives: Succession Planning (Jack Evans)

Jack makes the point that Council needs to attract new members, particularly those who might aspire to Executive positions, from younger retirees who are more familiar with the contemporary functioning of the university.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded by** Helen Dietsche

that Jack Evans chair an ad hoc committee with 4 or 5 members that will forward to the nominating committee names of younger retirees who would be eligible and willing to fulfill roles on Council

Carried**

6.3 MURA Initiatives: Clarification of definition by MURA of “retiree” (Jack Evans, Helen Barton)

With terms of university employment becoming ever more varied there is a need to attempt to establish definitions of who is a ‘McMaster retiree’ and also to determine if MURA’s goals and objectives will match the needs of future retirees . Council agreed that this attempt should be pursued by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. **

6.4 Website update on out-of-province/country emergency medical insurance

Lorraine Allan has provided Michele Leroux of HR with a draft of proposed MURA website revisions concerning this coverage, in the areas of dependents, out of country coverage, Geoff Burman recognition, and links to relevant MURAnews articles. Michele has responded to Marianne Walters. Discussions between Lorraine, Marianne and Michele re: the web site revision are ongoing.

6.5 Retiree Centre on campus

Kathy Overholt raised the question concerning space in the soon-to-be-constructed Wilson Social Sciences building. The idea of a retiree centre was tossed around but it elicited no real enthusiasm or anyone eager to take a lead. It was agreed that more space for a MURA office where small groups could gather would be very welcome. There was, however, no designation of a task force to explore this further. Kathy noted that claims for space in new buildings quickly outstrip the space available.

6.6 Photo of current Council members

A photo-shoot is scheduled for 1:15 PM just prior to the October Council meeting. **

7. Treasurer’s Report: (Beth Csordas)

Beth reported that all recent expenditures are within budget estimates. There is a need to establish a date and time for the cheque signers to meet with the Credit Union for the annual changeover. **

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Party (Janice Rishke)

Arrangements are well underway. The menu, will be similar to last years. There will be two serving tables with two lines each. The cost will increase \$0.40/ person for food plus an additional \$65 for facility costs. Beth & Janice will collaborate on the budget. The sound system will need to be arranged. **

8.2 AGM (Janice Rishke)

Janice noted that Tuesday May 28 would correspond to the date last year. A final decision on this was suspended for the October Council meeting. **

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

Deaths to September 12, 2012

Suzanne Southward	HS - Pediatrics	May 4 2012
Jean Hurst	Library	June 26 2012
Gail Kalika	Economiccs	July 4 2012
Denis J Moore	Chemistry	July 6 2012
Teresa Maderak	Physical Plant	August 4 2012
Wendall Watters	HS Psychiatry	August 17 2012
John Chadwick	Physical Plant	August 23 2012
John Roy	Psychiatry	August 24 2012

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report

8.5 Membership (Linda Grocott)

The current membership is 2133 which is an increase of 31 over June's total.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

Kathy reported that for the fall newsletter the following dates had been set

Deadline for submissions Oct. 10

Printing Oct. 19

Stuffing Oct. 25 or 26.

8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposa)

No Report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Lorraine Allan)

No further report

8.9 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

All scheduled trips and events have adequate participation and will go forward.

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)

Dianne was in contact with the Toronto officers of SEIU who stated that they have nothing for retirees.

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

The overdue Pension and Benefits Handbook has not been rewritten yet.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

No Report

10. Other Business

None

11. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Wed. October 10, 2012, 1:30 PM in MSU 220. Please meet for group photo at 1:15 PM

12. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Dietsche at 3:30 PM

'That the meeting be adjourned'

Carried

16/09/2012