

**McMaster University Retirees Association**

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

**MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association –  
Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Room 318.**

**1. Welcome & Regrets**

**Present:** Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Linda Grocott, Joe Lapos, Michele Leroux, Betty Ann Levy, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Janice Rischke, Wayne Rouse, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Van der Wel, Marianne Walters (Chair), Bob West.

**Regrets:** Mary Johnston, Kathy Heywood,

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Minutes of November 13, 2013 (for approval)**

**Moved by** Betty Ann Levy, **seconded** by Beth Csordas  
*‘That the minutes be adopted as corrected’*

**Carried**

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

**3.1 Update on Sun Life Cards for retirees**

The following is excerpted from an email sent by Ron Kalbfleisch (Sun Life representative) to Michele.

When Pay Direct Drugs first came to the Canadian market, most insurance companies ran their own networks. This was not a viable business model and four large Canadian insurers (Sun Life, Mutual Life, Great West Life and Canada Life) entered into a partnership to build a network to deliver pay direct drugs for their clients. As a result employees who had Pay Direct Drugs received a plastic card that was branded with the joint company's logo (Shared Health Network Services - SHNS). Over time, the ownership and/or name of the joint company changed several times. Ultimately the only information required to submit a drug claim through the pharmacy is the data on the front of the card - the carrier number, policy number and certificate number.

When a McMaster employee retires, they keep the same certificate and policy number and so they can continue to use the drug card they were given as an active employee. New drug cards were never provided when the pay direct drug provider (SHNS, Assure, etc.) went through their rebranding/ownership changes, which is why there are different versions.

Any McMaster plan member can go to the Sun Life website and print their own card which contains all the detail required by a pharmacist to submit a claim. For members who do not use the web another option for a person who does not have a Pay Direct Drug card is to call Sun Life's Call Centre.

### 3.2 Eligibility of retirees for Employee Assistance Program (EAP) service.

The EAP, which is available to active McMaster employees, does not provide assistance to retirees. Michele will look into other groups that might provide assistance.\*\*

### 3.3 Co-Pay Employee Groups

Michele listed the three copay groups with web site information on each as follows.

MUFA Retiree Co- pay

<http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/link.php?link=employee-health:benefits-co-pay>

Clinical Faculty Retiree Co-pay

[http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/med/document/CF-PRB-Co-pay-Program-Outline-Nov-2013-\(2\)-1-43.pdf](http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/med/document/CF-PRB-Co-pay-Program-Outline-Nov-2013-(2)-1-43.pdf)

CAW Retiree Co-Pay – see appendix (pg. 80)

<http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/med/document/Collective-Agreement-2012---2016-vFinal-15-MAR-13-NB-FORMATTED-1-42.pdf>

## 4. Business Arising – updates on

### 4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)

The endowment fund total at \$57,200 has increased by \$2430 over the past month.

### 4.2 CURAC 2014 Conference (Helen Barton and Mary Johnston)

(Note: Mary's report was circulated to Council on Dec. 11 and is summarized here).

Mary's email distributed on Nov. 24 to the CURAC mailing list gave an invitation to join in, a brief outline of the conference structure and dates and the Conference web site. She particularly noted the continuation of the Best Practices session which allows member associations to exchange information about activities, successes and challenges and an invitation to send ideas for this session to her by January 6, 2014. She posed a number of possible themes as follows.

- *Connecting with new retirees & keeping contact information for current association member up to date*
- *Attracting new retirees to retiree associations.*
- *Establishing what the membership wants from your association*
- *Meeting the needs of the next generation of retirees Succession planning*
- *The role of retiree associations for retirees without university/college pensions*
- *Staying connected with retirees who move away*
- *Joining forces with other college/university retiree associations*

- *What are universities and colleges doing to support academic and professional activities on campus among retirees?*
- *The retiree association as facilitator for volunteer opportunities on campus and in the community*
- Interaction between students and retirees
- Free or reduced tuition charges for continuing education classes for retirees

Mary's report to the CURAC Board and the email to member associations (also sent to the Board.) were well-received at the Board teleconference on December 6th and several Board members volunteered to speak at the conference.

At the MURA Christmas Lunch 14 MURA members signed on as conference volunteers.

#### **4.3 Free trial membership in University Club.**

Marianne has sent 2 emails to the manager of the University Club who first initiated this offer. To date there has been no reply and Marianne will try to get further information by phone. \*\*

#### **4.4 Free trial membership in AROHE (Mary Johnston)**

Mary has registered MURA as a member for the free trial period. She will spend some time reviewing the ARHOE site over the holidays and report at the January Council meeting. \*\*

#### **4.5 MURA Secretary**

Wayne Rouse has resigned as secretary of MURA effective December 31, 2013. Kathy Overholt has volunteered to take on this position.

**Moved** by Janice Rischke, seconded by Kathy Heywood

*That Kathy Overholt be appointed Secretary of MURA to June 30, 2015.*

**Carried**

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

#### **5.1 Economical Select**

In clarification of confusion in previous correspondence, Economical Select will pay an administrative fee of \$100 for MURA having a marketing plan with them plus all extra postage costs for inclusion of their brochure in MURAnews.

#### **5.2 Card from Erin Feutl**

Erin sent a thank you card acknowledging her MURA scholarship award.

#### **5.3 CURAC – Health Care Policy Committee statement (distributed)**

Council stuck an ad hoc committee (Marianne Van der Wel, Mary Johnston, and Helen Barton) to respond to this CURAC initiative.

#### **5.4 Chair of MURA web site committee.**

Marianne Van der Wel served notice that she wishes to resign as web-master by June 30, 2015, or at the latest, by June 30, 2016 .

### 5.5 Request from CURAC

The Benefits Committee wishes to establish a contact list with member organizations. Council agreed that Betty Ann Levy should be our liaison person.

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

### 6.1 Christmas Lunch

Marianne expressed sincere thanks to Janice Rischke and Linda Grocott for their enthusiastic efforts and great success in organizing and hosting the Christmas Lunch. For the first time, no one perceived any problems with any of the arrangements. Janice will decide on a suitable date for next year's Christmas Lunch and make a reservation. \*\*

Marianne Walters will send a thank-you note to Economical Select for their donation of prizes to this year's lunch.. \*\*

### 6.2 Renewal of Funding Agreement 2015 – 2017

Informal contacts indicate that UNIFOR5555 is agreeable to renewing their funding agreement with MURA. Marianne Walters has drafted a request letter to our three funding agencies (UNIFOR5555, MUFA and the President's Office) for funding over the 3-year period 2015-2017. This will be sent out in early January. \*\*

### 6.2 Fall Convocation Dinner

MURA did not receive an invitation to this event. This will be discussed during the meeting with President Deane (see 6.3 below). \*\*

### 6.3 Meeting with Patrick Deane

Marianne Walters and Mary Johnston will meet with Patrick Deane on Jan. 21, 2014.

Three topics for discussion will be explored.

1. The possibility of handling transactions with the Xmas Lunch online. This already is done for the Children's Xmas party and Pam Penny will be consulted on the mechanisms. \*\* this involves costs including credit card transaction costs.
2. Number of days allowed for out of province health insurance coverage.
3. Pension indexing.

Council was asked to consider other areas for discussion to be raised at the January Council meeting.

### 6.4 Council Room Venues

All Council meetings in 2014 will be in either MSC 224 or 220.

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

Beth reported that the Xmas Lunch cost \$249 which is under the \$400 that was budgeted. Additionally, the MURA trips budget is under budget by \$500. Joe Laposa brought to Council's attention that Canada Post rates will be increasing substantially which MURA will feel through its ongoing commitment to send surface mail of MURAnews to those still wishing it. Discussion centered on possibly decreasing the frequency of MURAnews from 4 to 3 annually to being more proactive in our electronic posting of MURAnews to

all who have email access. Marianne Walters raised the question ‘will increased costs of MURAnews impact on the support we seek from our financial partners’? It was concluded that a final decision on this should be made at January’s Council meeting.\*\*

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

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

See Item 6.1 above.

### **8.2 AGM (Janice Rishke)**

Janice has tentatively selected June 4, 2014 as a best date and will book this date with the caterers as a tentative date\*\*. There is always the option of changing the booking if the need should arise.

### **8.3 Cards (Shari Mercer)**

Dorothy Cantwell,  
George Fugina,

Facility Services  
Facility Services,

November 3, 2013  
November 19, 2013

Shari reported that she has had no notification of passings in the previous month. However, several deaths were known to Council members and Shari will look into this.

\*\*

### **8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Dianne Coventry)**

No Report.

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

MURA’s current membership number is 2215, the same total as at Council’s November meeting.

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

The winter edition of MURAnews has the timeline

Jan. 8- final copy to be submitted

Jan 22 or 23- copy goes to printing

Jan 29 or 30- mailing date.

Bob West will submit a pension report for the Winter edition. \*\*

### **8.7 Nominating (Joe Laposia)**

Joe went through the nomination rules and procedures. The committee needs to nominate people for the President, Vice-President and three members of Council.

He ask present Council members to suggest to him possible names for the nominating committee’s selection panel which comprises, in addition to Joe

Two members from Council

Two Outside members from the retiree community

Joe also asked Linda Grocott to provide him with the Access data base for Council members to help in his quest. \*\*

**8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Betty Ann Levy)**

Betty Ann that only one problem arose and that this was dealt with expeditiously.

**8.9 Trips (Shari Mercer)**

Shari announced that a slate of new trips will be circulate in the MURAnews winter edition.

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

No Report.

**9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

**9.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)**

No Report. The next meeting of the Board is Dec. 12, 2013.

**9.2 CURAC (Marianne Walters)**

No Report.

**9.3 MUFA (Marianne Walters)**

No Report.

**9.4 UNIFOR5555 (MUSA) (Janice Rishke)**

No Report.

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

No Report.

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

No Report.

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

(Bob's report was circulated to Council on Dec. 11 and is only summarized here).

The audited financial statements showed a rate of return for the year of 10.8%. This combined with the rates of return for the previous 4 years, gives a 5 year average rate that exceeds the 4.5% average needed before a pension increase is activated. Accordingly, there will be a pension increase of 0.37% in January, 2014. Bob notes that a larger pension increase can be anticipated in January, 2015. He also reports on the Committee review of the administration expenses and gives a summary of the first three financial months of the 2013-14 during which returns have been quite positive due to the strong performance of equities. Other Committee discussions and decisions included recommended amendments

to the pension plan text and the deferral of decisions on investment in long-term bonds and real estate

The next meeting of the Pension Trust Committee will be on February 27, 2014

**10. Other Business**

None

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

Wed January 8, 2014, **1:00 PM in MSC 220**. Please note the earlier time which arises because of scheduling difficulties.

**13. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 3:12 P.M.

*‘that the meeting be adjourned’*

**Carried**

31/12/2013