

**Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 1:30 pm in MSC-224**

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Kathy Heywood, Joe Laposa, Mary Johnston, Betty Ann Levy, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Janice Rischke, Marianne Walters (chair), Bob West

Regrets: Linda Grocott, Michele Leroux, Harold Siroonian, Marianne Van Der Wel

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of April 9, 2014 (for approval)

Moved by Beth Csordas, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

“that the minutes be approved”

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

No report.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising (Beth Csordas)

The endowment fund total at \$61,565 is an increase by \$100 over the past month.

4.2 CURAC 2014 Conference (Mary Johnston)

There are now a total of 52 registrations. Mary sent out email reminders and is hoping there will be a late surge. The catering arrangements are made. There are 12 plus organizations not registered—none from Alberta and just a few from Quebec.

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4.3 Response to requests to receive *MURAnews* electronically (Linda Grocott)

Linda reported via email that there are now 127 opt-outs, an increase of 45.

4.4 Discovery Programme - Jean Wilson

Marianne wrote to Jean Wilson to express thanks for meeting with MURA. She said that we need to find someone to act as our liaison with the Discovery Programme Steering Committee. They have appointed a new chair who will get in touch with this MURA member. We should have someone ready in the summer, if possible, but no later than the fall. Betty Ann reminded Council members that Peter Sutherland has worked in Arts & Science and may be interested in the liaison position. She will contact him to discuss the issue.

5. Correspondence (Marianne Walters)

5.1 CURAC – position paper

Marianne sent Council members an electronic copy of the CURAC draft position paper on Population Aging and asked for comments. No responses were received. It was agreed that the draft should be approved.

5.2 Patrick Deane – Christmas lunch

Patrick had offered to pay MURA full cost for new retirees to attend the Christmas lunch up to a total of \$1,000. This is in addition to the current subsidy for all retirees. At \$16 per new retiree, this will provide for a maximum of 62 new retirees. He asked that we liaise with Mike Cupido in his office. Marianne wrote back to thank him and to say it will be interesting to evaluate how successful we are in interacting with the new retirees who do come in hopes of interesting them in becoming involved in the work of MURA.

5.3 Hamilton Council on Aging

The Hamilton Council on Aging are looking for volunteers to fill several positions. An article will be submitted for the summer issue of *MURAnews*.

5.4 Justin Gunter

Justin has asked us for a copy of our financial statement. Marianne asked if we are prepared to give it to him. We do say that it is available to each of our funding groups.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Betty Ann Levy

“that we provide an audited financial statement to Justin Gunter”

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Carried with one abstention.

6. **President’s Report** (Marianne Walters)

6.1 United Way committee member

Betty Ann was contacted by Martin Dooley, who is the chair of the United Way committee, to let her know that MURA’s representative had resigned and to ask her if she would be willing to serve. She said no but told him she would bring it to council. She mentioned that MURA members had been good supporters of United Way. Helen suggested that we should ask our membership for a volunteer. Betty Ann agreed to write to Martin to ask him to provide a blurb that we can distribute on our list-serve.

6.2 Pension Trust Committee for Salaried Staff

Marianne was contacted by Deidre Henne for a nominee to serve on this committee. Marianne said that Bob West is willing to continue as our representative.

Moved by Kathy Heywood, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

“that Bob West be nominated to serve on the Pension Trust Committee for Salaried Staff”

Carried.

6.3 AROHE membership

Sandra Pyke, President of CURAC, was asked if CURAC could provide an umbrella membership for Canadian associations. She replied that CURAC gets 8 individual memberships and MURA can have one. Mary Johnston will have this on MURA’s behalf. Mary mentioned that we are the biggest member group in CURAC.

7. **Treasurer’s Report** (Beth Csordas)

The report shows that we will have a loss of \$178 this year. There was a question about the amount shown for the Christmas lunch. Beth said it looked like something has been missed. She will go back and re-check her numbers. She said that she will provide a copy of the audited financial statement once it has been completed.

8. **Information Reports from Committees**

8.1 Christmas Party

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Mary has received a package from the Student Centre to complete the booking. She will pass it on to the new committee chair once appointed.

8.2 AGM (Janice Rischke)

Janice has received about 50 registrations plus council members. Susan Denberg is bringing her laptop and the caterers will provide the microphone and amp. Janice reminded council that she needs monitors to ensure the caterers keep on top of the food and beverage supplies. Beth and Cliff volunteered to do so. Door prize tickets will be handled by Betty Ann Levy. Marianne will ask Wayne to make a pen as a gift for the speaker. Helen will email list-serve members to remind them that registrations are required.

8.3 Cards (Shari Mercer)

The following cards were sent in the past 2 months:

Stanley Walker Schatz	April 6/14	Neurosurgery
John Warkentin	March 30/14	Chemistry
John Lott	April 2/14	Biology
Stefan Cabai	January 27/14	Maintenance
Frederick J. Wright	March 24/14	Anaesthesia
Kathleen Richardson	March 13/14	FHS Deans Office

8.4 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

No report

8.5 Membership (Linda Grocott)

Linda reported via email the current membership is 2226 which is a decrease of 4.

8.6 *MURAnews* (Kathy Overholt)

No report

8.7 Nominating Committee (Joe Laposa)

No report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann said that she was contacted by a member who reported that he was told that an audit has been conducted and he had been receiving a benefit to which he was not entitled (free eye exam). She will check to see exactly what happened and report back to council.

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Betty Ann also said that she would remind Michele about providing Cost of Living historical update data for the hourly pension plan for *MURAnews*, and data on the number of long-retired people for the P&B committee. Members of the P&B committee are also going to be working on a write-up on travel insurance.

8.9 Trips (Shari Mercer)

Shari reported that she had to cancel the June trip to the Walters Family Dinner Theatre. She also reported that she has only 15 registrations for *Les Miz* and needs 30-35 to be able to run the trip.

She has 2 potential trips for the fall—September (Man of La Mancha at Stratford) and October (Deerhurst – musical review).

Mary reported that she has some ideas for Special Events for Shari to consider.

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

Marianne has corrected the email address for HR.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

At the April 17th meeting, the Board approved the establishment of an Institute of Geroscience at McMaster. This institute will form a virtual organization of the many research projects related to Aging: a Cluster on Clinical and Population Aspects of Aging, a Cluster on Biology of Aging, a Cluster on Social, Cultural, Political, Economic and Spatial Aspects of Aging, a Cluster on Psychological Aspects of Aging, a Cluster on Technology and Aging. It is intended that the Institute will encourage increased funding and expansion of studies of Aging at McMaster.

The featured speaker was Dr. Peter Mascher, the Associate VP (International Affairs). He outlined plans to increase our involvement in international networks, with the sharing of research talent and mobility of students and faculty. The focus areas will be Europe, China, India and Latin America.

9.2 CURAC (Marianne Walters)

No report

9.3 MUFA (Marianne Walters)

Marianne reported that MUFA have a new executive.

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9.4 UNIFOR (Janice Rischke)

No report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

No report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff said there was a meeting on May 13th. The committee pushed aside the attempt to change actuarial assumptions as it is unlikely to change until the plan is solvent. Investments are doing well. He said that hopefully this will mean an increase next year.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

Bob submitted a written report of the meeting which took place on May 8th. There are still 3 months remaining in the pension year, but it is likely that there will be a pension increase in January of the full amount of CPI plus a supplementary increase to recover some of the lost CPI of past years.

10. Other Business

No other business.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:12 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.