



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 1:30 pm in MUSC-220

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Helen Barton (recording secretary), Brian Beckberger, Cliff Andrews, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Heather Grigg, Mary Johnston (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Peter Sutherland, Marianne Walters

Regrets: Dianne Bird, Michele Leroux, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Marianne Van Der Wel, Bob West

2. Additions to the Agenda

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of March 11, 2015 (for approval)

Amendments:

Add Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting to Regrets list.

Change 5.6 motion to "that Honorary Membership in MURA be conferred on Helen Barton" from "that Helen Barton be appointed as an Honorary Member of MURA"

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded** by Betty Ann Levy

"that the minutes be approved as amended"

Carried.

4. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux – not present)

None.

5. Reports from Committees

5.1 AGM (Pam Penny – by email)

Mark Weingartner will talk about the Hamilton's plan for an age-friendly city. A short write up has been provided for *MURAnews*. Last year's food order has been sent to Hospitality Services to check for changes.

ACTION ITEM: Helen Parking: Check with Parking that arrangements will be the same as last year – for publication in *MURAnews*.
 Parking 'exit tickets' can be requested closer to the event.

Mary suggested that the leftover 'swag' from the CURAC conference be given away at the MURA AGM in June. Council agreed.

5.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Mary reported for Shari. There were 2 cards sent since the last meeting:

Ian Thompson	March 7, 2015	Chemistry	CAW
Arnold Woolvett	February 28, 2015	Physics	TMG

In addition, the death of Muriel Israel (age 102) was communicated to MURA by her daughter:

Muriel Israel	August 1, 2015	Divinity College	AF
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5.3 Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny)

No report.

5.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

Marju Drynan is drafting an overall communications policy for consideration of the Communications Committee, and then Council. Nora Gaskin and Heather are reviewing the requirements and investigating new software solutions for MURA's website, email listserve and membership database. Their target is to have options for the Communications Committee to review by the end of April. Recommendations will then come to Council.

5.5 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

Still waiting for good timing to discuss questions on the definitions of retirement and retiree with Human Resources.

5.6 Membership

Affiliates	42
Clinical Faculty	103
Faculty	523
Hourly	258
MUALA	5
Research Associates	9
Staff	787
TMG	212
TOTAL	1939
Survivors	323
Honorary	4
GRANDTOTAL	2266

5.7 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The deadline date for the Spring issue is Friday, April 10. Will go to Printing on April 23/24 and be mailed on April 29/30.

Heather may have a communications item ready for the Summer issue.

5.8 Nominating Committee (Marianne Walters)

Marianne presented the report of the 2015 Nominating Committee, as follows. All candidates have indicated their willingness to serve.

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

"that Council accept the following slate of candidates:

*PRESIDENT (one year, to 2016): Leslie King
VICE-PRESIDENT (one year, to 2016): Heather Grigg
COUNCILLOR (three years, to 2018): Gail Britton
COUNCILLOR (three years, to 2018): Dianne Coventry
COUNCILLOR (three years, to 2018): Nora Gaskin"*

Carried. (Abstentions: Heather Grigg, Dianne Coventry)

ACTION ITEM: Marianne Walters. Invite Les King to the May Council meeting.

5.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

There was a discussion about how inquiries should be handled. Each Chair will have his/her own method and in some cases the response can go to the retiree directly from the Chair, but there was general agreement that HR should be involved in most responses to ensure that the latest and best information/advice is given. The Chair should stay involved as much as possible in order to acquire knowledge and to be able to report to Council on queries/resolutions.

5.10 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

Mary has been in touch with the Alumni Association and the Mohawk retiree association (RAMC). In the temporary absence of MURA trips and special events, MURA will be promoting participation in Alumni and RAMC events.

5.11 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann has been discussing the setup of volunteer opportunities with the AVP (Faculty), AVP (Students), the MSU President and the Secretariat, and will meet soon with Grad. Studies.

The pilot mentoring study in the Faculty of Science, in which retirees would mentor undergraduates, has received a small grant from the *Forward with Integrity* initiative fund.

Betty Ann is setting up a meeting with The Discovery Program to discuss possible ways for the students in this program to overcome the financial hurdles to their education.

MURAnews will continue to promote both on- and off-campus volunteer opportunities.

5.12 Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

There was a discussion on whether Committee reports and the President's Report with the Council Minutes posted to the MURA public website.

Conclusions:

1. Committee Reports and the President's report will not be posted to the MURA public website. They will be posted to the 'just Council' website, which is a password protected site.
2. More material from the President's Report should be included in, or appended to, Council Minutes.
3. Council Minutes should be fuller than they currently are, to include information from Committee Reports that should be available to all retirees and the public.

6. Reports from Liaisons

6.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann reported on the March 12 meeting.

The President, Dr. Deane, summarized major initiatives. His report can be read at http://www.mcmaster.ca/presidentsoffice/documents/Board_Report_President_March2015.pdf

Items approved in open session were 1) McMaster becoming a signatory on the Berlin Declaration, and 2) support for the establishment of The Institute for Multi-Hazard Systemic Risk Studies. Some by-law changes were approved; a proposal that would prevent a member of the MUFA executive from simultaneously being a member of the Board of Governors was sent back for reconsideration. The agenda material can be referenced at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/agendas/agendaBOG.cfm>.

6.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

The early-bird conference registration deadline is April 15. Mary will be attending. There was discussion of who else might want to attend. Marianne Walters will ask Les King if he would like to attend. Heather could also be the second person representing MURA, but is likely unable to attend the conference.

6.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

Nothing at the moment.

6.4 UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

No report.

6.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne is holding off on approaching BUC for support until HR can provide the BUC/SEIU breakdown of MURA membership.

6.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff said that it is going to be very interesting to see the plan earnings this year.

6.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

No Report.

7. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth was asked if MURA should be worried about the prospect of future deficits. She said it is not a major concern as we have an approximately \$54,000 surplus reserve fund, but that we should be keeping an eye on possible deficits going into the next 3-year period. We are in the 1st year of the current 3-year agreement with our funding groups.

ACTION ITEM: **Mary** will follow up on the status of the pending inheritance bequest.

8. Reports on Special Projects**8.1 Academic Awards Endowment** (Beth Csordas)

No report.

8.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

No report.

8.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

No report.

9. Correspondence (Mary Johnston)**9.1 'Campus Perks'** on MURA web site – availability of Computer Antivirus/Antispy Software

A retiree reported that the link under Pensions & Benefits – Campus Perks - Computer Ativirus/AntiSpyware Software leads to a McMaster/UTS page that isn't very helpful to retirees wanting to obtain a copy of Trend Micro OfficeScan. The UTS page is not clear that the software is not free for retirees; retirees purchase it at a reduced price from the Campus Store. There was discussion on whether to ask UTS to improve their page regarding the 'not eligible groups', or whether we should change the MURA pages.

Marianne Van der Wel will be asked to change the MURA web page to refer to the article in the Spring 2010 *MURAnews* (http://mcmasterretirees.ca/Pages/MURA_Activities/MURAnews/MURAnews.Spring.2010-final.page7.pdf), with an update on the price.

10. President's Report (Mary Johnston)**10.1 Updating 'job' descriptions for MURA Executive members and committee chairs**

The descriptions for MURA Executive positions were last updated in 2010. These documents are available on the Just Council section of the MURA web site at <http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/justcouncil/reports/portfolios.html>, including detailed lists of activities for the Secretary and Treasurer. Mary is writing a similar detailed document for the President's job.

Each executive member and committee chair should review and update the documents that pertain to their portfolio so the incoming people will have the best possible information.

Mary and Betty Ann met with Patrick Deane on April 1st. Betty Ann gave a full report of activities over the past year by MURA's Volunteering Committee, including ideas for connecting with retired faculty, the survey of MURA members about volunteering on campus, liaison with the Discovery Program, and potential opportunities for retirees to mentor students.

Mary described the need for access to computer-skills workshops for retirees and relayed three scenarios for providing these to MURA members: free workshops through CCE similar to those offered to active staff, workshops on campus offered as MURA special events, instruction by Mac students using a format similar to that offered at community retirement homes.

Mary reported on the number of new retirees attending the 2014 Christmas lunch and President Deane agreed to full funding of the lunch cost (\$26) for new retirees who attend the 2015 Christmas Lunch. There was no mention made of the long-standing subsidy (\$10) for other retirees.

ACTION ITEM: Beth will follow up on the subsidy with her contact in the President's Office.

McMaster's application to the 2016 Canada's Top 100 Employers survey
Mary sent a three-page summary on *Links between McMaster Retirees, McMaster University Retirees Association and McMaster University* to Sonia Hawrylyshyn in HR, after circulating the document to Council for their comments.

11. Business arising from Council meeting in March not covered above

Heather asked if \$1000 for new management software was included in the 2015 – 2016 budget. Beth responded in the affirmative.

12. Other Business

There was a discussion on whether common pensions and benefits questions and answers should be on the MURA web site. It was agreed that past and present chairs should catalogue questions/answers, but that work would be needed to verify the answers with HR before posting.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:57 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.