



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L8, Canada
Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23171
E-mail: mura@mcmaster.ca
<http://www.mcmaster-retirees.ca>
Kathy Overholt, Secretary
overhol@mcmaster.ca
Home: (905) 521-0303

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 1:30 pm in MUSC-220

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Heather Grigg, Linda Grocott, Mary Johnston (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Marianne Walters, Bob West

Regrets: Dianne Bird, Michele Leroux, Shari Mercer, Peter Sutherland, Marianne Van Der Wel

2. Additions to the Agenda

Nothing to be added.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of November 12, 2014 (for approval)

Moved by Betty Ann Levy, **seconded** by Dianne Coventry

"that the minutes be approved"

Carried.

4. Human Resources Report

No specific HR items having been identified before the meeting, it had been agreed that Michele Leroux did not need to attend the Council meeting. However, Council raised several items at the meeting for follow-up with Michelle.

4.1 How to notify MURA members of pension increases

Bob West suggested that we should send an email to our members to tell them about the January increase. The email should point to a special website which has been set up and includes detailed information about percentage increases and how the increases are calculated. CIBC-Mellon should also send individual letters to each member.

4.2 Check box on release form

At an earlier meeting, Michele had expressed concerns about the liability to MURA if we published someone's name after they had specifically withheld consent. We don't know

how many people have not signed release forms (and how many of these chose not to do so because they did not want their retirement announced in *MURAnews*), but Michele has promised that HR will conduct an audit in January. Letters will be sent to people who have not signed their release forms, along with another copy of the form. We wondered if the form going to this group could include a check box asking for permission to publish their name in the newsletter.

4.3 Follow-up on CCE and other courses

Mary reported that she has asked HR for information on retiree tuition assistance for CCE and other university courses. Linda Piccolo, Manager Benefits and Retirement Plans, is working on this.

5. Information Reports from Committees

5.1 AGM (Pam Penny)

Pam has assembled a list of featured speakers since 2006. She has also been exploring ideas for a speaker at the 2015 AGM (June 3rd). She will consult with the AGM committee members and report to Council in January.

5.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Cards sent since the last meeting:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Barbara Wilde | November 2, 2014 | Family Medicine | UNIFOR |
| Eleanor Vance | October 21, 2014 | Science | UNIFOR |
| Gerd Westermann | November 5, 2014 | Geology | MUFA |
| Carl Ballstadt | October 14, 2014 | English | MUFA |

It was noted that Barbara Wilde is not in the MURA database.

In discussion it was revealed that names of deceased members have been published in *MURAnews* before receiving official notification from HR. It was suggested that the policies for card distribution and newsletter notification should be the same.

Moved by Betty Ann Levy, seconded by Beth Csordas

"that the MURAnews policy on death notices mimic the card policy – i.e. must have HR notification"

Carried.

5.3 Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny)

Pam summarized her written report. The Christmas lunch went well and there was positive feedback on the food.

There was a discussion about whether all past university presidents should be seated at head tables. We agreed that it should be determined on a year by year basis.

Parking was a problem and Pam has emailed them but not yet heard anything back. Part of the problem was that regular classes were still ongoing. Next year, the lunch will be scheduled during the period between the end of classes and the start of exams.

Cheques submitted with registration forms were not immediately cashed and so people felt the need to contact Pam to ensure their receipt. It was mentioned that the same thing happened last year and it had been agreed that acknowledgements should be sent out (by volunteers, if necessary). It seems this suggestion was not communicated to Pam.

Next year, there will be more photographers to cover all activities.

5.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

Heather said that an email appeal for additional members will be sent to list-serve members after this meeting. She plans to have a meeting in January.

5.5 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne is planning to write to HR in January to ask for their definition of a "retiree".

5.6 Membership (Linda Grocott)

The current membership is 2255, which is a decrease of 1.

Allan Frosst was to bring Arthur Bourns to the Christmas lunch but Dr. Bourns' health prevented his attendance. Mary encouraged Dr. Frosst to come and he appeared to enjoy it immensely. He has been added to the 'MURA friends' mailing list. Helen suggested that he be considered for an associate membership, to keep him informed of MURA activities. It was agreed that Marianne Walters will contact Dr. Frosst to see if he meets the associate membership criteria of receiving a pension from McMaster or another university.

5.7 *MURAnews* (Kathy Overholt)

The committee met on December 8th and set the following schedule:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Deadline for articles | January 16 th |
| To Printing by | January 22 nd /23 rd |
| Mail by | January 28 th /29 th |

5.8 Nominating Committee (Marianne Walters)

The following non-Council members were suggested as potential members for this committee: Eleanor Frank, David Hitchcock, Liz McCallum, Bruce Frank, Bill Coleman (is he retired?), Wayne Rouse, Alba DiCenzo, Heather Arthur.

Helen Barton and Kathy Overholt will serve as members from Council.

5.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

No report.

5.10 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

The committee met on December 15th and there should be a report for the newsletter if any plans were made then.

5.11 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann reported that there has been progress on designing the survey but it is far more complicated than first thought. The first phase will be to contact members to ask for willing participants. The second phase will be a more detailed survey to the agreeable members.

5.12 Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

Marianne continues to update the website as necessary.

6. Correspondence (Mary Johnston)

Mary received a letter from a law firm in Kingston. Stuart Wynn's widow has died and included MURA in her will. When the estate is distributed, MURA may receive about \$5000 with the possibility of some additional funds.

7. Information Reports from Liaisons

7.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

The next Board meeting is on December 11th.

7.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

Mary sent the request for input on the possibility of a CURAC preferred travel agent to Council, as well as to Liz McCallum. Three well-travelled respondents expressed little enthusiasm for the proposal. Any other comments should be forwarded to Mary so she can respond to CURAC.

CURAC are planning to set up some awards for members. Mary will forward the information to Council members for consideration.

A professor from UBC has asked about individual university policies on emerti faculty. At McMaster, agreements are made on a case by case basis with policies applied by each Faculty. MURA has received a few complaints but, generally, most people are treated fairly. It was pointed that space constraints may make it difficult to provide even the most basic communal office accommodation.

For follow-up: Mary will prepare a response, based on discussion at the Council meeting and comments received by email from Peter Sutherland, Marianne Walters and Betty Ann Levy.

7.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

All is well.

7.4 UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

No report.

7.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne met the BUC executives who attended the Christmas lunch. There is an arbitration meeting on December 18th and a decision will be made about outstanding contract issues at some point after that.

7.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

The committee met in November. There will be an increase of 3.79% which is comprised of 1.41% CPI plus 2.38% supplement.

7.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

There will be an increase of 6.39% comprised of 1.41% CPI and 4.98% supplement. The recommendation goes to the Board of Governors tomorrow (11th). This is the largest increase in 17 years. There should continue to be increases in the foreseeable future as McMaster does very well with investments compared to other universities.

7.8 Liaison with MUALA

This is a very small association (academic librarians). There are 5 members in MURA. They would like to establish a formal recognition via a liaison. Betty Ann will talk to their president to set up the formal liaison.

8. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

8.1 Appointment of Auditor

Moved by Beth Csordas, **seconded** by Betty Ann Levy

"that Bob West be re-appointed as Auditor"

Carried.

9. President's Report (Mary Johnston)

Mary had nothing to add to her written report.

10. Reports on Special Projects

10.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)

The fund goal was established at \$65,000. The total is now \$65,498, which is up by \$2,188. That total should increase as people make end-of-year gifts.

10.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

No report.

10.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

No report.

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

No other business.

12. Other Business

None.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:42 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.