



MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 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, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Marianne Walters, Bob West

Regrets: Dianne Bird, Michele Leroux, Pam Penny, Peter Sutherland, Marianne Van Der Wel

2. Additions to the Agenda

Nothing.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of January 15, 2015 (for approval)

Moved by Shari Mercer, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

"that the minutes be approved"

Carried.

4. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

In Michele's absence, Mary reported that she and Betty Ann will be meeting with Michele on February 23rd. In anticipation of the upcoming audit, they will give Michele a list of members on our database. They will also discuss items that have come up in Council discussions, e.g. computer skills training for retirees, the upcoming audit, and trying to get details about the number of members in each of the unions covered by the hourly retiree group. Linda asked that they remind Michele that there is still a lack of consistency in the information on new retirees and deaths coming from HR to MURA.

5. Reports from Liaisons

5.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

No report

5.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

Mary mentioned that the early bird registration deadline for the 2015 CURAC conference in Kingston is April 15th. She asked Council to consider who should attend the conference. She is the official delegate and reminded us that there is a budget of \$1500 for expenses. We could comfortably accommodate 2 delegates (possibly even 3). Council decided to send Mary and Betty Ann to the conference

5.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

Nothing at the moment.

5.4 UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

No report.

5.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne is waiting to get number of retirees in each local under the hourly umbrella.

Betty Ann asked if we count survivors in membership reports and was told that we do.

5.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

There will be a meeting tomorrow (February 12th). Cliff said that he had had no feedback from anyone receiving a pension increase. He is still pursuing information on the closing of the contributory pension plan.

5.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

Bob said there will be a meeting next week. He mentioned that it will be interesting to see recent investment returns. He was happy to see that CIBC Mellon had communicated information about the pension increases to retirees in December.

5.8 Liaison with MUALA

Betty Ann has heard nothing from the MUALA president about identifying a retired librarian to act as MURA's liaison with MUALA. At this point, she has decided to wait to hear from them.

6. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth reported that we have received payment from both MUFA and the President's Office.

She then reviewed the current expenses and income plus the outcome of the CURAC conference. Mary suggested that the trip income be removed from the MURA budget—it is difficult to project and we don't depend on it. Heather said that the website software will cost more than the budgeted amount—as much as \$1000.

Mary reminded Council members that we will need to decide what we want to do with the money from the CURAC conference at a future Council meeting.

Noting that the postal costs were still high and that we have no way of knowing what sort of increases will be applied in the future, the question was asked if we can't ask new retirees to just get newsletters via email. We could mail the first couple of issues then switch. This could

be facilitated by better email information from the release-of-information forms signed by new retirees. We were told that Council has tried various methods of getting members to change. We should made a concerted effort to get our American and overseas members to switch to email.

7. Reports from Committees

7.1 AGM (Pam Penny)

Pam reported via email. She has not received any feedback from her committee regarding a speaker for the AGM. She asked that Council give her some direction so she can get it settled. Her list included: Optimal Aging Initiative, Aging Hamilton’s plan for an age-friendly city, McMaster’s new Institute of Geroscience, co-housing for seniors, and various topics from Brenda Vrkljan at the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging. After some discussion, we selected: 1 age-friendly city, 2 Brenda Vrkljan 3 Optimal Aging.

Mary suggested that Pam may need help with the AGM. Mary will offer immediate help with Helen offering to jump in as soon as the Science Fair is over (end of March). Betty Ann said that she is available after March if needed.

7.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

There were 3 cards sent since the last meeting:

Irene Unkerskov	November 15, 2014	Registrar’s Office	UNIFOR
Sylvia Farrell	December 15, 2014	CE&B	UNIFOR
William Phillips	January 4, 2015	Planning & Const.	UNIFOR

7.3 Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny)

The lunch is currently booked for Wednesday, December 2nd. As there is no longer a break between the last day of classes and the first day of exams, there may be a problem with parking again. Mary will ask Parking if they can tell us which day has the lightest load. If there is a better choice, the date for the lunch may be changed.

7.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

Heather said that the Communications committee has been asked to review current policies on material for distribution to MURA members and make recommendations as necessary. Marju Drynan is leading the review; she is consulting the report to Council from an ad-hoc committee in 2013, as well as a list of sources for the email messages sent to MURA members over the past year and the guidelines on our web site concerning *MURAnews* – plus any other sources that are deemed helpful.

Nora Gaskin is working with Heather Grigg on the initial phase of the web site and listserv review. They have begun the process to review 2 or 3 currently recommended products that fit MURA's needs. Once that process is complete the whole web site group will be invited to do a more in depth assessment of the selected product(s). On completion of the assessment, the group will compile a report with recommendations regarding the new platform to be adopted for consideration by MURA Executive/Council.

7.5 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne has drafted a letter asking for a meeting with HR for clarification of the definition of a retiree.

7.6 Membership (Linda Grocott)

The current membership is 2255, which is a decrease of 5.

7.7 *MURAnews* (Kathy Overholt)

No report.

7.8 Nominating Committee (Marianne Walters)

Marianne has sent the committee members several lists of members for consideration. There was no response to the call for nominations published in the newsletter. The committee is scheduled to meet on February 25th and Marianne will bring a report to Council at the March meeting.

7.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

No report.

7.10 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

Shari reported that there is nothing in place at this point and she has had no suggestions from members of the trips committee. Mary suggested that, with permission, we could advertise events and trips from the Retirees Association of Mohawk College, the Alumni Association and the McMaster Women's Club in the newsletter.

7.11 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann reminded us that the on-line survey closed on Friday (7th). The tabulated results should be available soon.

Betty Ann reported that the Association, under her name, is part of a Forward with Integrity funding request. The funding is for a pilot study in Life Sciences that involves retirees mentoring students.

Today she had lunch with people from the Discovery Program that offers non-credit courses for community members who would not have access to regular courses at McMaster. Patrick Byrne, Coordinator of the Discovery Program, is developing opportunities for MURA members to assist with events in that program. On March 5th, the program will be sponsoring a talk for graduates of the Discovery Program. MURA will help to find a retired professor, whose work intersects with the community, to speak at that event.

7.12 Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

Marianne continues to update the website as necessary.

8. Reports on Special Projects

8.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)

The total is now \$68,508, which is up by \$600.

8.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

No report.

8.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

No report.

9. Correspondence (Mary Johnston)

No report.

10. President's Report (Mary Johnston)

Mary had nothing to add to her written report.

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

No other business.

12. Other Business

None.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:12 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.