



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 1:30 pm in MUSC-203

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Cliff Andrews, Dianne Coventry, Les King (guest), Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Mary Johnston (chair), Michele Leroux, Betty Ann Levy, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Marianne Van Der Wel, Marianne Walters

Regrets: Dianne Bird, Beth Csordas, Heather Grigg, Pam Penny, Peter Sutherland, Bob West

Mary welcomed Les King to the meeting and introduced the members of council to him.

2. Additions to the Agenda

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of April 8, 2015 (for approval)

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

"that the minutes be approved"

Carried.

4. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

Michele reported that her office continues to work on making information more accessible to retirees. She drew our attention to the Intelliresponse web page (<http://mcmasteru.intelliresponse.com/>), available via the "Ask McMaster" button on the right side of the HR page <http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca>. This feature allows users to ask (type or select) a question and it will provide the answer. If an answer is not found, HR will add the question and answer to the website. She is also willing to accept input from MURA.

Michele has provided a blurb for the newsletter to Helen.

ACTION ITEM: Council members are asked to try this feature before we report it in the newsletter.

5. Reports from Committees

5.1 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

This month the committee focused on developing MURA's partnership with the Discovery Program. It is a community outreach program that offers a course to adults who have an interest in learning but who are not able (financially or academic background) to attend regular courses. Some of the people who have completed the program are now interested in further opportunities to learn at McMaster. Discovery has no budget for this and President Deane correctly hesitates to use funds from the academic budget that are needed for regularly registered students.

Back in March, Betty Ann arranged a speaker to address about 20 of these students. It was a great success and the leaders of the Discovery Program would like it to continue it with MURA taking a prominent role in arranging lectures, facilities tours or workshops and providing snacks and (non-alcoholic) beverages. Discovery has set up an on-line site for fundraising and have asked if we could help to advertise it. The estimated cost per year would be about \$1000.

Les King mentioned that he is involved with the Hamilton Third Age Learning program. He suggested that this group may be interested in supporting this Discovery extension program through MURA. He will pursue this idea with HTAL and report back at the June meeting.

Council members agreed that we support MURA’s participation in the program with the funding to be discussed in June.

5.2 AGM (Pam Penny – by email)

There have only been 51 reservations so far. Pam will order the food on Friday. There was no tax included on the price quote so she isn’t sure of the final price. She has added fresh fruit and other desserts to the menu. She assures that this will not cause us to be over budget.

Betty Ann wondered if Pam has enough help to get everything done and was assured that Pam’s committee will fill in the blanks whenever necessary.

Mary and Kathy will get all documents for the business meeting together and Beth will arrange for the printing.

Parking arrangements are under control.

Mary will follow up on the list of duties for council members and forwarded it to us by email.

ACTION ITEM: Mary: Will contact the featured speaker to provide him with directions to the meeting site and ask if a summary of his presentation can be made available for inclusion in the minutes.

5.3 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Joan Canby	February 25, 2015	Pediatrics	MUFA
Ernest Oksanen	April 8, 2015	Economics	MUFA
Florence Bagasar	March 10, 2015	O & M	SEIU
Mary Jane Deary	May 1, 2015	Economics	TMG

In addition, the death of Glennys Yiff was communicated to MURA by her family (no card until notification received from HR):

Glennys Yiff	March 25, 2015	Registrar's Office	MUSA
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5.4 Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny)

No report.

5.5 Communications (Heather Grigg)

No report.

5.6 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

No report.

5.7 Membership

Affiliates	42
Clinical Faculty	103

Faculty	521
Hourly	257
MUALA	5
Research Associates	9
Staff	786
TMG	<u>211</u>
TOTAL	<u>1934</u>
Survivors	327
Honorary	<u>4</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>2265</u>

Helen reported that our email numbers are still increasing.

5.8 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The Spring issue was mailed on April 30th.

5.9 Nominating Committee (Marianne Walters)

Marianne will call for nominations from the floor only once this year.

5.10 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

No report. Mary mentioned that we received a question from a member about lack of coverage for dentures. He was told that we cannot re-negotiate post-retirement benefits. He was satisfied with that.

5.11 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

Shari mentioned that one of her committee members made a suggestion for a special trip but there has been no follow up to date.

5.12 Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

Marianne continues to update the website. She has:

- Clarified Phone Instructions for Contacting Human Resources (H.R.) - <http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/Contact.mura.html> and <http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/hr.html>
- Updated the Endowment Page - <http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/endowment.html>
- Updated the MURA agenda and minutes page - <http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/MURAnews.2014-15.html>
- Added the Spring 2015 Newsletter to the MURA web site - <http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/MURAnews.2014-15.html>

6. Reports from Liaisons

6.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

The BOG met on April 16. President Deane presented his report to the Board. The report can be read at:

http://www.mcmaster.ca/presidentsoffice/documents/Board_Report_President_April2015.pdf.

The agenda material can be found at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/agendas/agendaBOG.cfm>

No report. Betty Ann mentioned that the rule that prevented members of the MUFA executive from serving on the Board of Governors has been withdrawn.

6.3 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

At this year's meeting, the Queen's host organizing committee decided to forego best practice sessions for discussion groups consisting of 8 to 10 people who will share insights, challenges and problems, successes and initiatives about a variety of topics.

These topics may include: recruiting new members, why join CURAC, liability issues for Associations, University pension plans in Ontario (what is happening?), using social media to communicate with members, health care for seniors.

Mary asked members of Council to advise her on which groups we would like her to join. Our choices were: renewing leadership in our associations, liability issues for directors and associations, and recruiting new members.

6.4 UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

No report.

6.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne is looking for the BUC/SEIU breakdown of MURA members before approaching BUC for support. Helen said that she should be able to provide this information. The funding groups are scheduled to be approached next January.

6.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No report. There will be a meeting in a couple of weeks.

6.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

No Report. The next meeting is tomorrow (May 14th).

Mary received a letter from Deidre Henne, Assistant VP (Administration) and CFO, requesting MURA's recommendation for the appointment of a representative to the Salaried Pension Trust Committee. Mary asked Bob West if he would serve for another year and he agreed.

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

"that Bob West be recommended as MURA's representative on the Salaried Pension Trust Committee"

Carried.

7. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

No report.

8. Reports on Special Projects

8.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)

The current balance in the fund is \$69,153.

8.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

No report.

8.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

No report.

9. Correspondence (Mary Johnston)

Mary emailed the AGM speaker, Mark Weingartner, with background information on MURA.

For information, she forwarded to Council a letter from the National Pensioners Federation to all Ministers of Finance and Opposition Finance Critics; this letter was endorsed by CURAC.

She also sent a note to the MURA member who inquired about anti-virus software to let her know that the free TrendMicro OfficeScan is only available to active employees. It is available for others to purchase at the Campus Store.

10. President's Report (Mary Johnston)

10.1 Executive meeting on May 12th

The descriptions for MURA Executive positions were last updated in 2010. Each member of the Executive made changes to their respective position and each new description was discussed with suggestions for changes.

The new position descriptions will be available in the near future at:
<http://mcmaster-retirees.ca/justcouncil/reports/portfolios.html>.

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

Nothing.

12. Other Business

Marianne Van Der Wel reported that she has prepared new signs and a map for the positioning of directions to the AGM.

Helen said that she has contacted UTS and been assured that they will work with MURA to prepare instructions for retirees on migration to the new email system.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:03 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.