



MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 1:30 pm in MUSC-220

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Bird, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Heather Grigg, Linda Grocott, Mary Johnston (chair), Michele Leroux, Betty Ann Levy, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Marianne Van Der Wel, Marianne Walters, Bob West

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Peter Sutherland

2. Additions to the Agenda

Nothing to be added.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of October 8, 2014 (for approval)

Moved by Shari Mercer, **seconded** by Linda Grocott

"that the minutes be approved"

Carried.

4. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

4.1 New HR System

Michele reported that the new system went live in October. Pensions will be dealt with by a separate agency. Employees will be able to model pensions within the new HR system so the University will no longer have to pay for external modeling.

4.2 Documents given to new retirees by HR

Michele explained that key documents including the MURA release-of-information form are given to retirees at the meeting in the HR office. The MURA release form can be returned to HR at a later time.

Council had asked Michele to investigate adding a check box to the release form. This would allow a retiree to have their contact information sent to MURA but have their name withheld from publication in the list of new retirees in *MURAnews*. HR is worried about any liability to MURA if a mistake is made and a retiree's name is published in *MURAnews* when the retiree has withheld permission.

5. President's Report (Mary Johnston)

5.1 Council Meetings

Mary has set a goal of trying to get Council meetings finished by 3 pm.

5.2 McMaster Emergency Guidebook

Two copies of this guidebook are in the MURA office; it is also available at: http://security.mcmaster.ca/campus_emergencies_guide.html

5.3 Keys to MURA Office

Betty Ann will give her office key to Dianne Bird.

There was a short discussion about whether we need the computer in the office.

6. Correspondence (Mary Johnston)

There was no correspondence beyond what was reported in her written report, which was circulated with the agenda.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)

The endowment fund total, at \$63,310, has increased by \$125. The new campaign mailing has gone out. We should get more money by the end of the year.

Meggie will write an article for the newsletter to highlight the scholarship and prize winners.

7.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

Nothing.

7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

There will be cards available for sale at the Christmas lunch.

7.4 Volunteer Bureau (Betty Ann Levy)

It was suggested that the status of the Volunteer Bureau should be changed from special projects to a regular standing committee. This will highlight it more and may draw people in to MURA.

Moved by Marianne Walters, **seconded** by Beth Csordas

"that there be a new standing committee, named the Volunteering Committee, in place of its status as a special project"

Carried.

Betty Ann reported that generally we don't know what types of volunteering our retirees are currently engaged in or what skills they may possess. There are plans to conduct a survey of the members to ascertain this information. People for whom we have email addresses will be surveyed electronically. Only those not on our list will receive a copy in the mail. Susan Searls Giroux, the Associate Vice-President (Faculty), has agreed to provide assistance with the survey and may be willing to finance the cost of the mailing.

8. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth reported that she has paid our CURAC fees. She also mentioned that she still hasn't received a final accounting from Conference Services for the 2014 CURAC Conference.

9. Information Reports from Committees

9.1 AGM (Pam Penny)

Pam has booked Celebration Hall for Wednesday, June 3, 2015 from 10 to 3 for next year's meeting. She is now looking for a speaker. There were several suggestions: Ellen Ryan on the subject of seniors co-housing; the new Dean of Science; and someone from the new Institute of Geroscience.

9.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

There were no cards sent since the October meeting.

Linda mentioned that she has heard about deaths of several MURA members but has not received official notification by HR. Michele has agreed to conduct an audit in January 2015. Because there is concern about the number of errors occurring, Linda will send a note to Michele.

9.3 Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny)

Pam reported that to date she has received bookings from 140 people. We invited 77 new retirees for a free lunch and have received 19 replies so far. Of the invited guests, 9 have said yes, 4 declined and 1 hasn't responded. There are requests for 9 accessible parking spots.

Pam has 12 door prizes. She has prepared a program for each place setting, which needs some editing before Kathy sends it to Printing.

Dianne Coventry and Dianne Bird will take care of directional signs, with coaching from Marianne V. Brian Beckberger and Helen Barton will take photos at the lunch.

9.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

Heather reported that the committee hasn't met yet as she is still looking for some additional members.

9.5 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne reported that she will be writing a letter to HR to find out how the university defines "a retiree". She has information about pensions and RRSPs. The committee

needs to decide if we accept the HR definition or have our own definition in the Constitution.

9.6 Membership (Linda Grocott)

The current membership is 2256, which is a decrease of 6.

9.7 *MURAnews* (Kathy Overholt)

A planning meeting will be held in early December so the deadline schedule will be available at the December council meeting.

9.8 Nominating Committee (Marianne Walters)

Marianne explained that the committee is composed of 2 council members, 2 non-council members and the past president (Marianne) as Chair. Marianne will bring a list of proposed committee members to Council at the December meeting.

9.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

No report.

9.10 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

Shari reported that the committee is being revamped. The committee needs some new members, perhaps from outside council.

9.11 Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

Marianne continues to update the website as necessary. She needs pictures of Heather and Dianne Bird to add to the Council picture.

10. Information Reports from Liaisons

10.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann reported that the main items of interest at the October 23rd meeting came from the President's report on McMaster's attempts to obtain funds for the university. President Deane pointed out that the focus for the university this year is on research, although teaching and community engagement remain important to our mission. The goal over the next five years is to significantly increase the sponsored research income to McMaster and to further develop research intensity..

10.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

Mary reported that UBC sent an email survey about campus parking to CURAC member associations. She has responded after consulting Peter and Betty Ann. One thing they asked was whether parking is considered a taxable benefit. Bob West confirmed that it is not.

10.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann said she found Rafael Kleiman, the new MUFA president, to be interested in and supportive of MURA. She will maintain contact with him.

10.4 UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

Dianne said that she has questions for Matt Root, UNIFOR 5555 president.

It was learned that UNIFOR conduct pre-retirement workshops. It would be interesting to compare them to the ones conducted by HR.

UNIFOR are looking at hosting a new retiree reception and will keep MURA informed of any plans.

10.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne has talked to Peter Foulds, the president of BUC. Apparently, there was a five-year deal reached but it appears that they are now involved in final offer selection on outstanding items. BUC represents custodians, grounds staff, trucking and the trades.

10.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No report.

10.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

Bob reported that the next meeting is tomorrow (November 13th). He said that there will be some communication with retirees before January. Bob suggested that email be used and Michele agreed. There will also be something added to the letter from CIBC Mellon to deal with retiree questions.

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

No other business.

12. Other Business

None.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:33 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.