



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 1:30 pm in MUSC-220

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Linda Grocott, Mary Johnston (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Peter Sutherland, Bob West

Regrets: Dianne Bird, Heather Grigg, Michele Leroux, Marianne Van Der Wel, Marianne Walters

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of September 10, 2014 (for approval)

Moved by Beth Csordas, **seconded** by Helen Barton

"that the minutes be approved"

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

Michele Leroux is working on the installation of the new HR computer system and unable to attend this meeting.

4. President's Report (Mary Johnston)

Mary mentioned that the private website contains a lot of information to help Council members understand the organization.

5. Correspondence (Mary Johnston)

5.1 Auto and Home Insurance Discount program for OCUFA (Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations)

Mary received an email from an insurance broker in Stouffville outlining the Auto and Home Insurance Discount programme offered to OCUFA member associations. It was unclear if the proposed discount would apply only to faculty and if MUFA was part of the plan.

ACTION: - Mary will contact the broker for clarification.

6. Reports on Special Projects

6.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)

The endowment fund total, at \$63,185, has increased by \$495 since June. Meggie hopes to have information about the fall campaign in the mail by the end of October. There will be no announcement in the upcoming *MURAnews* unless the mail-out is confirmed.

6.2 Archives

Mary would like to start on the MURA archives in the new year. Mary, Beth and Kathy will sort through the office to see what documents and photos are there.

6.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

No report.

6.4 Volunteer Bureau (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann reported that Laura Harrington and Phil Wilson are working on how retirees may be involved in mentoring. They sent out a call for people to participate in focus groups and did receive some responses.

The calls put out via the MURA listserv for volunteers to participate in McMaster studies on health and aging have been well received with good responses. When possible and timely, newsletter announcements will be used to reach people not on email.

Mary mentioned that MURA has run regular appeals for volunteers from some agencies like CCAS, Open Circles and the Chaplain's office in *MURAnews*. Betty Ann said that she wants to see everything tracked from year to year.

7. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth had no report. She did mention that she now has most of the information needed to calculate the CURAC conference income and expenses.

8. Information Reports from Committees**8.1 AGM (Pam Penny)**

The provisional minutes for the June 4th AGM were presented for approval of Council.

Moved by Betty Ann Levy, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

"that the 2014 AGM minutes be approved as amended"

Carried.

Pam is trying to get Paradise Catering to confirm Wednesday, June 3, 2015 for next year's meeting.

8.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Cards sent since September meeting are:

Marie Ballachey	Aug 20, 2014	Pediatrics
Kim Lambert	Sept 10, 2014	Medicine
Christina Nesbitt	Sept 4, 2014	Athletics & Recreation

8.3 Christmas Lunch (Pam Penny)

Pam has met with Larry of Paradise Catering. The cost of the lunch will be the same as it was last year (\$26 of which members pay \$16 per person). She has also contacted the Parking Office and confirmed that arrangements will be the same as last year.

Mary reminded councilors that the President's reception for new retirees has been cancelled and Patrick Deane has offered to cover the full cost of our lunch for new retirees, up to \$1000 (or 62 people x \$16). It was decided that a special invitation letter will be sent to the appropriate people by post.

RSVPs will be Nov. 1 for new retirees and Nov. 14 for everyone else.

ACTION: Mary will contact Marianne Walters to ask who is on the invitation list of VIPs.

8.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

No report.

8.5 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne reported that the committee will meet directly after this Council meeting concludes.

8.6 Membership (Linda Grocott)

The current membership is 2250, which is a decrease of 2.

8.7 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The fall issue is well under way already.

8.8 Nominating Committee (Marianne Walters)

No report

8.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

Peter reported that the committee received an email from a member who asked why MURA doesn't try to get improvements to retiree benefits. He forwarded it to the P&B committee members and has received some comments from some but not all.

Council members agreed that it would be nice to get some improvements but don't want any reductions. They were informed that an employer cannot reduce benefits once an employee retires but it can negotiate reductions while employees are still active.

Betty Ann reminded council members that we have no mandate from our members to bargain for them.

8.10 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

Shari reported that she had to cancel 2 trips because they were under enrolled. She has met with Heather Grigg and Dianne Bird, the other members of the Committee. The committee has some ideas for special events in the new year.

8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

Marianne continues to update the website as necessary.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons**9.1** University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann reported that the Board was very pleased with the re-appointment of Patrick Deane as President. Deane reported that McMaster has fared very well in the Strategic Mandate exercise, with the university being clearly recognized for both its research intensity and its innovative teaching. There were presentations on planning for growth. Betty Ann said there is impressive planning on financial oversight, use of space, etc.

ACTION: - Mary will send our congratulations to Patrick Deane.

9.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

Mary reported that she sent CURAC a preliminary report on our conference in August. The 2015 conference will be held at Queen's May 20-22. Mary is sending the Queen's Retirees Association information to assist their planning process. Conference Services has not yet sent a full report to MURA. Our CURAC fee for next year will continue to be \$300.

Mary's report includes a "lessons learned" list which she will share with us.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Betty Ann Levy

"that MURA continue to be a member of CURAC and pay its fee"

Carried.

9.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann has sent an email to Rafael Kleiman, the new MUFA president, to schedule a meeting.

9.4 UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

Mary reported that she met with Matt Root, UNIFOR president. She stressed the importance of benefits to retirees. She asked about the possibility of the union starting its own retiree chapter. Matt assured her that UNIFOR will continue to support MURA through the funding plan.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

No report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff mentioned that at one time retirees in this group received a \$500 paid-up insurance policy at retirement and wondered whether it is still done. Dianne Coventry said that this was cancelled at one point but she doesn't remember when.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

Bob submitted a written report about the state of the Pension Trust. He stressed that all figures in the report are his and that the official numbers will be given to the committee in November. Recommendations about pension increases go from the Pension Trust Committee to the BOG Finance Committee and then to the Board. Bob has asked HR to provide information to retirees before the January increases are implemented.

Bob also mentioned that the Ontario government has now decided that the new superfund pension plan will be voluntary.

10. Business arising from Council meeting in September not covered above

No other business.

11. Other Business

None.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:33 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.