



## **MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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### **Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 1:30 pm in MUSC-230**

#### **1. Welcome & Regrets**

**Present:** Brian Beckberger, Dianne Bird, Gail Britton, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Nora Gaskin, Les King (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Michele Leroux, Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Peter Sutherland

**Regrets:** Cliff Andrews, Heather Grigg, Mary Johnston, Marianne Van Der Wel, Bob West

#### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

##### **2.1 Council Meeting – January 13, 2016**

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Dianne Coventry

*"that the minutes March 9, 2016 be approved"*

**Carried.**

#### **3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)**

Michele reported that the outcome of the benefit RSP will cause no concerns for retirees.

Les King mentioned that the meeting with Wanda McKenna to discuss the flow of information between Human Resources and MURA was a useful one.

#### **4. Business Arising - nothing**

#### **5. President's Report (Les King)**

With the exception of the meeting with Wanda McKenna, he has nothing to report. He mentioned that there is no additional information about the new Parking transponders.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)**

Beth distributed a written update on the budget. She also said that the proposed meeting between Peter Sutherland, Helen Barton and Beth in regard to the monies from the Winn estate has not yet taken place.

#### **7. Reports on Special Projects**

##### **7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)**

No report.

**7.2** Archives (Mary Johnston)

No report.

**7.3** Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

Dianne reported that another order for 10 cards has been processed.

**8. Information Reports from Committees**

**8.1** AGM (Gail Britton)

Gail reported that Parking have agreed to facilitate parking for the meeting. Brian Baetz has agreed to be the featured speaker on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**8.2** Cards (Shari Mercer)

Cards sent since the January meeting are:

Patrick Irvine	Feb 13, 2016	Audio Visual
Donald Catton	Feb 9, 2016	Anaesthesia
Janet Fawcett	Mar 11, 2016	Graduate Studies
August Giannattasio	Mar 9, 2016	Facility Services
Bertha Leota Gordy	Mar 19, 2016	Financial Services

No cards sent (HR notification past 4 months):

Catherine Charles	Nov 9, 2015	Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics
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**8.3** Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

Gail will book the room soon.

**8.4** Communications (Heather Grigg)

In Heather’s absence, Nora reported that the Communications Committee submitted an article for *MURAnews* re the best browsers for use with MacMail. She also mentioned that they had not received any responses from Council members about likes and/or dislikes of web sites for other university associations.

**8.5** Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

Les said during the meeting with Wanda McKenna, the issue of getting a definition of “retiree” from her department came up. Wanda acknowledged that there is no clear definition currently available.

**8.6** Membership

No updates have been received from HR.

**8.7** *MURAnews* (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting)

Phyllis reminded Council members that the deadline for submissions is today. The stuffing will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in MUSC-203.

Nora wondered if there should be a regular newsletter column on techie stuff.

Les would like the advertisement for a new Secretary run again.

**8.8** Nominating Committee (Mary Johnston)

No report.

**8.9** Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

Peter continues to field queries from retirees. He also mentioned that Bob's last report mentioned that the proposed Ontario pension plan for universities seems to be dead.

**8.10** Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

No report.

**8.11** Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

*Postings:* Business as usual, with postings for volunteering positions going out regularly to our network.

*Computer Workshops:* There have been no contacts with the MBA students who are supposed to be setting up computer sessions for MURA.

**8.12** 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)

At the meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>, a lively discussion greeted two annual reports, one from the President's Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community (PACBIC), chaired by Jane Aronson, and the other from the Office of Human Rights and Equity Services, directed by Mile Komlen. It was gratifying to see the Board's interest in the environment we are providing for the students and workers within the McMaster community.

Les asked Betty Ann if there has been any discussion re divestment of investment in fossil fuels. Betty Ann said that she has not seen anything to date.

**9.2** CURAC (Mary Johnston)

There is an article in the newsletter.

**9.3** MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

No report.

**9.4** UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

Dianne and Mary met with Emily Heikoop, the new President of Local 5555, on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Dianne mentioned that there may be a UNIFOR retiree chapter set up and wondered what impact that may have on MURA. Les said that we could invite Emily to attend a Council in the future.

**9.5** Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne has drafted a letter to the unions representing hourly employees which Kathy will type and forward to Mary and Helen for review.

**9.6** Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No report.

**9.7** Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

No report. Les mentioned that Bob has not yet decided if he will continue to serve on this committee.

**10. Other Business**

Nothing.

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 2:35 pm

*"that the meeting be adjourned"*

**Carried.**