



## MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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### Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 1:30 pm in MUSC-230

#### 1. Welcome & Regrets

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

**Regrets:** Michele Leroux, Marianne Van Der Wel, Bob West

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

##### 2.1 Council Meeting – November 11, 2015

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Mary Johnston

*"that the minutes November 11, 2015 be approved as amended"*

**Carried.**

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

No report.

#### 4. Business Arising - nothing

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

##### 5.1 Request to revisit policy on advertisement of retirement parties

Les mentioned that we have been asked to reconsider our policy against advertising retirement parties via our list-serve. The Communication policy is currently in draft form and can be amended if necessary. Part of the reason for the current ban is that we try not to overwhelm our membership with an excessive number of emails. We can revisit the issue in the spring.

**\*\*Kathy will distribute the draft Communication policy with other Council meeting documents in January.**

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

No report.

#### 7. Reports on Special Projects

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

The total is now \$70,098, which is up by \$325.

**7.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)**

No report.

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

Dianne reported that there were no card sales at the Christmas lunch. It was suggested that her table should be set up closer to the bar so that it is more visible.

**8. Information Reports from Committees**

**8.1 AGM (Gail Britton)**

This is the time that we need to start considering suggestions for speakers. Councillors were asked to try to have suggestions for interesting topics and speakers at the January meeting.

**8.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)**

Cards sent since the November meeting are:

Sheila Rieth	Nov 9, 2015	Human Resources
David Hodgson	Sep 28, 2015	Inst of Materials & Research
Donald Galbraith	Oct 5, 2015	Purchasing Services
David Blewett	Oct 25, 2015	English

Not yet confirmed:

James Williams	Nov 19, 2015	Economics
Yvonne McNair	Nov 21, 2015	Office of VP Administration

**8.3 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)**

Gail reported that there were 188 people in attendance at the lunch.

It was agreed that the room was very nicely decorated and the food was good. There were a few comments about the speed with which plates were removed from the tables without checking if people were actually finished.

Gail and her committee were commended for the great Christmas lunch.

**8.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)**

No report.

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

No report.

**8.6 Membership**

The current membership is 2313.

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

Phyllis reminded us that the deadline for submissions for the Winter issue is January 13<sup>th</sup>. She said that the Newsletter committee would like the chairs of other committees to provide short updates on anything of interest that the committees are working on for publication.

**8.8** Nominating Committee (Mary Johnston)

Mary reported that the committee will hold its first meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

Peter said that Bob West will be working with HR to tidy up the language re survivor benefits, etc.

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

No trips or events yet.

**8.11** Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

The November 12<sup>th</sup> event had a good speaker but the turnout was low. She said that she plans to talk to the people in the Discovery Program about moving the events to the downtown campus. She feels that there should be at least 20 people attending each event.

Peter mentioned that the mentoring program set up in Biology had very few students at its last meeting.

**8.12** Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

Marianne continues to update the website as necessary.

Our website is contracted with HostPapa. Our renewal contract is due in early January.

**9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

**9.1** University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

The meeting is tomorrow.

**9.2** CURAC (Mary Johnston)

MURA is a member of AROHE (an American organization) through our membership in CURAC. AROHE has sent a survey which she will complete on our behalf.

The CURAC conference will be held in Saskatoon May 25-27. Mary will attend this conference as our delegate and as a member of the CURAC board.

**9.3** MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

No report.

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

Dianne said that UNIFOR are in the midst of an election right now.

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

No report.

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

Hourly staff will receive an across-the-board increase of 1.49% plus an adjustment of 1.013%.

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

No report.

**10. Other Business**

Nothing

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 2:23 pm

*"that the meeting be adjourned"*

**Carried.**