



MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 1:00 pm at Eastside Mario's, University Plaza

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Brian Beckberger, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Heather Grigg, Les King (chair), Shari Mercer, Kathy Overholt, Peter Sutherland, Bob West

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Dianne Bird, Gail Britton, Nora Gaskin, Mary Johnston, Michele Leroux, Betty Ann Levy, Pam Penny, Marianne Van Der Wel

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of May 13, 2015 (for approval)

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Shari Mercer

"that the minutes be approved"

Carried.

3. President's Comments (Les King)

Les reported that he and his wife will be representing MURA at the Convocation Dinner

Les and Peter Sutherland have a meeting with the Acting Director of Parking tomorrow morning (June 11) to discuss the issue of the upcoming Parking Transponder upgrade. There is a particular concern about the flow of information to retirees. The email received by some MURA members mentioned new decals or transponders for assigned lots (not applicable to retirees). The meeting will focus on how the Parking Office plans to make the information available to retirees and how MURA may be able to help.

Another important university upgrade which will effect some retirees is the email migration from Univmail to MacMail. Heather and Helen have met with representatives from UTS to talk about when and how it will take place. They hope to recruit a small group of people who can act as a test group before the actual start.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Selection of new MURA Honorary President (Les King)

With the recent passing of Art Bourns, MURA needs to select a new Honorary President for MURA. Les said that in his opinion the obvious candidate for the role is Alvin Lee.

Moved by Les King, **seconded** by Heather Grigg

"that Alvin Lee be asked to serve as MURA's Honorary President"

Carried.

4.2 Volunteering – Approval of distribution of funding information

Les reviewed Betty Ann's May report to Council

He explained that the Discovery Program (<http://artsci.mcmaster.ca/mcmaster-discovery-program/>) confers certificates on its graduates. The participants are provided with lunch and bus passes. There are student volunteers who assist with the program.

The Arts & Science website has a link to a site for online donations to support the Discovery Program (<http://alumni.os.mcmaster.ca/s/1439/ifundmac/project.aspx?sid=1439&gid=1&pgid=3275&cid=5303&ecid=5303&crd=0&calpgid=3298&calcid=5347>)

Les King said that he is on the Board of the Hamilton Third Age Learning program. This group will be meeting on June 24th at which time he will tell them about the Discovery Program and its need for funding.

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Peter Sutherland

"that MURA distribute an article about our involvement with the Discovery Program via email and MURAnews"

Carried.

5. Information Reports from Liaisons

5.1 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No report.

5.2 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

Bob reported that for the 3 months ended March 31/15, the total fund return before expenses was 6.8%. The last quarter (April to June) results look rocky but will probably still be positive. The account managers choose and trade stocks regularly and have done a good job. Salaried staff will likely get an increase in January 2016.

There has been an amendment to the Plan which now requires the university President to join the faculty pension plan as he is considered to be a faculty member.

There has been some discussion by several universities about combining pension plans but nothing definite has been decided. McMaster would probably not be interested in such a move as there would be less flexibility.

6. Other Business

Bob West mentioned that MURA has a big pot of money in the bank but continues to take money from the three supporting groups. Council probably should consider either reducing our requests from the supporting groups or find some other way to reduce the pot. Les said that we should put our heads together to figure out how to spend some of our excess funds.

ACTION ITEM: Add an item to the agenda sometime in the Fall to discuss the issue of excess MURA funds sitting in the bank.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:20 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.