



MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 1:30 pm in MUSC-230

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

Regrets: Beth Csordas, Michele Leroux, Shari Mercer, Marianne Van Der Wel, Bob West

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting – January 13, 2016

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

"that the minutes January 13, 2016 be approved"

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

No report.

4. Business Arising - nothing

5. President's Report (Les King)

5.1 Winn Estate Bequest

The final amount of the Winn Estate bequest is \$34,154.88. Les said that he thinks that the monies should be used to set up a named prize or scholarship—named for the Winns. Mary asked if we should consider something other than Gerontology. Brian mentioned that there are many different areas on campus that are involved in research to assist older people. Les suggested that there should be a small group to decide on possible areas for the endowment monies. Peter reminded Council that endowment monies only generate about 4% annually.

Les proposed that a committee be struck composed of Peter Sutherland, Beth Csordas and Helen Barton. This committee will explore possible areas for endowment of the Winn bequest and make recommendations to Council.

5.2 Position of Secretary

The position of Secretary is an appointed one. Les plans to consult with the executive and he hopes to have a report for the April meeting.

6. Treasurer’s Report (Beth Csordas)

6.1 Reserve Fund

In Beth’s absence, Les reminded Council members that \$22,000 of the MURA reserve fund is to be reallocated. Should these monies also go to an endowment?

6.2 CURAC Surplus

As with the Reserve Fund monies, the monies which came to MURA from hosting the 2014 CURAC AGM, need to be allocated to a purpose—possibly endowment as well.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)

No report.

7.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

Mary and Brian will check out the computer in the office to decide if it should be recycled as no one uses it.

7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

Dianne reported that there have been 2 orders for cards since the advertisement appeared in the Winter issue of *MURAnews*.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM (Gail Britton)

Gail reminded us that we need to select some names of speakers to be approached soon, as the information should be included in the spring issue of the newsletter to be published in April. Betty Ann mentioned that Paul Andrews talks about depression and is an excellent speaker. After discussion, Council members ranked speakers to approach as follows: Paul Andrews, Brian Baetz and Brenda Vrkljan.

Gail then reviewed menus and said that her committee will make the final decisions. She also needs to talk to Parking to confirm that there will be no major changes in the regular plans.

8.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Cards sent since the January meeting are:

Valerie Cranmer	Dec 17, 2015	University Library
Robert (Bob) Kennedy	Jan 2, 2016	Parking
Dwight Chapman	Jan 17, 2016	Facility Services
Dugal Campbell	Jan 18, 2016	Psychiatry
Donald Lampman	Mar 2, 2016	Facility Services

Not yet confirmed:

Kenneth Finkel	Dec 11, 2015	Pediatrics
Gary Madison	Jan 16, 2016	Philosophy

No cards sent (HR notification past 4 months):

Pillachira Thomas	Jul 31, 2015	University Library
J. Ban	Sep 17, 2105	Divinity College

8.3 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

No report.

8.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

Heather provided Council with a document detailing how the sub-committee has reviewed web site applications to ensure that the product chosen would provide not only for MURA's short-term needs but also for flexibility in the future. Based on the criteria used, the committee are considering using **Wild Apricot** as the new platform for our web site.

As part of the preparation, they have undertaken a review of most of the CURAC member web sites. Heather provided a list of exemplary university retiree association web sites and asked Council members to provide feedback on desirable/undesirable elements for a new MURA site. The deadline is March 31st.

Les reminded Council that Heather has agreed to make the following changes to the official Communications policy document: 1) add a statement to the effect that exceptions are to be referred to the Executive for decision and 2) add a reference to the federal anti-spam law. Les said that he would like this cleared up before the AGM.

8.5 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne said the committee is still waiting for Michele to provide a definition of "retiree". They cannot move forward until it is received.

8.6 Membership

The membership as of February is 2326.

8.7 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting)

Phyllis said the schedule for the Spring issue is: **deadline** for submissions – Apr 13, to **printing** by – Apr 20, and **mail** by – Apr 27.

Phyllis asked if we should continue to give a prize at the AGM for switching to online only. Les said that he wants to write to the 325 people who get both editions to tell them that the paper copy will no longer be mailed. Mary suggested that he go ahead with the letter but that we should still give the prize to encourage people to make the change. Les said that he will write to the 325 in the fall.

8.8 Nominating Committee (Mary Johnston)

Mary reported the following names for available positions:

President	Les King
Vice-President	Heather Grigg
Councilors	Helen Barton
	Brian Beckberger
	Carolyn Rosenthal (Sociology)

8.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

Peter mentioned that he has answered several questions in the past few weeks.

8.10 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

Mary reminded us that there will be a talk about the Hamilton Public Library digital resources at the Westdale Branch on April 6th. There are 38+ registrations.

8.11 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

Discovery Program: The final event for the year will be organized by one of the students and the Discovery Program. Betty Ann will meet with Ann Herring and Patrick Byrne, Co-ordinator of the DP, to discuss future involvement of MURA in the Alumni program.

Computer Workshops: The two students provided to us from HR have begun their MBA project that will offer MURA members some workshops on computer software use. They have set up a short survey that we will be sending to our membership to gain insight on the topics that interest our members and the type of workshop interaction preferred. Nora, Heather, and Helen are overseeing the students' work.

Employee Career Services: Carolyn Rosenthal and Mary Johnston will participate in a "Speed Careering" event offered to Mac employees on April 21st; Mary and Carolyn will host tables on *Transitioning to Retirement*.

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)

The next meeting will be tomorrow morning (March 10).

9.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

No report.

9.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

No report.

9.4 UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

Dianne has arranged a meeting for March 24th with Emily Heikoop, the new President of Local 5555. Dianne hopes that Mary will be able to join them.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne and Mary will be meeting today after this meeting ends.

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

Cliff said that the investments are doing well but that does not necessarily mean that raises will be forthcoming.

Mary wondered if anybody in the RRSP stream will be retiring soon and, if so, will they be considered Mac retirees. HR is being reorganized under a new Director. We need to communicate to HR how important Michele is to us. Les will set up a meeting with Wanda McKenna, Michele, Helen and Heather.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

Bob attended the committee's meeting on February 25th. It was noted that forecasts for the future indicate the market volatility will continue and that investment returns will be lower than historical averages and much lower than the past few years. This may be a challenge to earning more than the 4.5% threshold before pension increases can be paid.

10. Other Business

Nothing.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:47 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.