



## **MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

1280 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L8, Canada  
Tel: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23171  
E-mail: [mura@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mura@mcmaster.ca)  
<http://www.mcmaster-retirees.ca>  
Nora Gaskin, Secretary  
[gaskinno@mcmaster.ca](mailto:gaskinno@mcmaster.ca)  
Home: (905) 526-0210

### **Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 1:30 pm in MUSC-230**

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

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

**Regrets:** Dianne Bird, Heather Grigg, Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer, Marianne Van Der Wel, Bob West

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

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

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

*"that the minutes April 13, 2016 be approved"*

**Carried.**

#### **3. Human Resources Report**

There is no report as Wanda McKenna is unable to attend the meeting today.

Les King will email Wanda to invite her to the AGM and to remind her that we need an HR liaison who can attend our monthly meetings.

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

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

Les reported that Bob West has agreed to continue representing us on the Salaried Trust Committee for another year.

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

Beth said that Bob West will audit the books for the AGM. She will give him the documentation as soon as it is complete.

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

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

The total is now \$73,543, which is up by \$730.

Peter Sutherland, Helen Barton and Beth Csordas met to discuss how to use the monies received from the Winn estate. They are looking at establishing a bursary in Gerontology. Helen talked to Tracie Long and got advice re set-up, etc. Peter explained that bursaries are need-based and provide more flexibility in distribution. The group has not fixed an amount but we should keep in mind that endowment funds earn approximately 4%. A fund of \$40,000 would yield approximately \$1600. It would be a good idea to add monies to the bequest so the set-up can start quickly. Beth reminded Council members that of the \$85,000 in the bank, \$59,000 is available (Winn - \$34,000 plus Surplus - \$25,000). Betty Ann asked to be reminded of the values of the current awards. Beth said the Scholarship is \$2000 and the Bursary is \$550. Les wondered if the bursary should be \$2000 and if it would be available in 2017. Peter said that the group should have a proposal ready for this fall and he feels that the endowment should be no less than \$40,000.

Les said that there is a consensus from Council.

#### 7.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

No report.

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

No report.

### 8. Information Reports from Committees

#### 8.1 AGM (Gail Britton)

Gail reported that things are progressing nicely. Les has agreed to do the introduction of our speaker, Brian Baetz. She has also talked to the people in Parking and stressed the need for someone to be at the gate to provide directions to attendees.

#### 8.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Cards sent since the April meeting are:

Graham Hill	Apr 13, 2016	Library
Ronald Browne	Apr 15, 2016	Anaesthesia

No cards sent (HR notification past 4 months):

Gerhard Oravas	Jul 3, 2015	Civil Engineering
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#### 8.3 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

Gail will book the room for Dec 5th.

#### 8.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

Nora provided Council members with the latest Draft of the Communications Policy.

Moved by **Phyllis Derosa-Koetting**, second by **Brian Beckberger**

*"that the revised MURA Communications Policy be approved"*

**Carried.**

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

No report.

**8.6** Membership

The membership as of May is 2338. The MURA web site indicates that new people can expect a mailed copy of the newsletter.

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

Phyllis reported that the newsletter was sent to Mail Services on April 28<sup>th</sup> but was not delivered to the office until May 6<sup>th</sup>. Apparently, there were problems with staff levels (open positions and bereavement leave).

**8.8** Nominating Committee (Mary Johnston)

No report.

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

Peter has discovered that the shingles vaccine is covered under some of the plans. He is waiting for HR to provide an explanation of the coverage to notify our members. There should be an article in the next newsletter.

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

No report.

**8.11** Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann reported that the MBA students are finished the survey and are now preparing classes for September.

Barb Carpio is no longer liaising with the Discovery Program but Anne Herring is now retired and will fill in.

**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)

Betty Ann reported that a heated discussion arose regarding the effect of the new budget model on the growth that can occur at McMaster. Given the poor financial position of most of the Faculties, Deans have little opportunity to hire in departments where growth is needed. This limits the ability to take up opportunities to develop new or strengthen existing research areas. The university is clearly at a place where the operationalization of the budget model is being contested and its value being questioned. It was suggested that the new model does not benefit Faculties; it only benefits professional programs.

The Board are interested in the dissent.

**9.2** CURAC (Mary Johnston)

No report.

**9.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)**

No report.

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

No report.

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

Dianne reported that the letter to the unions representing hourly employees is almost ready to go.

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

Cliff said that the university is still looking at the central pension plan. Betty Ann said that it hasn't been written off. Trent and Queens are interested in the plan. Both MUFA and UNIFOR are involved in discussions. However, it isn't clear how to get accurate information. Cliff said that a draft report is expected in the fall.

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

No report.

**10. Other Business**

Nora reported that she tried to change her university password and wasn't able to do so. She said that it might have been a problem with her laptop's out-dated software. She will write something to send to members once she gets it right.

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

*"that the meeting be adjourned"*

**Carried.**