



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg, Michele Leroux, Marianne Van Der Wel, Bob West

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting – October 14, 2015

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

"that the minutes October 14, 2015 be approved as amended"

Carried.

2.2 Annual General Meeting – June 3, 2015

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Beth Csordas

"that the provisional AGM minutes be approved"

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

No report.

4. Business Arising

4.1 Frequency of HR reports

Kathy reported that Helen Barton, Heather Grigg and she met with Michele on Monday, November 9th. At that meeting Michele said that HR have committed to producing the reports each month.

5. President's Report (Les King)

No report.

6. Treasurer’s Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth said that she has finalized the account details for the Tangerine account. Kathy will be given the details as a back-up for Beth.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)

The total is now \$69,773, which is up by \$175.

There are new solicitation details ready to go in mid-November. The literature will feature our 2 scholarship winners. The new goal is \$85,000.

7.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

No report.

7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

Dianne is working on a plan to increase card sales. She plans to have a display at the Christmas lunch.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM (Gail Britton)

No report.

8.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Cards sent since the October meeting are:

Robert Mackness	Sep 19, 2015	Cost Accountant
Robert Dopheide	Oct 31, 2015	Facility Services

Not yet confirmed:

Joseph Ban	Sep 17, 2015	Divinity College
David Blewett	Oct 25, 2015	English
Grace Burditt	Oct 16, 2015	Education Services
Daniel Dwyer	Nov 5, 2015	Medicine
Pillachira Thomas	July 31, 2015	Library
Eva Tihanyi	Sep 13, 2015	Business

8.3 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

Gail reported that the catering costs originally quoted were incorrect. The service charge for outside organizations has not increased from 15% to 25%--it is still 15%.

There are 123 confirmed reservations of which 17 are new retirees. There have also been requests for 6 disabled parking spots.

Gail will amend the list of duties for councilors and forward it to all council members before the lunch. Les will be the Master of Ceremonies.

8.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

No report.

8.5 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

After the meeting between Helen, Heather, Kathy and Michele, there is a slightly better definition of "retiree" but there is still a need for much more information before it is complete. Brian said it is a work in progress.

8.6 Membership

The current membership is 2309.

8.7 *MURAnews* (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting)

Phyllis said the Fall issue is out and there will be a planning meeting for the next issue in early December.

8.8 Nominating Committee (Mary Johnston)

Mary has assembled the committee. Eleanor Frank and David Hitchcock have agreed to serve as non-Council members again this year. Nora Gaskin and Betty Ann Levy will be the Council members.

Moved by Mary Johnston, **seconded** by Beth Csordas

"that the Nominating Committee for 2015-16 be composed of Mary Johnston (chair), Eleanor Frank, Nora Gaskin, David Hitchcock, and Betty Ann Levy"

Carried.

8.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

Peter reported that there isn't much happening with the committee. There have been 2 or 3 queries. One member had difficulty getting in touch with someone from Human Resources. Another had a question about survivor benefits.

8.10 Trips & Special Events (Shari Mercer)

Shari said that there has been no progress yet. She is looking at some shows for the new year.

8.11 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

Preparations for the second evening event for the alumni of the Discovery program are complete. The event will take place November 12th (tomorrow).

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)

Dr. Parminder Raina and Dr. Abigail Payne discussed their Big Ideas, Better Cities Research Showcases. Dr. Raina impressed upon the Board that McMaster has a diverse and internationally recognized team of researchers who are contributing to understanding of how to live long and live well. The work on aging being done at McMaster is at the forefront of this research field. Dr. Payne then discussed the work on Big Data, outlining the need to analyze large arrays of data to direct health and social innovation. Again, McMaster researchers are leading many important studies.

9.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

We have received an invoice for our CURAC membership fees for next year.

Moved by Mary Johnston, **seconded** by Beth Csordas

"that we join CURAC for another year and pay the membership fee of \$300"

Carried.

9.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

Michelle Dion, the president of MUFA, joined us to talk about the proposed Jointly-Sponsored Pension Plan which the Ontario government is encouraging universities to join. Extensive information is available at: <http://macfaculty.ca/jointly-sponsored-pension-plans-jspp/>

Should McMaster join this plan, current retiree benefits would not change at all. Assets and liabilities would be transferred to the new entity and it would pay current retirees (instead of CIBC-Mellon). Other JSPPs in Ontario are populated by teachers, colleges and hospitals.

9.4 UNIFOR (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

Mary Johnston said that she would like to hear UNIFOR's take on JSPPs. Dianne will set up a meeting with UNIFOR to discuss issues with them. Mary may accompany Diane to the meeting with UNIFOR.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

Dianne is working on getting numbers of each union's retiree membership in MURA so she can work on soliciting support. Last year BUC told her they had spent all of their money on the cost of negotiations for their first contract. SEIU have never responded.

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

No reports.

10. Other Business

Nothing

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:19 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.