



## **MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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### **Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 1:30 PM in MUSC-230**

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

**Present:** Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Bird, Gail Britton, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Anna Fleming, Heather Grigg, Mary Johnston, Les King (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Peter Sutherland

**Regrets:** Nora Gaskin, Carolyn Rosenthal, and Marianne Van Der Wel

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

##### **2.1 Council Meeting – January 11, 2017 (for approval)**

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Gail Britton

*“that the minutes of January 11, 2017 be approved”*

**Carried.**

#### **3. President’s Report** (Les King) – no report

#### **4. Human Resources Report** (Anna Fleming) – no report

#### **5. Treasurer’s Report:** (Beth Csordas)

Beth presented the 2016/17 budget vs. year-to-date and year-end projections. The projected net loss is \$5,362, which would be covered by the available reserve funds.

Beth presented proposed budgets for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. There was agreement that budgeting for break-even results, as presented, is the best for approaching our funding sources for support for the upcoming three-year period.

It was noted that the Association’s financial position is sound and that at this time there is no need to request increased funding from these sources.

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Heather Grigg

*“that the budgets for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 be approved as presented”*

**Carried.**

## 6. Reports on Special Projects

### 6.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)

The fund now stands at \$77,028 up by \$1000 since the last meeting.

### 6.2 Archives (Mary Johnston) – no report

### 6.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird) – no report

## 7. Information Reports from Committees

### 7.1 AGM (Gail Britton)

Council chose the preferred speakers for the AGM in rank order as follows. Les will approach the candidates.

- Ken Cruickshank, Dept. of History – *The People and The Bay*, book on Hamilton Harbour (Nancy Bouchier & Ken Cruickshank)
- Nancy Bouchier, Dept. of History – *The People and The Bay*, book on Hamilton Harbour (Nancy Bouchier & Ken Cruickshank)
- Ann Herring, Dept. of Anthropology -- Plagues and diseases in nineteenth century Hamilton

### 7.2 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

Council set Tuesday, December 5 as the date for the 2017 Christmas lunch.

### 7.3 Communications (Heather Grigg)

#### 7.3.1 UTS Services – The new UTS statement on level of services to retirees was published in the Winter 2017 *MURAnews*.

UTS will provide phone and walk in service for McMaster's MacMail email service, MAC IDs and passwords, on-campus Wi-Fi, VPN (connecting to the University computer network from an off-campus computer), and the on-line Campus Directory. If the source of the computer issue is beyond these services, such as hardware or other types of software problems, UTS will suggest that retirees seek service from certified retail outlets. There is no McMaster fee-for-service computer service for retirees.

#### 7.3.2 Website – Heather submitted a written report.

The Website group has been reviewing our current website, CURAC member sites, and examples provided by Wild Apricot, the company chosen to host and support our new web site. The group worked out a new model for categorization of topics.

Heather presented a schematic of the proposed top-level menu and navigation bar and asked for feedback. She also asked Council to let the group know what is

liked and not liked about the look and feel of the sample design that was distributed.

One comment was to ensure that reports intended for Council only not be available on the public site. Response was that these will be available only in the password-protected “Council Only” section. Questions were asked about whether the Search feature would track inquiries that could be used as the basis for improvements in structure, and whether we would need paid help to do the design and development. No answers to these are available yet.

**7.3.3 Card report** (Dianne Bird) – no report

**7.4 Constitution and By-Laws** (Dianne Coventry)

The committee members will meet with Anna Fleming and Linda Piccolo of HR in the coming month to re-start the work of defining ‘a retiree’ for purposes of the MURA membership.

**7.5 Membership** (Helen Barton)

The monthly report was submitted. There are very few changes since last month.

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

**7.6.1** The Winter 2017 *MURAnews* has been published. The Spring issue will be ready in late April.

**7.7 Nominating** (Mary Johnston)

There will be a report ready for the March Council meeting.

The committee is struggling to identify a candidate for Vice President. The committee noted that the traditional expectation that the President serve for two years is an impediment to recruiting for the three elected executive positions. This is not a requirement set out in the Constitution, but a second term is permitted.

Council agreed that a single year in office for Vice President, President, and Past President should be the new norm.

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

Peter reported he is working with Anna on one inquiry from a retiree, but that it is not likely to be an issue of general interest or concern to other members.

**7.9 Trips & Special Events** (Mary Johnston)

This committee has no Chair. The committee met under Mary’s guidance. Less expensive day trips are being pursued, such as one to the Shaw Festival in October to see *The Madness of George III*. The committee is also working on a group event at the RBG Rock Gardens this spring.

**7.10 Volunteering** (Betty Ann Levy)

MURA volunteers are in general no longer involved with the Discovery Program, but one of our retirees is continuing to provide one-on-one mentoring when requested. The committee is going to ask University Advancement to remove The McMaster Retirees Volunteer Network pages from their website. The University and UA have supported this initiative for many years, but this approach to recruiting and supporting retiree volunteers is no longer effective. The plan is that specific on-campus volunteer opportunities for retirees will be promoted via the MURA listserv and *MURAnews* on an ongoing basis, with MURA making direct contact with the departments involved to have them script a message and provide the contact point for inquiries and follow-up.

**7.11 Web Site** (Marianne Van der Wel) – see 7.3 Communications

**8. Information Reports from Liaisons**

**8.1 University Board of Governors** (Betty Ann Levy) – no report

**8.2 CURAC** (Mary Johnston)

There have been several communications from CURAC since last month's meeting: CURAC affiliation agreements for trip cancellation and health insurance, a discussion paper on seniors' mental health, a call for nominations, information on the upcoming conference, and the latest newsletter.

It was agreed that none of these will be sent directly to the MURA membership. The relevant ones will be summarized in the Spring *MURAnews*, with links to full reports provided.

Mary has asked Peter to review the trip cancellation and health insurance offerings with the Pension & Benefits Committee and recommend how this should be communicated to our members.

**8.3 MUFA** (Betty Ann Levy) – no report

**8.4 Unifor** (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird) – no report

**8.5 Hourly Staff Liaison** (Dianne Coventry) – no report

**8.6 Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews) – no report

**8.7 Salaried Pension Committee** (Brian Beckberger) – no report

**9. Other Business** – none

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 2:42 pm

*“that the meeting be adjourned”*

**Carried.**