



McMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 1:30 PM in MUSC-224

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Gail Britton, Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Anna Fleming, Mary Johnston, Les King (chair), Betty Ann Levy

Regrets: Dianne Bird, Dianne Coventry, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg, Carolyn Rosenthal, Peter Sutherland, and Marianne Van Der Wel

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting – February 8, 2017 (for approval)

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

“that the minutes of February 8, 2017 be approved”

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Anna Fleming)

Linda Piccolo, Manager of Benefits & Retirement Plans, has left the University to take another position. As a result, there will be a delay in HR's ability to work with MURA on a revised definition of a retiree as it relates to our membership. Anna reported that Nancy Vukelich, the Senior Manager of Compensation, and Wanda McKenna, the Chief Human Resources Officer, are currently working on a definition of a retiree as it relates to other areas of the University such as Parking Services, so that may prove helpful for MURA's purposes.

Brian inquired about a 2015 change to pension legislation that requires annual individual pension statements be sent to all pensioners. Anna will investigate and report back.

4. President's Report (Les King)

Les reported that we are still looking for a person to audit MURA's 2016/17 financial statements.

There is no statement in MURA's constitution on the need for an audit, or how an auditor is to be appointed. Since MURA gets its funding from outside it is best to have an independent audit to maintain credibility. Les pointed to the CURAC by-laws as one good example of a statement on the topic.

Members of MURA's Constitution sub-committee will work on developing a by-law for approval of Council. The MUFA by-laws will also be checked for ideas.

5. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth reported that the 2017 payments from all four supporting groups have been received.

6. Reports on Special Projects**6.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas)**

The fund now stands at \$77,153 up by \$125 since the last meeting.

6.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

Marianne Van der Wel is continuing to scan the minutes from the archives and post them to MURA's web site. She is back as far as 1995/96. The minutes make interesting reading and are a good source of information, for example about events and trips in earlier years.

6.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird) – no report**7. Information Reports from Committees****7.1 AGM (Gail Britton)**

Nancy Bouchier, faculty member from the Department of History, has agreed to speak at the AGM. Her talk on the history and future prospects of the Hamilton Harbour will be based on *The People and The Bay*, a book on Hamilton Harbour (Nancy Bouchier & Ken Cruickshank).

The lunch has been ordered.

7.2 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton) – no report**7.3 Communications (Heather Grigg) – no report**

7.3.3 Card report (Dianne Bird) – report submitted electronically

Since the January meeting, the following condolence cards have sent:

| <u>Retiree</u> | <u>Department</u> | <u>Date of Death</u> |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| William J. Walsh | Department of Medicine | January 7, 2017 |
| Margaret Fraser | Library | January 22, 2017 |
| Gladys Duckett | Hospitality Services | January 27, 2017 |

Card not yet sent (no address provided):

William N. Jeeves Modern Languages & Linguistics November 13, 2016

7.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Dianne Coventry) – no report

See 4. President's Report regarding the development of an audit by-law.

7.5 Membership (Helen Barton)

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

7.6 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) – no report

7.7 Nominating (Mary Johnston)

Mary presented the Nominating Committee's Report, which was distributed with the Agenda. The following names were presented for available positions:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| President | Heather Grigg (one year term) |
| Vice-President | Helen Barton (one year term) |

Councillors (Nominated for office until 2020):

| |
|---|
| Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting (2 nd term) |
| Shep Siegel - Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour (1 st term) |
| Peter Sutherland (2 nd term) |

Moved by Mary Johnston, **seconded** by Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting

“that the Nominating Committee report be accepted by Council”

Carried.

There was discussion of whether to nominate a fourth candidate to fill Helen's possibly vacant councillor position. Council agreed that having an additional councillor would be a good idea regardless of the possible vacancy, and that all

new councillors should be nominated for office for a three-year term. It would be good to find a person who could represent the interests of Health Sciences.

The Nominating Committee may come back at the April meeting to recommend a fourth new councillor.

7.8 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland) – no report

7.9 Trips & Special Events (Mary Johnston)

Plans are well underway for a May 11 special event to tour the new RBG Rock Gardens, and for an October 3 bus trip to the Shaw Festival to see *The Madness of George III*.

Council members are encouraged to attend these events.

7.10 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

At MURA's request, University Advancement has removed The McMaster Retirees Volunteer Network pages from their website. Changes were made to MURA's volunteering web page to indicate that MURA will provide information on available volunteer opportunities in *MURAnews* and send notices via the member email listserv.

7.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel) – no report

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

8.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

A written report was distributed with the agenda.

8.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

Information on the upcoming conference was sent to the MURA membership.

CURAC has a new web site. This will be noted for our members in the next issue of *MURAnews*.

Brian commented on the email discussion by the Pension & Benefits Committee on CURAC's trip cancellation and health insurance offerings. The information will be sent to MURA's membership with a preamble indicating that MURA has not evaluated the plans, but that some members may be interested in exploring the options provided.

8.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

A written report was distributed with the agenda: MUFA negotiations are not completed and won't be for a while. The provincial pension plan as originally proposed is dead but three universities with OCUFA backing are working on a new plan.

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)**

Cliff reported that legislation changes will require a review and changes to the text of pension plans, for example as they relate to family law. One example given was regarding same sex marriages.

8.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger) – no report**9. Other Business – none**

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:20 pm

"that the meeting be adjourned"

Carried.