



**McMaster University Retirees Association**

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**MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association  
Wednesday, May 10, 1:30 PM in MUSC-230**

**1. Welcome & Regrets**

**Present:** Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Gail Britton, Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg, Les King (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Carolyn Rosenthal and Peter Sutherland

**Regrets:** Dianne Bird, Anna Fleming, Mary Johnston, and Marianne Van Der Wel

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

2.1 Council Meeting April 12, 2017 (for approval)

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

*“that the minutes of April 12, 2017 be approved”*

**Carried.**

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

**4. President’s Report** (Les King)

The search for an auditor has so far been unsuccessful. If we find an auditor between now and the AGM, the appointment will be confirmed by a mail-in ballot.

**5. Treasurer’s Report:** (Beth Csordas) – no report

**6. Reports on Special Projects**

**6.1** Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas) – no report

**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)

Gail has asked Les to get in touch with our speaker. The projector and screen have been arranged for, but we don't yet know if a laptop will also be required. Gail will contact Wayne Rouse to see if there are any pen sets available for a speaker gift. Helen will send an email invitation to the membership as a reminder. Gail will send councillor duties by email.

### 7.2 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton) – no report

### 7.3 Communications (Heather Grigg)

#### 7.1 Website Review Group

- MURA became a paying subscriber of Wild Apricot's web hosting site at the end of April
- Working towards a "soft launch" effective June 1 and will formally launch the new website at the AGM on June 7th
- Announcements will be via an email immediately following the AGM, and a notice in the summer newsletter; these communications are currently being developed
- Are preparing other members of the group to assist with web site updates and would like to recruit additional volunteers

#### 7.2 Volunteer survey

- Propose to have a brief questionnaire at the AGM to elicit interest in volunteering with one of the MURA committees
- Committees to be included: Newsletter, Trips & Special Events, Website, Christmas Lunch
- It was noted that due to changes over the years a few of our committees rarely meet any more and might not require more than a chair, e.g. Volunteering, Pensions & Benefits

#### 7.3 Communications Committee Chair

- Heather will remain interested and a contributor to the group, but will be stepping down as chair assuming her nomination for President of MURA is approved

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

### 7.5 Membership (Helen Barton) – no report

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

The summer issue will be published some time in July.

**7.7 Nominating** (Mary Johnston) – no report

**7.8 Pensions and Benefits** (Peter Sutherland) – no report

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

The sold-out tour of the RBG Rock Garden is scheduled for Thursday May 11.

**7.10 Volunteering** (Betty Ann Levy) – no report

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

## **8. Information Reports from Liaisons**

### **8.1 University Board of Governors** (Betty Ann Levy)

- Dr. David Wilkinson, Provost and VP (Academic), described the new funding formula based on enrolment corridors. Schools that easily meet their target enrolment (like McMaster) will not be allowed to deviate more than plus/minus 3%, but adjustments will be done only after 3 years, so finances will be stable and predictable. Small schools that struggle to meet target will be allowed to grow. McMaster has already met its target of 20% international graduate students. In general, the Provost believes we are doing well.
- Dr. Peter George: At a special convocation, Dr. George was given an Honorary Degree and was told that the new student building will be named the Peter George Living & Learning Center. MURA will want to acknowledge one of our valued retirees who was a great champion of McMaster. MURA will send a card to his family.
- A new McMaster Digital Transformation Research Center was established. The McMaster Brain-Body Institute has been closed.
- With support of the student referendum, the first phase of renovations to the athletic Center will begin. For members of the Pulse, this will mean a large addition to the floor space and upgraded equipment.
- The Hourly Pension Plan - Valuation and Solvency Application was approved.
- The report from Health, Safety and Risk Management indicated that our campus problems are being monitored and there are decreasing incidences of injury.
- The new Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies is Dr. Doug Welch.

**8.2 CURAC** (Mary Johnston) – no report

**8.3 MUFA** (Betty Ann Levy)

The Joint Committee Remuneration Agreement for July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019 has been concluded. Nothing about the definition of a retiree was included in the discussions.

**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**

Council to appoint representative to the Salaried Pension Trust Committee

**Moved** by Heather Grigg, **seconded** by Carolyn Rosenthal

*“that Brian Beckberger be appointed as MURA’s representative to the Salaried Pension Trust Committee”*

**Carried.**

## **9. Other Business**

## **10. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 2:03 pm

*“that the meeting be adjourned”*

**Carried.**