



McMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 1:30 PM in MUSC-224

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Bird, Gail Britton, Dianne Coventry, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg, Mary Johnston, Les King (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Carolyn Rosenthal

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Beth Csordas, Anna Fleming, Peter Sutherland, and Marianne Van Der Wel

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting – Oct. 12, 2016 (for approval)

Moved by Nora, **seconded** by Phyllis

“that the minutes of September 14, 2016 be approved as amended”

Carried.

2.2 Annual General Meeting – June 8, 2016 (for review)

3. Human Resources Report (Anna Fleming) – No report

4. President's Report (Les King)

- Bob West is stepping down as treasurer and auditor. Brian Beckberger has agreed to step in as his replacement on the Pension Trust Committee until the end of this fiscal year.
- The letter explaining that we will discontinue the print version of *MURANews* for the 336 members who can access it through our web site or via email was printed and sent out with the fall newsletter. So far one person has requested to continue with the print version. Several others have expressed their willingness to move to email delivery.

ACTION: Helen will follow up by sending an email version of the letter to the remainder of the 336 who have not been in touch one way or the other.

- Les has identified a couple of candidates for the position of auditor, but will wait until the New Year when Beth can be involved.

5. Treasurer's Report: (Helen Barton for Beth Csordas)

The time is approaching to begin the 3-year budget process and request for funding. The process involves setting a 3-year budget, getting Council's agreement to that budget, going to our funding groups, and getting back to council with the results. Funding must be in place by April. Normally Beth would be starting the process now. Due to her absence this will be put back to the January meeting, but we will have to move more quickly then.

ACTION: Those who are involved in the budget need to start looking at their projections now. Helen will give Nora a document to send out to council members. By December we should have some indications of what the plans are.

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

- The amount contributed to the fund is now \$74,138, only up by \$150 since the last meeting.
- There was another writing exercise to get the fundraising letters ready; the letters will be going out next week.
- **Winn Bursary:** Beth has prepared two cheques, one of \$40,000 to endow the bursary and one of \$1,600 for the first award.

6.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

Mary and Brian Beckberger looked at the computers in the MURA office as a start on the clean up. There are two: an older IBM one, which might have MURA business on it, and a newer UNIX one on which, Marianne Van der Wel reports, there is no MURA business.

Brian and Mary proposed the following:

- Remove the drive from the old IBM machine and wipe the data or destroy the drive. Based on the age of the system unit, the drive is probably small, about 100MB with an ISA interface that makes it practically useless.
- Since there is apparently no MURA data on the newer system, leave the hard drive intact, or wipe what is there.
- Send both computers and their monitors for recycling.
- Let UTS know so they can update their network tables.
- Keep the laser printer in the office. Drivers are available for ALL windows systems from XP to Windows 10, MAC OS 8, MAC OS 9, MAC OS 10, and Linux. Members of MURA Council may connect their laptops (with the appropriate driver) to the printer if they wish to print material for MURA business or events.

Council approved the proposal to remove the older IBM machine.

6.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

- Sold 10 cards

7. Information Reports from Committees

7.1 AGM (Gail Britton)

Council agreed to set the date for the 2017 AGM for Wednesday June 7

7.2 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

- **Parking:** construction is beginning on the Living Learning Centre, to be located at the site of buildings T-28 and T-29. This construction will have a significant impact on parking availability in lots E and H, and lot G was removed from retiree parking permits as of Nov. 1, 2016, according to an email received by many council members.
- So far 137 people have registered for the lunch, including 32 new retirees.
- Council members will be apprised of their duties soon.

7.3 Communications (Heather Grigg)

7.3.1 Heather had a follow-up meeting with UTS about what support retirees can get at the Help Desk. The plan is to have a defined list of services. The question is what to do when people want more than what is on the list. When there is news to report on this, it will be published in the newsletter.

7.3.2 Cards (Dianne Bird)

Sent:

- Dr. Richard Henry Devey Farmer, DOD: October 6, 2016. Department of Surgery
- Dr. Maurice A. Mishkel, DOD October 2, 2016. Department of Medicine.

No Card Sent

- Dr. Gerard Vallee, DOD October 15, 2016. Department of Religious Studies

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

7.5 Membership (Helen Barton)

Referring to the written report, Helen noted that the number of people who are receiving newsletters by postal mail is going down.

7.6 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) – No report

7.7 Nominating (Mary Johnston)

The members of last year's committee, who worked very well together, have agreed to continue. Thus the committee members would be: Mary Johnston (Chair), Eleanor Frank, Nora Gaskin, David Hitchcock and Betty Ann Levy

Moved by Mary, **seconded** by Brian

“that the proposed Nominating Committee slate be approved”

Carried.

7.8 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

There was one inquiry regarding the premium to continue with full life insurance after retirement under age 65.

7.9 Trips & Special Events (Mary Johnston)

- There has been no response yet to the call for a volunteer to organize trips.
- The Optimal Aging Portal presentation, scheduled for 1 pm on Thursday, November 10th at the McMaster Health Forum, Mills Memorial Library, has about 20 registrants, with 2 or 3 open spots remaining.

7.10 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

- With most volunteering opportunities being published via email and on the web site, there now remains little work under this portfolio.
- **Discovery Program:** Patrick Byrne has sought feedback from the three Discovery Program mentors. Initially the student sign-up rate for the mentoring groups was high, but after reasonable turnouts at the initial meetings, participation decreased to one or two participants. Betty Ann will discuss the matter with Patrick who is seeking feedback from the students. Unless the students commit to the group once they sign up, setting up more groups is unlikely, especially during the winter when many retirees go south and the students would need to travel in poor weather.

7.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel) – No report**8. Information Reports from Liaisons****8.1 University Board of Governors** (Betty Ann Levy)

The Board met on October 20. Dr. Peter Mascher, Associate VP (International Affairs), gave a presentation on the McMaster Model for Global Engagement. A related working group is at the conceptual stage but implementation plans will be developed. The President's report focused on governmental support, where the big news was that McMaster received \$43 million from the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, a federal and provincial fund, for lab upgrades, retrofitted and improved infrastructure in the Arthur Bournes Building, and an energy Co-Generation project.

Items of interest approved by the Board:

- changes to the Hourly Pension Plan mostly related to contribution increases to the plan
- the McMaster Institute of Geroscience renamed the Institute for Research in Aging
- the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging established thanks to a \$15 million contribution from our Chancellor, Suzanne Labarge
- the 2015-2016 Financial Report -- pension liability still a major threat to financial security, but the ongoing costs of running the university seem to be in hand

8.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

8.2.1 Prior to the meeting Mary distributed via email a preliminary position paper, “Mental Health of Seniors” prepared jointly by the Section of Psychologists and Retirement, Canadian Psychological Association, and CURAC’s Health Care Policy Committee. A future issue of MURAnews may include a link to the final version of the paper when it appears on the CURAC web site.

8.2.3 Renewal of CURAC membership

Moved by Mary, **seconded** by Betty Ann

“that the proposed renewal of MURA’s CURAC membership be approved”

Carried.

8.2.2 We need a delegate and alternate for CURAC conference in Ottawa on May 24–26, 2017

8.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

Betty Ann spoke with the MUFA President, who agreed to forward any information that seems relevant to our interests, particularly regarding pensions and benefits.

8.4 Unifor (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

Dianne will set up a new meeting in 2017, as Unifor is currently busy renewing contracts.

8.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

We received a letter from BUC denying our request for funding.

8.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

- An increase of 1.4% is expected in the New Year.
- The 5-year average return on investment for the hourly pension plan was 8.61%.

8.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)

- Brian thanked the executive for appointing him to the portfolio.
- The next meeting is November 10; the expected increase is very similar to what is expected for the Hourly Pension group
- The 5-year average return on investment for the salaried pension plan was 8.61%.

9. Other Business -- none

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:51 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.