



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 1:30 PM in MUSC-224

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Bird, Gail Britton, Dianne Coventry, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Anna Fleming, Nora Gaskin, Mary Johnston, Les King (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Peter Sutherland

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Beth Csordas, Heather Grigg, Carolyn Rosenthal, Marianne Van Der Wel, Bob West

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council Meeting – September 14, 2016

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Mary Johnston

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

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Anna Fleming)

- HR will be the first module to be updated to a new more user-friendly and mobile-friendly version of Mosaic; this will happen some time in 2017.
- Negotiations are in progress between the University and both teaching assistants and post doctoral fellows regarding their collective agreements; both are close to being concluded.
- Anna has been working with Helen to catch up on all retirees who have signed their release form and are now MURA members, and our member database is being updated
- People may opt out of having their names published in the newsletter but still be members of MURA.

4. President’s Report (Les King)

There has been no executive meeting as of yet.

5. Treasurer’s Report: (Beth Csordas)

No report.

6. Reports on Special Projects

6.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton on behalf of Beth Csordas)

- As of Sep 23, the endowment is \$73,988, an increase of \$445 since May
- **Ask letter for donations:**
 - Work has started on a letter to ask members for donations. The plan is to send a letter to people who have never donated and a card to people who have. Helen Barton and Meggie MacDougall from Alumni & Development are working on this.
 - The goal is to send them by early November; Helen would like someone to help draft/review the letters.
- **Winn Bursary**
 - There is no news yet on whether the award will be given this fall
 - **Action:** Peter will follow up

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)

No report.

7.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Dianne Bird volunteered to take over the Cards portfolio, and Council gratefully accepted. Council decided to make Cards part of the Communications portfolio.

Cards sent:

- Allen Robert Church, DOD July 20, 2016, Hospitality, S.E.I.U.
- Eliza Zenta Gulbis, DOD August 5, 2016, Purchasing Services
- Arthur Herbert Fellows, DOD August 3, 2016, UNIFOR, Security
- Tafila Gordon-Smith, DOD August 18, 2016, Library
- Roza Malyi, DOD September 22, 2016, hourly, Facility Services

No card sent:

- Dr. Robert Alden, DOD May 23, 2016, MUFA, Electrical Engineering, past four months, no NOK address)
- Dr. Edward John Ashworth, DOD September 16, 2016, Anesthesia, CFA, (await HR information re NOK address)
- Kenneth Weber, DOD July 22, 2016, spouse survivor (Delphine Weber)

7.3 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

- The President's Office has confirmed that it will support the lunch.
- We will have the same menu as last year.
- The price will be \$18.50.
- Parking has a new form that may improve the process for retirees who don't have a parking transponder.

7.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

No report.

7.5 Constitution and By-Laws (Dianne Coventry)

No report.

7.6 Membership (Helen Barton)

The grand total membership is now 2,394, with 336 members with email still getting their newsletters by post.

7.7 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting)

The newsletter is in draft form, and will go to the printer by the end of the week; Oct. 26 is stuffing day.

7.8 Nominating (Mary Johnston)

No report.

7.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

No enquiries.

7.10 Trips & Special Events (Mary Johnston)

- We have put a notice in the newsletter asking for a volunteer to take over the day trip portion of the portfolio.
- There will be an Optimal Aging Portal information event with Steven Lott from the McMaster Health Forum in November.

7.11 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

- The three Discovery Program mentoring groups have met, but final enrolment numbers are unknown at the moment. These, when in, will help determine whether to set up winter topics.

7.12 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

No report.

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

8.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

The Board of Governors retreat was held at Six Nations Polytechnic in Ohsweken, and featured an opening welcome circle, presentations by the Deans of Social Sciences and Humanities, and a session on three university priorities for the coming year: equity, research development, and internationalization. L.R. Wilson Hall at the Sterling entrance is now open, though not completed.

8.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

No report.

8.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

McMaster is still interested in having the provincial pension plan go forward.

8.4 Unifor (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

No report.

8.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

- Now that SEIU has agreed to support its MURA members, we will send a follow up letter asking to arrange the funding for the next 3 years
- Early 2017 is negotiating time for the 3-year agreements for all the supporting bodies.

8.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No report.

8.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

Bob has stepped down. Les wrote to Bob thanking him for his service and there will be something in the newsletter as well. Finding a replacement is currently before the executive, but there is nothing to report at the moment.

9. Other Business

Council agreed to no longer provide printed copies of our newsletter to members who can access it through our web site or via email.

Action: Les will write to the 336 people affected. The letter will explain that we will discontinue sending the print version unless they provide a reason why they require it.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:31 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.