

**Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 1:30 pm in MUSC-224**

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Dianne Bird, Gail Britton, Dianne Coventry, Anna Fleming, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg, Mary Johnston, Les King (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Carolyn Rosenthal, Peter Sutherland

Regrets: Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Shari Mercer, Marianne Van Der Wel, Bob West

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council Meeting – May 11, 2016

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

“that the minutes May 11, 2016 be approved as amended”

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Anna Fleming)

Discussed the flow of information in general and of death notices in particular. Although the executor of a will is supposed to notify HR of a death, it doesn't always happen; sometimes HR learns of a death through CIBC Mellon, and sometimes through MURA itself.

Action: MURAnews will publish a note about the importance of notifying HR when the death of a retiree occurs.

4. Business Arising – Computer workshops (Nora Gaskin)

Helen Barton, Betty Ann Levy and Nora Gaskin met with Baninder Grewal and Sinisa Medic on Aug. 26. Baninder and Sinisa are full-time employees of McMaster HR who are completing an MBA program. For their practicum they will design and run computer workshops for MURA members. Guided by the survey they conducted last winter, they are planning a two-part interactive workshop that will cover 1) Apple products and 2) social media. Participants may attend one or both parts. We looked at their proposed outline, and it looks very useful. The next

step will be another survey to determine in what month(s) to hold the workshop(s), and to find out what operating systems and devices potential participants use. The workshop(s) will take place during the next academic year.

5. **President's Report** Committee Chairs and Liaisons update (Les King)

The roster remains the same as the one published last year with the following exceptions:

- **Cards:** Unsure if Shari Mercer will continue
- **Communications additions:** Nora Gaskin, Carolyn Rosenthal
- **Pension and Benefits & Auditor:** Bob West will be stepping down; a search is on for his replacement.
- **Trips & Special Events:** has no chair, but Mary Johnston has already organized a special event
- **Web Site additions:** Nora Gaskin

Action: Les will send a letter to Bob West on our behalf thanking him for his years of service. Executive will take action on Cards portfolio.

6. **Correspondence** (Les King)

- 6.1** "Taking the Pulse of Seniors' Health Care in 2016" prepared by the Health Care Policy Committee received from CURAC with request that each CURAC/ARUCC member association send a copy to their local Member of Parliament.

In the past we have not gotten involved when CURAC has lobbied their members to take political action, and will not do so now. The Communications Policy makes no specific reference to CURAC position papers.

Action: Revise the communications policy to add political lobbying to the list of unacceptable content.

- 6.2** Letter from Emily Heikoop, President, Unifor 5555 re: possible Unifor Retirees Chapter.

Unifor locals are required to have a retiree chapter, and Unifor Local 5555 is planning to start one, and wants to invite Unifor retirees to join. Union retiree chapters can be primarily social or have other purposes; this varies from union to union, but they allow retirees to maintain their association with the union.

Action: Since MURA has a list of Unifor retirees, and the union doesn't, MURA will communicate on their behalf through an email to the general membership, alerting them to the upcoming initial meeting on September 20th.

- 6.3** Letter from Laurie Kennedy, Administrator of the Aging, Community and Health Research Unit, School of Nursing, McMaster Faculty of Health Sciences, introducing the Unit, which conducts research studies, workshops, lectures and other activities pertaining to older adults living at home who are experiencing multiple chronic conditions.

Actions:

1. We will alert our members by email to the public lecture on Sept. 21, the Sept. 23/24 2-day workshop for patients and caregivers, and the study that is already underway involving caregivers of older persons with dementia.
2. We will alert our members to other events and studies by e-mail as they are rolled out.
3. We will include an article on the Aging, Community and Health Research Unit in the Winter issue of *MURAnews*.

7. Treasurer’s Report (Beth Csordas)

Beth provided a report on the current status of the budget for information.

8. Reports on Special Projects

8.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas) -- we currently have a Scholarship of \$2000 and a Prize (not a bursary) of \$550

Winn Bursary (Peter Sutherland)

Peter, Beth and Helen worked with Tracie Long in Student Financial Aid & Scholarships and Karen McQuigge in University Advancement on the terms and wording for the bursary.

Terms and wording (for approval):

The Stuart and Paula Winn Bursary

Established in 2016 by the McMaster University Retirees Association (MURA) following a bequest from the estate of Stuart and Paula Winn. Stuart (Class of '72) was the principal founding member of MURA and its first honorary president. To be granted to a student in the Department of Health, Aging, and Society who demonstrates financial need. Preference will be given to students enrolled in a Gerontology program.

Amount of proposed fund: \$40,000

- \$34,155 from Winn estate
- top-up of \$5845 from MURA’s unrestricted surplus fund

Amount available annually for bursary: \$1,600

Fund the bursary out of MURA operating budget for up to 2 years

- Proposed that the bursary be awarded as soon as SFAS can put it in place, funded from MURA operating funds for up to 2 years until the fund has earned enough on its own to sustain the annual payout.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Mary Johnston

“that Council approve the terms, wording and amount of the proposed fund, and also approve additional funding of up to 2 years from the operating budget”

Carried.

Action: The committee will inform Student Financial Aid & Scholarships and University Advancement, and an announcement will be published in the next newsletter

8.2 Archives (Mary Johnston)

No report.

8.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Dianne Bird)

No report.

9. Information Reports from Committees

9.1 AGM (Gail Britton)

The AGM was a complete success; Brian Baetz very well received.

9.2 Cards (Shari Mercer)

Cards sent since the May meeting are:

Dr. Paul Walton	May 3, 2016	School of the Arts
Alwina Orechwo	May 8, 2016	Library (HR has no contact information for next-of-kin, sent card to funeral home)
Dr. Pavlos Kanaroglou	May 13, 2016	Geography and Earth Sciences
Dr. John Hunter	May 17, 2016	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Sofija Koren	June 24, 2016	Facilities Services
Dr. Ian Begg	June 27, 2016	Psychology
Dr. John Davies	July 25, 2016	Science

No cards sent (HR notification past 4 months):

Dr. Joel Elkes	October 30, 2015	Health Sciences, Psychiatry
Kathleen Steele	December 10, 2015	UNIFOR, Science
Dr. John Campbell	March 31, 2016	MUFA, History
Tafila Gordon-Smith	August 18, 2016	Library (await HR notification)
Margaret Lucas		Spouse survivor Brian Lucas

9.3 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton)

We have a confirmed date (Dec. 5th) and place (MUSC 3rd floor). Parking has been informed. We are waiting to hear if the President's Office is going to contribute for new retirees, and are in the first stages of catering. Catering prices have gone up. As soon as we hear from the President's Office, we will decide on the amount we will charge, for publication in the newsletter. The price will have to go up by 2 or 3 dollars. Les will send invitations to guests; we will invite the prizewinners (Student Financial Aid and Scholarships) and new retirees. The next meeting is on Oct. 4, and will involve the executive at that point. Tickets will be available on a first come first served basis. For the last few years there has been a waiting list.

9.4 Communications (Heather Grigg)

Helen and Heather are still following up with UTS on a few things; will have a meeting soon.

9.5 Constitution and By-laws (Dianne Coventry)

No report.

9.6 Membership (Helen Barton)

The grand total membership is now 2,386, with 334 members with email still getting their newsletters by post.

Action: Les will draft a letter to email users who get a mailed copy of the newsletter and bring it to council for approval.

9.7 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting)

The deadline for articles to be submitted for the Fall newsletter is Friday, October 7. Members are asked to keep Wednesday, October 26, open for the grand envelope stuffing party, which will probably take place around 11:00 am in the Student Centre. Any committee member who would like to submit an article is invited to do so.

There was a discussion on how best to advertise the fundraising cards, whether through the newsletter or the listserv.

9.8 Nominating Committee (Mary Johnston)

No report.

9.9 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

Other than a couple of enquiries, which Anna Fleming helped with, no news.

9.10 Trips & Special Events (Mary Johnston)

We received a letter from Sandy McHale, representing **Collette Travel**, the preferred travel provider for CURAC, regarding a possible travel alliance with MURA. Both MURA and CURAC get a small amount of money if people book with Collette and mention MURA or CURAC. If MURA at some point decides to go back into multi-day trips, Collette has a representative in Oakville.

Thirty-two people attended the **AGH special event**.

Mary is meeting with John Lott to explore the possibility of having a special session in November for Mac retirees on the McMaster Health Forum or the Labarge Optimal Aging Initiative - one option might be a demonstration of the Optimal Aging Portal.

9.11 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)**Discovery Program**

- Eleanor Frank will act as a mentor to help Discovery students to register in regular university courses and programs.
- New initiative: Faculty mentoring for students who are alumni of the Discovery Program and want to continue their learning at McMaster; 3 faculty mentors and 21 students have signed up for groups dealing with a variety of topics.

9.12 Web Site (Marianne Van Der Wel)

Marianne continues to update the website as necessary.

10. Information Reports from Liaisons**10.1 University Board of Governors** (Betty Ann Levy)

The Board met for its final meeting of the winter session on June 9, 2016. The university has applied for several government grants. Several initiatives are underway to build relationships with the Indigenous community, including a dedicated space for Indigenous students in L.R. Wilson Hall. The new “structurally balanced” budget model is impeding faculty renewal and research infrastructure and growth.

10.2 CURAC (Mary Johnston)

No report.

10.3 MUFA (Betty Ann Levy)

McMaster and the University of Toronto are both interested in the provincial universal pension plan.

10.4 Unifor (CAW/MUSA) (Dianne Bird)

No report.

10.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry)

SEIU Local 2 funding has agreed to give MURA funding for their retired staff. There is no answer from BUC yet. We have 3-year agreements with the other funding bodies, and funding comes in January.

Action: Ask SEIU to commit to funding for 2017.

10.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

There was a meeting on September 13. There will probably not be anything left over for an increase for this year.

10.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Bob West)

No report.

11. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:35 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.