



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association, Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 1:30 PM in MUSC-224

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Gail Britton, Dianne Coventry, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Anna Fleming, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg (chair), John Horsman, Les King, Betty Ann Levy, Carolyn Rosenthal, Shep Siegel, Peter Sutherland

Regrets: Beth Csordas

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting November 8, 2017 (for approval)

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

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

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Anna Fleming)

- HR has put into production and tested a system to produce an automated report listing the retirees who have given permission for us to contact them.
- Biennial pension statement project is 94% complete.
- A new employee discount program, “WorkPerks”, goes live on Dec. 14; retirees will be included, but will have to have a McMaster email account to participate.

4. Business Arising

Committee Chairs, Liaisons and Special Projects for 2017-18 -- Positions still requiring volunteers: Condolence cards, Trips & Special Events (Chair and committee members), Unifor liaison. Nora will send the current list and updated welcome letter to HR and the President’s Office.

5. President’s Report (Heather Grigg)

- A meeting with Roger Couldrey is scheduled for January.
- There have been a few meetings regarding a new auditor, but nothing firm yet; there are four possible candidates, all McMaster retirees

6. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas) -- no report

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen for Beth Csordas)

- The fund has received almost \$4,700 in additional donations, and now stands at \$78,834.86
- Criteria for the academic awards will be updated to include "Aging and Society".
- The committee are considering extending eligibility to level one students, but that is probably a few years in the future, so for now will leave it at 2nd year.
- The money that wasn't given this year is still in the fund.
- **Action:** Helen is to confirm with Karen McQuigge that she has requested to be notified any time the MURA fund earnings are short of the amount required to award the annual scholarship and prize, so that MURA is given the opportunity to top up the expendable instead of the awards not being given.

7.2 Archives (Mary Johnston) -- no report

7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Beth Csordas) -- no report

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM – June 6 has been confirmed; still looking for speakers (Gail Britton)

8.2 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton) – Statistics: 182 attendees, 22 new retirees; 10 Ontario accessible permits; 17 parking vouchers. The lunch was considered a success in all respects.

8.3 Communications (Helen Barton) – since the last meeting we passed along 11 information emails to the membership, including 2 volunteer requests, and rejected one.

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Helen Barton) – written report

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin) – new web site has gone live; will add CURAC page & send login details to Council members for Council-only section

8.4 Constitution & By-Laws (Dianne Coventry) – no report

8.5 Membership (Helen Barton) – written report

8.6 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) -- deadline for next issue is Jan. 12; Bruce Frank has joined the editorial board

8.7 Nominating (Les King) – no report

8.8 Pensions & Benefits (Peter Sutherland) – no new issues

8.9 Trips & Special Events – no report

8.10 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

- Volunteer requests have been quite active, including the Health Tapestry program, Service Working Group on community engagement, and Open Circles gap between April and June.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy) – an interesting meeting, especially a talk about community engagement

9.2 CURAC (Heather Grigg) – Helen and Heather will work on nominating Marianne Van Der Wel for a CURAC award at the local association level. Marianne was secretary for 3 years, and webmaster for 10.

9.3 MUFA (Shep Siegel) – no report

9.4 Unifor (TBA) – no report

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry) – Peter Foulds gave MURA a \$500 cheque towards the Christmas lunch

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews) – no report

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)

- The auditors have audited a 1.46% increase starting Jan. 1 for all people who retired before June 2016.
- The federal government limits pension increases to the CPI.
- The valuation – the CIA says people in the public sector are living longer than other sectors so they need to use a new mortality table.
- As a result the deficit increased from \$197m in 2014 to \$342m in 2014 on a "solvency basis"; however on a "going-concern basis" the deficit went down from \$252m in 2014 to \$8m in 2017.
- The return on the pension last year was a little over 11%.
- In 2014 the service cost was projected to be \$1.24 for every employee \$1.00; in the next 3 years, it is projected to be \$1.14 for every employee \$1.00.
- The pension is in good shape despite the increase in the solvency deficit and better shape than 2014 due to the increase in employee and University contributions.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:41 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.