



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 1:30 PM in MUSC-230

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Gail Britton, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Anna Fleming, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg (chair), Les King, Betty Ann Levy, Peter Sutherland

Regrets: Dianne Coventry, Beth Csordas, John Horsman, Carolyn Rosenthal, Shep Siegel

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting January 10, 2018 (for approval)

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

“That the minutes of January 10, 2018 be approved”

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Anna Fleming & Helen Dickman)

- Anna Fleming is going on maternity leave; her last day will be April 6.
- Anna introduced Helen Dickman, who will be our HR liaison while Anna is away. Helen is a senior advisor in HR, (the same role as Anna, but managing a different team).
- Outcomes of the project to ensure HR's database of MURA retirees matches ours: about 10 people in our list weren't in theirs, and 10-20 people who we listed as still active are deceased. **Action:** Helen Barton will liaise with Anna and Helen Dickman regarding the discrepancies.
- Council discussed the issue of deceased persons who are still in the Faculty and Staff directory. Updates are typically done at the departmental level, as far as we know, but ideally there should be HR input. Faculty members who retire remain listed in the directory; staff members are removed, but staff retirees can put themselves back in. Who would remove them when they die? Probably nobody. Part of the process of updating the university on the death of a retiree could involve letting UTS know when people die, so the directory can be updated. A

death certificate or physician's statement are required by HR to confirm a death.
Action: Raise with HR at next meeting.

- **Helen:** we are moving ahead on the automated reporting of retirees, and before Anna leaves there will be one more manual report, then after that, hopefully monthly automated reports.

4. President's Report (Heather Grigg) – written report

- **Actions** on the issue of the inclusion of retirees in campus agreements in the future: find out when the Microsoft agreement expiry date is, and remind whoever is doing the negotiating to include retirees; also get a liaison from the Campus Store to let us know when something is coming up for renewal
- **Appointment of Secretary and Treasurer**

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

“That Council approve the reappointment of Beth Csordas as Treasurer and Nora Gaskin as Secretary for the 2018/19 year”

Carried.

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 (Helen Barton) – Jack Evans donated court documents from the pension surplus distribution negotiations for the MURA archives

6.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Beth Csordas) – No report

7. Information Reports from Committees

7.1 AGM (Gail Britton) – menu ordered; parking will supply exit tickets; speaker will be Jennifer Heisz

7.2 Christmas Lunch (Gail Britton) – **Actions:** Gail will book CIBC Hall for Wednesday December 5; Heather will advise President's Office and MUFA about the date after it is confirmed.

7.3 Communications (Helen Barton) – the usual emails coming in and going out

7.3.1 Condolence cards (Helen Barton) – written report, HR is catching up on people who were missed

7.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

- Wild Apricot is raising its rates effective on the first renewal date after April 3 (in our case this is April 28); our monthly rate on the Professional Plan was US\$130.00 per month (plus HST/GST) and we got a 10% discount by getting an annual subscription for US\$1,404 (plus HST/GST); the rate for this plan is going up to US\$160 per month
- Since we don't currently use WA for our mailing list, which was the rationale for going with a Professional Plan, which allows 2000 contacts, we propose switching to a Community Plan, which allows 500 contacts at US\$90 a month.
- WA has introduced a new two-year subscription which gives a 15% discount

Moved by Nora Gaskin, **seconded** by Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting

“That Council approve the renewal of MURA’s Wild Apricot subscription at the Community Plan level for two years, effective April 28, 2018”

Carried.

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

7.5 Membership (Helen Barton) – Written report

- Helen continues to hear from people who signed their release papers on retirement but have never heard from MURA
- soon we will be advised about the people who are not using their McMaster email addresses, and we will have to contact them by some other means, e.g. phone call, snail mail

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

“That MURA Council confer Honorary Membership on Maggie Wilson at the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Association”

Carried.

7.6 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) – the deadline for submissions is April 13, and the stuffing date will be April 25

7.7 Nominating (Les King)

Les presented, and Council accepted, the Nominating Committee's Report, which was distributed prior to the meeting. The following names were presented for available positions:

President	Heather Grigg (one year term to 2019)
Vice-President	Helen Barton (one year term to 2019)

Councillors (Nominated for office until 2021):

Cliff Andrews (2nd term)
Nora Gaskin (2nd term)
Mahendra Joshi (1st term)
Kathy Overholt

7.8 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland)

- Peter raised the issue of whether Council feels it would be appropriate to lobby for survivor parking benefits, and Council determined it would not.

7.9 Trips & Special Events

- We received an offer from Hermitage Group via mail
- **Action:** look at how frequently we send out info about Alumni trips and events

7.10 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy) – written report; more emails were received and sent out to the membership

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

8.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy) – written report; presentation on the nuclear reactor

8.2 CURAC (Heather Grigg)

- we nominated Mary Johnston as CURAC's Secretary for 2018
- we nominated Marianne Van der Wel for a CURAC Tribute Award, and the nomination was successful; normally we provide reimbursement for up to 2 people when the conference is local, only one when it's far away. Heather is our official voting delegate.
- Marianne will register for the conference but due to health issues she will not be able to commit until the last minute

Moved by Les King, **seconded** by Betty Ann Levy

“That MURA will pay the full expenses for Marianne Van der Wel to attend the CURAC conference in Halifax in May 2018”

Carried.

8.3 MUFA (Shep Siegel) – No report

8.4 Unifor – 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 (Brian Beckberger)

- The Salaried Pension hit a milestone on December 31, 2017 with assets of over \$2 billion
- A biennial report will be sent to all retirees by December 2018. The “biennial” report sent in 2017 did not meet the legislative requirements that came into effect January 2016. The last report was as at July 1, 2016 (should have been a report as at July 1, 2017)
- the Human Resources pension website is up to date
 - The 2017 valuation will be posted to the website after it has been filed with the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO)
 - Brian has initiated a dialog with Kerri to correct/elaborate on the introduction file on the pension site
- FSCO visited McMaster to do a “deep dive audit” on the administration of the pensions in late February. The committee is awaiting the report from FSCO.
- A subcommittee has formed to do the review of investments and make recommendation to the Pension Committee of the whole. Three factors caused the formation of this sub-committee:
 - The last investment review was done in 2010
 - Ontario pension legislation passed late 2017, while short on detail, does allow wider latitude in the area of fixed asset income investments.
 - Some of the pension's money managers have not met their benchmarks in over 4 years

9. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:52 pm

“That the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.