



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, November 8, 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, John Horsman, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg (chair), Les King, Betty Ann Levy, Carolyn Rosenthal, Shep Siegel

Regrets: Beth Csordas, Peter Sutherland

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting October 11, 2017 (for approval)

Moved by Heather Grigg, **seconded** by Carolyn Rosenthal

“that the minutes of October 11, 2017 be approved”

Carried.

3. Human Resources Report (Anna Fleming)

- Biennial pension statements: There are about 200 inactive pension statements (retirees or people who have left the university) that still have not gone out; these will be out by end of November and the rest are being reviewed to ensure that everyone will get a statement.
- Sun Life interface: HR was able to identify a group of 42 people that was specifically affected by being moved into the wrong plan (Plan 4) during the reporting transition; they are going through the others as well, but addressing the Plan 4 errors first.
- HR's Reporting and Control division will be working on a project to validate their list of retirees against MURA's membership list in order to eliminate inaccuracies.

4. **President's Report** (Heather Grigg) – no report

5. **Treasurer's Report:** (Beth Csordas) – no report

6. Reports on Special Projects

6.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton for Beth Csordas)

- The donation mailing is almost ready to go out.
- We need to change the wording of the terms of the award due to the elimination of “Gerontology” from the program name; there will be a meeting in the latter part of November with someone from the Department of Health, Aging and Society, someone from Awards, and someone from MURA to work on this.
- There are no longer any part time students in a Gerontology-related program.
- The award for a full time student didn't happen because the expendable money didn't get put into the fund in time, not because there was no eligible student, as we previously thought.
- We don't know where the 2k that didn't get awarded is; we want to make sure it goes back in with the principal. **Action: follow up.**

6.2 Archives (Mary Johnston) – no report

6.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Helen for Beth Csordas)

- Will sell at Christmas lunch, but Beth will need help or a substitute if she can't come; Gail could add to her list and assign someone.

7. Information Reports from Committees

7.1 AGM (Gail Britton)

- Last month Council proposed June 6, 2018 as the date for the AGM; Gail will check the availability of the facility. Council is invited to start thinking of speakers.

7.2 Christmas Lunch (Helen Barton for Gail Britton)

- 114 registered, 26 new retirees (more than last year)
- regrets from 4 invited guests

7.3 Communications (Helen Barton)

- MURA recently received a request from the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging to promote support for the Dr. Karl Kinanen Annual Lecture through their iFundMac crowd-funding project. We agreed to forward the request after determining that: iFundMac crowd-funding is managed by the University's Office of Alumni Advancement; all donations made are directed entirely to the intended project; and all donations are gifts to McMaster University and as such are eligible for a tax receipt. We included this information in the email to the membership.

7.3.1 Condolence cards (Helen Barton) -- written report

- It remains unclear why HR has not confirmed retiree deaths of which we have notified them.

7.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

- The new web site will go live before the next meeting.

7.4 Constitution and Bylaws (Dianne Coventry) – no report

7.5 Membership (Helen Barton)

- There is a net negative on our numbers from last month.
- The Canada Post numbers keep going down.
- Helen's big concern right now is that CSU is no longer checking to see which McMaster email accounts are inactive, and hasn't done so in about 3 years.
- Helen would like someone who is in charge at CSU to ask if they can purge inactive emails. John suggested asking Rocco Piro which retiree accounts have been inactive for the last 18 months.
- **Action: Brian, Heather and Helen will look into this.**

7.6 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting)

- still looking for more people to serve on the committee

7.7 Nominating (Les King) – no report

7.8 Pensions and Benefits (Peter Sutherland) – no report

7.9 Trips & Special Events – no report

7.10 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

- Volunteers requests have been coming in, vetted, and passed along to our membership.
- Betty Ann has been asked to represent MURA on a Service Working Group in the Office of Community Engagement. Other groups participating are the Alumni Association and the staff union. The main activity being planned is a Culture of Service Month in April 2018. The group meets monthly.
- Betty Ann will work with the Manager of Experiential Programs in the Student Success Centre to see whether retirees might work in their Speakeasy Program, and with Jeff Druery of Student Open Circles to discuss how we might help with filling the April to June volunteer gap.

8. Information Reports from Liaisons

8.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy)

- The VP Internal Affairs gave an interesting talk about international students and their needs in terms of acculturation.

- All retirees who come onto campus have to know that we will have a smoke-free campus as of Jan. 1. **Action: Betty Ann will ask Deb Garland for a succinct email to this effect that we can send to retirees.**

8.2 CURAC (Heather Grigg)

- A health care policy communication from CURAC is inviting comments by Nov. 23rd.
- Nominations are being accepted for the CURAC awards to be presented at the CURAC AGM; Heather asked if we should consider nominating Marianne Van Der Wel; we have until Jan. 31st.

8.3 MUFA (Shep Siegel)

- Shep spoke with MUFA President Laura Parker to ask if the Sun Life feed problems had affected any active members, but she was unaware of any.

8.4 Unifor (TBA) – no report

8.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Dianne Coventry) – no report

8.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

- The committee had a meeting on Monday; the CPI cost of living will be applied this year at 1.46%.
- The plan had an unaudited, unadjusted return of 9.2%, surpassing its CPI benchmark.

8.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)

- The meeting that was supposed to be on Nov. 9 was rescheduled, then cancelled.
- There was supposed to be an audit of last year's activities in the plan, but no news so far, and next meeting is Jan. 31st.

9. Other Business

- Helen and Heather met with Glenn deCaire about parking for the AGM. The meeting went well and hopefully bodes well for the Christmas Lunch parking. They also asked if Parking Services could notify retirees about the upcoming expiry of their parking permits. Helen got an email saying they had looked into it, and they will be sending monthly notifications to any retirees whose permits are set to expire in the coming month. They have around 719 active retiree parking permits on record, 99 of whom do not have email addresses.
- Heather followed up with HR on a number of issues.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:30 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.