



MCMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Nora Gaskin, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 1:30 PM in MUSC-230

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Brian Beckberger, Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Alison Forler, Heather Grigg (chair), John Horsman, Mahendra Joshi, Les King, Betty Ann Levy, Kathy Overholt

Regrets: Helen Barton, Nora Gaskin, Carolyn Rosenthal, Shep Siegel

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting March 13, 2019 (for approval)

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Cliff Andrews

“that the minutes of March 13, 2019 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Alison Forler)

- Still working on the dispensing fees article for *MURAnews*
- Regarding the HR website review – there will be a focus group for retirees probably to be convened in May (update: May 10)
- Brian asked about progress on the definition of “retiree” – Alison said HR is still working on it
- The pension web modeller for current employees seems to be working well
- There are several more pre-retirement workshops scheduled – Alison will send dates
- There is a large number of retirements scheduled between now and July 1st – some are people who have just taken a pre-retirement workshop
- A large number of calls from retirees to HR was related to the change in address for mailed benefit claim forms

5. President's Report (Heather Grigg)

- In the search for a new Treasurer, Debbie Wiesensee has been suggested; Heather will ask her. If Debbie isn't interested, Heather will ask if she has any suggestions.
- Heather said she will be contacting new retirees about their transition to retirement.
- An Open House for discussion re the search for a new University President will be held on April 17th.

5.1 Appointment of Treasurer

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Mahendra Joshi

"That Council name Beth Csordas as interim Treasurer until a new appointment can be made"

Carried.

6. Treasurer's Report (Beth Csordas) – written report

An update showing the budgeted amounts for 2018/2019 and the actual amounts spent up to the end of March was circulated prior to the meeting.

6.1 Budget changes for 2019/2020

Moved by Beth Csordas, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

"That \$1,500 be added to the 2019/2020 budget for Special Projects, and the Greeting Card revenue be reduced to \$50"

Carried.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas) – written report

- Increases in the value of our awards are going for approval on April 16th.
- **Winn bursary**
 - A written report on the Academic Awards was circulated prior to the meeting. The report included an explanation by Karen McQuigge (from Alumni & Development) that the move to Mosaic has automated much of the process of awarding bursaries, which doesn't always ensure one student will receive a bursary from the Winn fund.
 - Les King said that we could ask if changing the bursary to a prize or scholarship is possible, and that Helen wants to fight to get the University to follow our specifications.

- Other suggestions Karen McQuigge made in the written report for MURA fundraising include initiatives around student food security, and student mental health programming – any monies raised would go into the operating budget.
- Les volunteered to talk to Ellen Ryan for other suggestions.

7.2 Archives (Heather Grigg for Mary Johnston) – no report

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

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM – Heather reported that Stephen Heathorn will speak about Brexit

8.2 Christmas Lunch (Helen Barton) – no report

8.3 Communications (Helen Barton)

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Helen Barton) – written report: 7 known retiree deaths, and 2 cards sent

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin) – no report

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Brian Beckberger) – no report

8.5 Membership (Helen Barton) – written report: the grand total of all member types now stands at 2,483

8.6 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) – no report

8.7 Nominating (Les King) – no report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

- Brian reported that Wanda McKenna intervened to arrange payment for a member's first shot of Shingrix, which had been submitted late and denied
- Brian reported that a member's spouse was notified that her benefits had been terminated, but it was a problem with her husband's name, which was entered two different ways in the database. It has been corrected and her coverage reinstated.
- There was a case of Mosaic charging too much for a retiree taking a course. HR intervened to correct it.

8.9 Trips & Special Events

- Anne Plessl will arrange another new retiree lunch in the fall.

8.10 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy)

- Betty Ann attended a Student Engagement meeting and found that the program is not relevant for retirees, as they cannot contribute to it, however she said that she will continue to attend the meetings for another year.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy) – no report

9.2 CURAC (Heather Grigg)

- 3 people from Council will be attending the CURAC conference in Guelph May 22-24
- Anyone who may wish to attend is welcome

9.3 MUFA (Carolyn Rosenthal) - written report

Carolyn has been in touch with MUFA president Michel Grignon. He reports that negotiations between MUFA and the Administration are still underway. MUFA and the Administration have agreed to defer all matters related to retirement and pensions to a committee. This committee has not yet been struck. Michel feels MURA should be represented on such a committee and she assured him MURA agrees with this. Michel will advise on how to proceed.

9.4 Unifor (Mahendra Joshi)

- Mahendra and Helen will be meeting with Unifor 5555 on April 16th.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Cliff Andrews) – no report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

- Cliff reported that he attended the town hall on the University's investment diversification strategy and estimated carbon footprint of investment pool holdings.
- He reported that university officials are happy with their progress, as they are ahead of the established benchmarks.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)

- Brian said that there is a special meeting called for April 11th. He has not yet received an agenda.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:27 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.