



**MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

Gilmour Hall Room B108  
1280 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L8, Canada  
(905) 525-9140 ext. 23171  
email: mura@mcmaster.ca  
mcmaster-retirees.ca  
Nora Gaskin, Secretary

**Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association  
Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 1:30 PM in MUSC-220**

**1. Welcome & Regrets**

**Present:** Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Beth Csordas, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg (chair), Les King, Betty Ann Levy, Kathy Overholt, Carolyn Rosenthal

**Regrets:** Helen Dickman, John Horsman, Mahendra Joshi, Shep Siegel

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**2.1 Council Meeting November 14, 2018 (for approval)**

**Moved** by Les, **seconded** by Brian

*“that the minutes of November 14, 2018 be approved”*

**Carried.**

**3. Business Arising**

**4. Human Resources Report** (Helen Dickman) – no report

**5. President’s Report** (Heather Grigg) – written report; subsequent to the report:

- **Parking:** the Peter George Centre for Living and Learning is going to have underground parking, but we don’t yet know if we’ll be able to use it. Parking lot E, north of the Arts Quad will be reopened when construction of the Peter George building is concluded. Heather and Helen got an email from Parking saying that the retiree parking changes will be put into place as of Jan. 1. Lots B, C, D and I will be from 12:30 pm onwards on weekdays. H, K, M, N, P and the underground stadium will be free for retirees on weekday mornings. Weekends, holidays and May to August will be open at any time. The Turtles or PACE exercise programs have their own parking arrangements, possibly at a reduced rate. The David Braley Sport Medicine and Rehabilitation Centre can issue parking passes to clients.

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

**7. Reports on Special Projects**

**7.1 Academic Awards Endowment** (Beth Csordas)

- Since the last meeting we have increased the amount in the endowment by \$660, so are now at \$85,125.
- Regarding the endowment trust fund statement on the Winn bursary, started in fall 2016 with \$45,592: we paid out more than we earned this past year, so the fund now stands at \$42,036. We thought \$1,600 was going to be given out each year to one student, but the amount was split into 3 and given to 3 different students, in three different amounts. **Action:** Les, Helen and Beth will meet with somebody (Karen McQuigge?) from Bursaries and Awards to clarify.
- We didn't receive any information about the MURA scholarship fund.

**7.2 Archives** (Mary Johnston) – no report

**7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards** (Beth Csordas) – no report; an advertisement will be published in the Winter edition of *MURAnews*.

**8. Information Reports from Committees**

**8.1 AGM** – no report

**8.2 Christmas Lunch** (Helen Barton) – written report

- 169 attendees were on the list; there were 11 no-shows
- as of today there are only 2 people who said they would come, didn't come, and didn't pay
- the budget is \$350, net cost was \$482.75, so we're over by \$132.75
- the trend is numbers going slowly down year by year; our actual attendance has never gone over 185

**8.3 Communications** (Helen Barton)

**8.3.1 Condolence cards** (Helen Barton) – written report

**8.3.2 Web site** (Nora Gaskin)

- All past Christmas lunches and AGMs that were on the old web site have now been added to the new web site under Events > Past events & trips.
- Have now started work on the New Retirees Receptions from 2004 – 2012.
- Selected photos for these events display on our site, with links to the remaining photos at our Flickr site, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mcmaster-retirees/>. The displayed photos look as though they are at our site, but they are only embedded, and really live at the Flickr site. This allows us to save disk space on the Wild Apricot servers, and not go over our storage limit of 2 GB -- we are currently at 820 MB (41%).

- Free Flickr accounts will soon be limited to 1,000 photos; we are currently at 773. Eventually we will probably have to purchase a Flickr Pro account so we can exceed 1,000 photos. The cost for a Pro account is currently \$65.88 CAD per year.

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

**8.5 Membership** (Helen Barton) – no report

**8.6 MURAnews** (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) – Jan. 11 is the deadline for the latest issue; January 23<sup>rd</sup> is the stuffing date

**8.7 Nominating** (Les King)

- Les is in the process of appointing a committee
- Shep will resign and Les and Carolyn are coming to the end of their terms
- As part of the process in future, it would be good to include that we're looking for people who are willing to take on a specific role, e.g. AGM, Christmas Lunch, Special Events. **Action:** The nomination announcement is going to be in the Winter issue of *MURAnews*, so should include a call for people who are interested in specific areas.

**8.8 Pensions and Benefits** (Brian Beckberger)

- 2 emails were received, and both will be followed up
- one asked about whether there were any planned improvements in the retiree benefit plan, e.g. dental implants
- one was given conflicting information about whether a particular eye test was covered
- follow-up on the non-Canadian resident: there is no coverage of any kind for non-Canadian residents (neither medical, dental, vision, nor life)

**8.9 Trips & Special Events**

- Anne Plessl indicated she would be open to doing other events, and she and Heather will do a debriefing about the new retirees lunch. Possibly one or both of the new retirees from the new retirees lunch who were interested will get together with Anne to do something in the spring.
- Re: Howard Aster's request to organize a tour of Burgundy: Helen wrote to him with conditions. He wrote back saying that he would be involved, and the trip would not be for profit. **Action:** we will put something about it in the next issue of *MURAnews*.

**8.10 Volunteering** (Betty Ann Levy) – received a request from the VON

**9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

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

**9.2 CURAC** (Heather Grigg) – included in President’s Report

**9.3 MUFA** (Carolyn Rosenthal) – no report; they are in a negotiation year

**9.4 Unifor** (Mahendra Joshi) – no report

**9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison** (Cliff Andrews) – no report; Cliff hasn’t heard anything about how negotiations are going

**9.6 Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews) – no report

**9.7 Salaried Pension Committee** (Brian Beckberger)

- bi-annual statements are supposed to be going out the third week of December
- there may be an increase, but we have to wait until the Board of Governors meeting for any announcement

**10. Other Business**

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 2:30 pm

*“that the meeting be adjourned”*

**Carried.**