



MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Nora Gaskin, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 1:30 PM in MUSC-230

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Cliff Andrews, Brian Beckberger, Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Helen Dickman, Alison Forler, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg (chair), John Horsman, Mahendra Joshi, Betty Ann Levy, Kathy Overholt

Regrets: Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Les King, Carolyn Rosenthal, Shep Siegel

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting December 12, 2018 (for approval)

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

“that the minutes of December 12, 2018 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Helen Dickman & Alison Forler)

- Helen introduced Alison Forler, who will be our HR new representative now that Helen has been assigned to a new portfolio. She also reviewed the three ways to submit claims to Sun Life (web, mobile and mail) and distributed several useful handouts.
- Alison reported that the bi-annual pension statements are going out now. Let HR know if you don't receive one in the next month or so. They are getting a lot of inquiries as a result of this mailing. Some people have been misunderstanding the statements and thinking their pensions are stopping or reducing, so HR is aware that the wording could be improved. **Action:** Alison will do a short FAQ submission about the pension statements for the Winter issue of *MURAnews*.

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

- Debbie Wiesensee will be our auditor again this year.

- **Parking changes:** Parking is sending out emails to retirees about the new restrictions on retiree parking; some council members have received these, and some have not. MURA informed its member listserv via email on January 3rd. We have received feedback from three retirees who are upset about the changes, and have responded to them. MUFA plans to discuss this with the Provost and VP Administration. Parking has indicated that they will consider making exceptions for MURA special events like the New Retiree Luncheon and Christmas Lunch.
- Heather is working with Anne Plessl to schedule a time this month to conduct the debrief of the New Retirees luncheon as well as possibly discuss any other special events that Anne may be willing to assist with in future.

6. Treasurer's Report (Nora Gaskin for Beth Csordas) – Beth will be sending out the invoices to our funding partners very soon.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Nora Gaskin for Beth Csordas) – The donations to the MURA fund are now at \$86,469.64 up about \$1,345 from last month.

A meeting has been scheduled for Jan 18th with Karen McQuigge, Les, Helen and Beth to discuss our MURA endowed fund and the Winn Bursary Fund. How are disbursements being made? Where do we go from here?

7.2 Archives (Mary Johnston) – no report

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

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM – Council to discuss ideas for speaker at AGM: Vivian Lewis, although she is scheduled for HTAL, and there is a fair bit of crossover between HTAL attendees and MURA members; Stuart Phillips, Kinesiology (skeletal muscle, dietary protein, aging, strength, sarcopenia); Sheila Singh, biomedical topic.
Possible topics: changes in campus buildings and grounds; mental health.

8.2 Christmas Lunch (Helen Barton) – no report

8.3 Communications (Nora Gaskin for Helen Barton)

- **CURAC emails:** Nora will forward all CURAC emails that come to MURA to Heather. Heather will decide which ones to forward to the rest of Council

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Helen Barton) – written report

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

- The website has now been updated with all of the past New Retiree Receptions. Any further additions to the archives will probably involve the Web Committee for decisions about what to include.

- We are still missing any pictures of the 2016 Christmas Lunch. **Action:** both Brian and John will look for to see if they have any.

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

8.5 Membership (Helen Barton) – no report

8.6 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting)

- The deadline for the Winter issue is coming up.
- One item that will be included is what specific interests we are seeking in people who are considering standing for council. Areas were identified as: AGM, Christmas Lunch, Trips & Special Events, MUFA liaison, Communications, including condolence cards, Pensions & Benefits, *MURAnews*.

8.7 Nominating (Les King) – The Nominating Committee will include: Phyllis DeRosa Koetting and John Horsman as Council members, Betty Ann Levy and Helen Ayre as non-Council members. Their task is to nominate a President and Vice-President and three Council members. Les, Brian, Carolyn and Shep will be stepping down.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger) –

- If you're planning to leave the country and become a non-resident of Canada, you will lose all of your medical and dental benefits, and retain only your life insurance benefit.
- An exception will be made for the Shingrix claim that was denied for being late.
- The eye test question hasn't been resolved yet.
- A lot of people have been querying the pension statements, and we have fielded some of those questions.

8.9 Trips & Special Events – no report

8.10 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy) – no report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy) – written report

9.2 CURAC (Heather Grigg) – CURAC sent an update confirming the conference date and theme

9.3 MUFA (Carolyn Rosenthal) – written report

9.4 Unifor (Mahendra Joshi) – Mahendra is planning to set up a meeting with Helen, Heather and Unifor

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Cliff Andrews) – no report

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews) – no report

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)

- Brian is talking to Steve Moore about disclosing how they calculate the monthly CPI and if that can be released, and will have a meeting in January about that.
- The next Pension Trust Committee meeting is on January 22nd.

10. Other Business

- Betty Ann suggested that if Heather is meeting with the President before Patrick Deane leaves, that the Provost should be invited, because he will be the acting President until the new President is appointed.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:51 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.