



McMASTER UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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Nora Gaskin, Secretary

**Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 1:30 PM in MUSC-230**

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

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

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting January 9, 2019 (for approval)

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

“that the minutes of January 9, 2019 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Alison Forler)

- **Pension statements** went out to all employees and retirees; still getting bounces, and 2 council members haven't received theirs **Action:** Alison will contact Helen if she wants to include an item in *MURAnews* reminding people to update their addresses with HR.
- **Retiree T4As:** some recent retirees confused by getting two tax slips, one for salary and one for pension.
- **Vaccines:** the drug lookup at Sun Life only applies to direct pay, not to drugs that can be covered if you do a paper or online submission; HR is working with Sun Life to improve the wording on the Sun Life web site.
- **Drug dispensing fees:** For anyone who is under 65, the plan limit cap is \$6.50 for the dispensing fee; the average dispensing fee is \$11.99 whether the employee is retired or active. At age 65, for ODB eligible drugs, the dispensing fees are paid by ODB; if a drug is not on the ODB drug list, the Sun Life dispensing fee cap is

\$6.11. Member is responsible for the difference. Sun Life plan picks up the annual ODB \$100 deductible, which may be levied dependent on income.

- HR would like a heads up about anything going into the *MURANews* about benefits, etc.
- HR now has one person dedicated to answering the 22247 phone line, making it easier to notice trends and be aware of issues.
- **New HR web site:** there was a team dedicated to that launch. If we have a look and have feedback we can pass it along to Alison. **Action:** Helen will send an email to Council asking them to compare the current HR site with the new one.
- **HR review:** We have been contacted by Andrea Thyret-Kidd from the Office of the Provost, the project manager for the current McMaster HR Review, for a meeting; it hasn't happened yet. They are still in data collection phase, with an initial report in late summer, and recommendations in fall.
- **Definition of a retiree:** Met with Wanda and gave her our draft; it was going forward to P-VP and some other body. Supposed to be this spring. **Action:** Alison will follow up and give us a status on that.

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

- **IT infrastructure related to MAC ID:** Sandra McWilliams has contacted MURA regarding the project she is leading that will replace some of the IT infrastructure related to MAC ID and is looking for input on the retiree's perspective. We are still looking for a mutually convenient date and time to connect.
- **Parking changes:** Still need to compile feedback from retirees and send to Roger Couldrey and Glenn De Caire with an offer to meet and discuss.
- Heather, Betty Ann and Nora met with Arig al Shaibah, the new VP Equity and Inclusion, on January 15 to exchange information about our respective roles.
- As Beth is away, the appointment of next year's Treasurer will be put off until the April meeting.
- Should we reach out to members about HR services, and how would we collect the feedback? E.g. SurveyMonkey

5.1 Appointment of Secretary

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Kathy Overholt

“That Council approve the reappointment of Nora Gaskin as Secretary for the 2019/20 year”

Carried.

6. Treasurer's Report (Helen Barton for Beth Csordas)

- we have received all our funding from our funding partners

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton for Beth Csordas) – written report

- Council discussed whether a new trust fund should be set up, instead of continuing to grow the existing scholarship and prize. **Action:** Ask Karen for more information

on her suggestion that future MURA fundraising support either student mental health or food insecurity.

Change the terms of the MURA Prize

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Les King

“That the terms of the MURA Prize be “To be awarded to students graduating from a program in Aging & Society who attain high averages”.”

Carried.

- Council emphasized that the intent is that the Prize be awarded to a single student, except that any expendable funds in excess of the nominal value of the Prize could be awarded to other students.

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

- We have our date, June 5th, and the contract is in place.
- **Ideas for speaker:** Santee Smith, new Chancellor. Alternates: 1) Stephen Heathorn from History to talk about Brexit; 2) Provost, who will be acting President next year. **Action:** Heather will contact suggested speakers
- **Action:** Notify Parking.

8.2 Christmas Lunch (Helen Barton)

- Date set for Wednesday Dec. 4th
- **Action:** check with Parking that they will make an exception for early parking.

8.3 Communications (Helen Barton) – no report

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Helen Barton) – written report

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin) – written report from February

- **Action:** Nora will follow up with UTS regarding 2 locations on their web site where retirees are not mentioned as eligible for a MAC ID
- **Action:** Nora will ask UTS to set up email addresses for Pensions and Benefits Chair, Membership Chair, and Webmaster.
- **Action:** *MURAnews* will rerun an article about how to add oneself to the Faculty & Staff Directory.

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

8.5 Membership (Helen Barton) – no report

8.6 MURAnews (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) – submission deadline is April 12

8.7 Nominating (Les King) – written report

Council to accept Nominating Committee report

Moved by Les King, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

“That Council accept the Nominating Committee report for the 2019/20 year”

Carried.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger) – no report

8.9 Trips & Special Events

- **New Retiree Lunch debrief** (Nora)
 - **Action:** Ask Beth to build this event into the MURA budget for next year.
 - **Timing:** May or September? May is better for parking, September or early October not to conflict with Christmas lunch too much. When to have the next one: May this year or next? Sept, this year? Discussion concluded that early October is the best timing. We could book the facility for the first week of October 2019.
 - For next time: have a short survey at the table on paper for people to fill out. Was the info presented useful? etc.
 - **Action:** Ask HR what the retiree numbers are from the last cut-off to now.
- **HR retirement preparation workshops:** HR plans to do two per quarter; Heather, Helen and Nora have spoken at the ones given so far; Betty Ann volunteered to speak as well.

8.10 Volunteering (Betty Ann Levy) – written report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

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

9.2 CURAC (Heather Grigg)

- **Action:** Nora will send an email to Council regarding conference, with links, asking if anyone wants to go.

9.3 MUFA (Carolyn Rosenthal) – no report

9.4 Unifor (Mahendra Joshi) – Written report

- The retiree chapter prepared a submission regarding bargaining. Beth suggested Mahendra, Heather and Helen meet with Rosemary Viola to hear about what they

plan to submit. She is hoping that MURA will keep the perspective of retirees in the minds of the administration.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Cliff Andrews) – no info on the state of negotiations

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews) – had a meeting 2 weeks ago, not much to report

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)

- There was a meeting Jan. 28, recommended the Board approve the valuation as of Jul 1 2018.
- There will be another meeting in May.
- The pension lost about 10%, will have to see if there's any recovery in the next 2 quarters.
- MURA received a couple of emails regarding the upcoming Town Hall: Investment Strategy and Response to Fossil Free. Question: is this the investment pool or the endowment funds? Answer: Endowment funds.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:30 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.