



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
www.mcmaster-retirees.ca
Nora Gaskin, Secretary
gaskinno@mcmaster.ca

**MINUTES for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 1:30 PM in MUSC-318**

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

Regrets: Beth Csordas, Carolyn Rosenthal, Shep Siegel

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting May 9, 2018 (for approval)

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Kathy Overholt

“that the minutes of April 11, 2018 be approved”

Carried.

2.2 AGM June 6, 2018 (for review)

3. Business Arising

Helen Dickman reported regarding coverage of the shingles vaccine, the statement in the May minutes is correct – from the age of 65 to the day before a person turns 71, the Ontario Drug Benefit program will cover Zostavax, but not Shingrix. The federal NCAI has now recommended and approved Shingrix, but this has not filtered down into the government coverage yet. Mary Johnson is pursuing this and will update us.

4. Human Resources Report (Helen Dickman)

- Database match between HR and MURA: Helen D. will send a report of deceased retirees to Helen B.
- New HR initiative: retirement workshops for active employees, perhaps including spouses. They will start with defined benefit pension plan members, and later on branch out to include employees in defined contribution RSP plans. The workshops will give an overview of the pension plan, retirement processes and

the transition to retirement. Would MURA like to participate? Workshops will be approx. 2 hours. MURA representative(s) wouldn't have to attend the whole thing. The first workshop is planned for November, for defined benefit pension plan members. There will be two workshops per quarter, a daytime one and an evening one. Separate sessions later for those "retiring" without a pension and/or retiree benefits. HR is working on defining who is eligible to be considered a retiree.

- For the new retiree lunch, MURA requested that HR provide a comparison between active and retired benefits. There is nothing already prepared, but they could provide something that flags the top benefits that typically change, so people can check their plans for those items.
- Total Rewards (an HR group) should have something on the new shingles vaccine item for the newsletter within the next 2 weeks.

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

4.1 Council to discuss and approve non-elected executive positions, committee chairs, liaisons and special projects officers for 2018-19

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Kathy Overholt

"that the list of non-elected executive positions, committee chairs, liaisons and special projects officers for 2018-19 be approved"

Carried.

4.2 Council to review and approve letter to new retirees. Discussion: publish members of P&B instead of chair?

Moved by Mahendra Joshi, **seconded** by Cliff Andrews

"that the letter to new retirees for 2018-19 be approved"

Carried.

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

7. Reports on Special Projects

- 6.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Beth Csordas) – no report
- 6.2 Archives (Mary Johnston) – no report
- 6.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Beth Csordas) – no report

8. Information Reports from Committees

- 8.1 AGM (Helen Barton for Gail Britton) – written report; the wireless mike that was provided was OK, but Gail recommends we purchase our own; we will consider the recommendations when there is a new chair of the AGM Committee.

- 8.2** Christmas Lunch (Helen Barton) – Beth, Kathy and Helen are working on Christmas lunch; Beth will handle the newsletter and RSVPs. Getting started on budget, catering. Subsidies are in place: \$10 a person for everyone except new retirees who are wholly subsidized.

Action: Helen will invite Eleanor Frank to participate. Will ask Alvin Lee to speak for five minutes at the beginning to provide focus, especially for new retirees.

- 8.3** Communications (Helen Barton)

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Helen Barton) – written report

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin) – Recent work on the web site: have redone the pensions and benefits section to provide more information and clarity; have added Council Only portfolio description documents; have added past AGM and Christmas lunch photos and descriptions; have created a Google Analytics account and will have a full month's worth of site visit reports soon; putting photos on Flickr to save paid space on Wild Apricot.

- 8.4** Constitution & By-Laws (Brian Beckberger) – we've been trying to get a definition of a retiree from HR since 2014, and are still hoping for it; Helen D. says we are getting closer. University is replacing "retiring employees" with "terminating employees" in the terminology. There are now 2 classes of Unifor employees, those who retired before and after May 10, 2010.

- 8.5** Membership (Helen Barton) – written report; getting well under the 700 mark for mailed *MURAnews*.

- 8.6** *MURAnews* (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting) – deadline is Oct. 12 for Fall issue; if anybody knows anybody who would be interested in taking on the layout of the newsletter, Phyllis would be happy to take on another vacancy.

- 8.7** Nominating (Les King) – no report

- 8.8** Pensions & Benefits (TBA) – no report

- 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) – June meeting was end-of-year financials; we have some award-winning chefs on this campus; Betty Ann will attend the Board retreat.
- 9.2 CURAC** (Heather Grigg) – there was an updated newsletter from CURAC this summer. **Action:** Heather will forward this to Council.
- 9.3 MUFA** (Carolyn Rosenthal) – no report
- 9.4 Unifor** (Mahendra Joshi) – no report
- 9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison** (Cliff Andrews) – no report
- 9.6 Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews) – it doesn't look good for a raise for the coming year; Cliff also reported that re-statement of the Plan is underway
- 9.7 Salaried Pension Committee** (Brian Beckberger) – the Investment Review sub-committee met regarding the reallocation of pension investments, as did the Committee of the Re-statement of the Plan.

10. Other Business

Heather reported on Executive meetings over the summer, and on the new retiree luncheon scheduled for September 25.

Helen raised the issue of whether MURA should promote tickets-only events, when these events don't include transportation. Council felt we should as long as we make it clear that transportation isn't arranged or included.

Mahendra: A will, power of attorney and estate planning workshop is being planned by Unifor; not sure if other retirees would be invited. **Action:** He will ask.

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 3:10 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.