



## **MCMaster UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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Nora Gaskin, Secretary

### **Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 1:30 PM (Zoom)**

#### **1. Welcome & Regrets**

**Present:** Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton (chair), Brian Beckberger,  
Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting, Nora Gaskin, Heather Grigg, Hank Jacek,  
Mahendra Joshi, Mary Law, Betty Ann Levy

**Regrets:** Alison Forler, Mary Gauld, John Horsman, Kathy Overholt, Debbie  
Weisensee

Helen noted that this is Phyllis' last meeting, and thanked her for her many contributions. Council will miss her.

#### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

##### **2.1 Council Meeting October 14, 2020 (for approval)**

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

*"that the minutes of October 14, 2020 be approved"*

**Carried.**

#### **3. Business Arising**

**4. Human Resources Report** (Alison Forler) – no report

**5. President's Report** (Helen Barton)

#### **Annual General Meeting (see below)**

##### **Three-Year Funding**

A pending item for the new Council/next year:

- Budgeting to make up for the shortfall of approximately 20% of our budget due to Unifor's decision to reduce their support.

First invoices for the new agreement due in January 2021 for the calendar year.

### **Definition of a Retiree and Retiree Supplemental Benefits**

Still pending. No action since the spring by the University due to pandemic priorities. No follow up has been done by us to respond to Wanda's offer to meet via Zoom or conference call to discuss it further.

### **Missing Faculty Retirees**

- MURA has not received information on almost half of the new faculty retirees reported in MUFA's annual list of retirees.
- **Pending Action from October meeting:** Kathy and Helen, possibly with Hank and/or Mary Law's involvement, will draft an email of inquiry/welcome to send to them.

### **Survey and Strategic Planning**

A final report on the survey results and planning for a strategic planning exercise are still pending.

## **6. Treasurer's Report (Debbie Weisensee) – no report**

We need an audit in time for the AGM.

## **7. Reports on Special Projects**

**7.1 Academic Awards Endowment** (Helen Barton) – most people should have received the solicitation for the academic award in an Alumni envelope. Question whether we can donate online, even though the letter only says to send a cheque. There is a link to donate online, but it is easy to miss. **Action:** Helen will follow up with Alumni regarding the wording on the web site, which doesn't give specifics on the scholarship.

**7.2 Archives** (Mary Johnston) – Helen was talking to Mary, who was planning to do more when she finishes her work with CURAC.

**7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards** (no report)

## **8. Information Reports from Committees**

### **8.1 AGM**

**Date:** Thursday, November 26 1:30 pm. Zoom meeting – online or by phone.

**Attendance:** To date, 14 people have registered for the meeting.

Actions needed:

- Reminder email to boost attendance tomorrow and a week from tomorrow
- Package of agenda material to send to registered attendees 2 days before the meeting; all documents in a single file:
  - Event Schedule/Agenda
  - Minutes of 2019 meeting
  - Nominating Report

- Financial Reports
- Auditor's Report
- Reports from pension committee reps
- Idea: contact some of our old council members like Les King, Peter Sutherland and ask them if they'd like to attend? People who live away from Hamilton, people who have attended previous AGMs. **Action:** will consult with Council via email.
- Mary Law will introduce, and Helen will thank the speaker
- Speaker gift: a copy of Alvin Lee's new memoir "There Was a farm in Eden"
- We could move the crucial votes up to the beginning of the meeting to ensure people don't drop off and we lose our quorum. Defer President's report until after the votes. Brian thinks if we start the meeting with quorum, then it doesn't matter if people subsequently leave, so we should call the meeting to order at the very beginning of the event, have the votes, then the speaker, then the rest of the meeting. Helen will talk to Lori about changing the order of events.
- "Photography" – screen captures (John)
- Nora will draw names from a hat on screen for attendance prizes.
- Will handle voting, nominations from the floor and questions via chat and it will be assumed that you are in favour of the motion unless you type "no" in chat
- Nora and Helen will come up with a revised schedule.
- Will have a dry run practice session.

**8.2 Christmas Lunch** (Helen Barton for Mary Gauld) still planning to send a greeting to people (Betty Ann)

**8.3 Communications** (John Horsman) – no report

**8.3.1 Condolence cards** (Heather Grigg) – no report

**8.3.2 Web site** (Nora Gaskin)

**UTS website update:** Email from Sue McKinlay: "For the current categorization of services, putting on link from the home page is challenging. There are a couple of options – for retirees to bookmark the link we created to the page, or, we add an option off of the Staff card (we've made this live for you to have a look at and provide us with your feedback)

- On the Home Page, choose the Staff Card
- Button at top right of the Page – See Retiree Services
- This takes you to the page with all of the Retiree Services"

We see this as unacceptable; will write back to that effect, and include Gayleen Gray.

Have been updating the website with updated links to HR, UTS and Parking and Security.

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

**8.5 Membership** (Kathy Overholt) – no report

**8.6 MURAnews** (Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting)

**8.7 Nominating** (Heather Grigg) – no report

**8.8 Pensions and Benefits** (Brian Beckberger & Mary Law)

There have been two inquiries since the last meeting:

- Someone retired before they were 65 and moved to Quebec. When they turned 65, their coverage for prescription drugs from Sun Life became a secondary benefit, but the Quebec drug coverage plan requires a copay, so this is a reduction in benefits. The MURA website will have to be edited in places as a result of this discovery.
- Someone filed a claim near the end of the claim deadline, but Sun Life needed more information, and when that information was submitted it generated a new claim number dated past the deadline, making the claim “late”, and the claim was denied.

**8.9 Trips & Special Events** (Helen Barton for Mary Gauld) – no report, still thinking about having a recent retirees Zoom meeting

**8.10 Volunteering** (Betty Ann Levy) – no report

## **9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

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

**9.2 Community Engagement Committee** (Betty Ann Levy) – no report

**9.3 CURAC** (Helen Barton) – no report

**9.4 MUFA** (Hank Jacek) – no report

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

**9.6 Hourly Staff Liaison** (Cliff Andrews) – no report

**9.7 Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews) The Committee met on Monday; the audited results have come through and there will be no increase but this will remain confidential until after the BoG has met on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>

**9.8 Salaried Pension Committee** (Brian Beckberger) Correction to last month's report: the October 23 meeting of the working group changed to Nov 4; full PTC meeting is tomorrow.

**9.9 Age-Friendly University Committee** (Mary Gauld) – no report

**10. Other Business**

Hank continues to monitor how many retirees from McMaster are in the Hamilton Spectator obituaries; this month it was higher than usual at 11. He will do monthly reports for a year.

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 3:05 pm

*“that the meeting be adjourned”*

**Carried.**