



McMaster University Retirees Association

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**Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association
Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 1 PM (Zoom)**

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Denise Anderson, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Susan Birnie, Barb Carpio, Barry Diacon, Nora Gaskin, Mary Gauld, Nancy Gray, John Horsman, Hank Jacek (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Dina LoPresti, Kathy Overholt

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Michelle Jubinville

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting March 9, 2022 (for approval)

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Helen Barton

“that the minutes of March 9, 2022 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Michelle Jubinville) – no report

5. President’s Report (Hank Jacek)

Hank congratulated Mary Gauld and all who contributed, on a very successful new retirees event.

6. Treasurer’s Report (Nancy Gray) – written report

Action: The expenses for the Winter and Spring issues of *MURAnews* need to be charged in this fiscal year, so Denise will send an estimate for the Impressive Printing bill and the postage for the spring issue.

Reserve for McMaster Graduate Scholarship Contribution

Moved by Nancy Gray, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

“that whereas MURA continues to fundraise for its \$25,000 Graduate Academic Scholarship fund, and whereas the fund has reached the halfway point, and whereas the association has generated extraordinary surpluses during COVID-19, that \$5000 be moved from Unrestricted Equity into a new reserve called Reserve for McMaster Graduate Scholarship Contribution in April 2022.”

Carried.

The reserve will have the following note in the year-end financial statements: This amount represents funds set aside in 2022 to contribute to the MURA Graduate Academic Scholarship Fund when the fund reaches \$22,000. \$3000 will top up the fund, and \$2000 will ensure that a \$1000 annual scholarship is awarded in each of the next two academic years.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton) The new total of the fund is \$15,984. Will keep putting notices in newsletters, and do a mailing at some point in the future.

7.2 Archives (John Horsman) – no report

7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (no report)

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM (Mary Gauld) – written report

Date: Tuesday June 7, 1-2:30 p.

Speaker: Doug Welch is on hold for that date; topic: “Listening to Nature in the McMaster Forest”.

Zoom virtual meeting

- notice will give start time as 1 pm, but will note that the meeting will be open at 12:45 for optional visiting time
- 2 x \$25 electronic gift certificate attendance draw
- piece in newsletter is ready to go
- **Action:** Nora will call a meeting of the committee (Nora, Mary, Hank, Susan & Helen)

8.2 Holiday Lunch (Mary Gauld)

Date: Tuesday Dec 6, 2022

CIBC Hall has been booked and is available from 9:30 to 2:30 to allow for decorating/setup and takedown. Special guests should be notified shortly so it can be put on their agenda. Assistance in finding gifts for door prizes is welcome. Put your talents on the table! (or ask for gifts from friends and local establishments).

If any Council members are interested in participating on the committee, that would be helpful and appreciated. Please contact Mary if you would like to help.

Action: Mary will get in touch with Parking to let them know the date, and Helen will make sure Mary has the info that Parking will need.

8.3 Communications (John Horsman) – no report

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Barb Carpio) There are 14 pending notifications from HR. A lot of cards have been sent out.

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin) Nora gave a brief tour of the *MURAnews* tab on the web site, particularly the *MURAnews* articles by topic section, and demonstrated the use of the site search box.

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

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt) – written report

- There was a discussion about the labels used to describe the different groups in the membership report. For example, Parking has a few full timers, and the rest are students; Security employees are hourly. Up until now, Unifor members have been grouped together for funding purposes, but it would be useful to have them reorganized in a way that more closely reflects the relationship between the retiree groups and our funding partners.
- **Action:** Helen and Kathy will look at reorganizing the membership report categories and ask for feedback from Council via email.

8.6 *MURAnews* (Helen Barton)

The editorial team is working towards the Spring issue, and the category of Member's Corner is gaining in popularity, with 4 pieces this time. The team is picking up on the topics suggested by Council, and Council is invited to suggest any topics they may like to see in the Summer issue.

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

- One more person, Jan Nicholson, has come forward to serve on Council in response to an invitation email that was sent to the distribution list.
- Kathy Overholt is accepting the nomination as VP on the understanding that she will not stand for President next year, so Council will have a challenge next year to find both a President and a Vice-President.

Moved by Susan Birnie, **seconded** by Brian Beckberger

“that Council accept the Nominating Committee report for 2022-23”

Carried.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

- Brian followed up on the retiree who wanted a claim form for vision benefits and a change of beneficiary form, and sent her postal address to Michelle.
- **Shingrix:** Brian petitioned HR/Jordan Roberts about making exceptions for people who made claims for second shot after the January cutoff, but HR's

position was a hard no. However, Jordan said he would keep MURA in the loop about any advance notice he receives in future about the way benefits are administered. **Action:** Nora will keep a copy of the email where Jordan made that commitment.

- Brian noted that Sun Life pays out according to the benefit package, and at the end of the month they send the bill to McMaster and McMaster pays it, so the final decision on whether a claim is paid is McMaster's.

8.9 Trips & Special Events (Mary Gauld) – written report

8.9.1 New Retirees Luncheon (retirees from Jan 2021-Jan 2022) – was held on Tuesday April 5

- The event began with some social time, followed by a welcome from Hank, introductions of Council by Mary G, and then Barb Carpio introduced Margaret Denton, the guest speaker. Margaret's talk on "Moving Towards an Age-Friendly Hamilton" was well-received. Nora Gaskin then provided an intro to MURA, a tour of the MURA website, and a retiree benefits & perks presentation. Tim Doucette from HR was on hand to support and welcome the retirees.
- Mary was in touch with each of the 23 participants and many provided very positive comments. Each of the participants was sent a \$25 gift card for lunch as a "welcome" gift after participating in the call.
- We would like to send a gift card to Margaret Denton to thank her for being our speaker, with Council's approval, as well as a \$50 donation to the Hamilton Council on Aging, which would put the cost of the event to \$675.

Moved by Mary Gauld, **seconded** by Barb Carpio

"that MURA make a \$50 donation to the Hamilton Council on Aging and present a \$25 gift card to Margaret Denton"

Carried

8.9.2 Special Event

- Nicole Knibb and Teresa Gregorio from the McMaster Art Gallery are willing to lead a presentation of the Museum's recent acquisitions and new exhibitions for MURA. Tuesdays work best for virtual programs. No date has been set as yet. Suggestions from Council are welcome and appreciated.
- Council agreed that a date in early fall would be preferable.

8.10 Volunteering (Dina LoPresti) – no report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

- 9.1 Age-Friendly University Committee** (Mary Gauld) – no report
No report at this time. The committee is planning a meeting in June.
- 9.2 Community Engagement Committee** (Dina LoPresti) – no report
- 9.3 CURAC** (Hank Jacek)
- **CURAC Virtual Assembly**, “The Faces of Wellness and Wellbeing, to be hosted by UBC on Thursday May 19. Open to any CURAC member, which includes all our retirees.
 - **AGM** on June 16, for which we will need a delegate. Hank is willing to be the delegate.
 - **Action:** Helen will forward the email about both to Council.
- 9.4 CURAC Later Life Learning Committee** (Nora Gaskin)
Barb has stepped down. Emails are now going to the MURA email address.
- 9.5 MUFA** (Hank Jacek) – no report
- 9.6 Unifor 5555** (Barry Diacon)
- Unit 1 (staff) will be in bargaining at this time.
 - The retiree group and the whole local are going to Queen’s Park to campaign for \$20 minimum wage, and for Shingrix for ages 50 and up.
- 9.7 Hourly Staff Liaison** (Cliff Andrews) – no report
- 9.8 Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews) – no report
- 9.9 Salaried Pension Committee** (Brian Beckberger)
- On Monday there was a meeting where there was a discussion concerning how to report carbon emissions in investments. The committee is in the midst of setting objectives for reductions in the number of tons of carbon emitted by companies we invest in per million dollars in sales. The bursary fund has a higher carbon footprint than the salaried pension plan. By September they hope to have a plan for what the reduction will be, with a goal to be at 0 by 2050.
 - Pension is still doing pretty well. Brian will do a report for the AGM about last year’s valuation, which was quite good.
- 9.10 University Board of Governors** (Betty Ann Levy) – no report
Board meeting is next week.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:39 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.