



**McMaster University Retirees Association**  
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## **Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 1 PM (Zoom)**

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

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

**Regrets:** Nancy Gray, Phil Wood

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

2.1 Council Meeting November 10, 2021 (for approval)

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Betty Ann Levy

*“that the minutes of November 10, 2021 be approved”*

**Carried.**

### **3. Business Arising**

#### **4. Human Resources Report** (Michelle Jubinville)

- **People having difficulty getting responses from inquiries to HR:** Michelle will get us a list of who to call for specific types of queries. **Action:** Nora will resend the letter that Hank sent re: retirees contacting HR.
- **MURA getting next of kin email addresses, if available, when a death is reported:** earlier this year Michelle sent that request to the pension team, and will do so one more time now.
- **Membership, privacy, release form:** We are being sent McMaster email addresses for new retirees, but a lot of the people we contact didn't even know they had a McMaster email account, or aren't using their McMaster email address, but another one. **Action:** Michelle will ask the pension team what they are doing when people retire. We would like new retirees to identify the email address they would prefer to use. Michelle will come back to us with options after talking to the team. If possible, could add a line to the release form that indicates the new retiree's preferred email address for MURA contact.

- **Retiree who was dropped from drug benefits. Action:** Michelle will ask Tim.
- **Ontario QR code for campus access:** Michelle passed along our query about whether the Ontario QR code will be incorporated into the MacCheck process. There is no word yet about whether MacCheck will require boosters.

## 5. President's Report (Hank Jacek)

**Appointment of Auditor; Action:** Helen will ask Beth Csordas if she's willing to be the auditor, and if not, ask this group and/or Nancy for suggestions.

**AROHE Report:** Susan summarized her report, based on an examination of the AROHE web site. Her analysis is that membership in AROHE is of value primarily for organizations that are either starting up or undergoing organizational change. She recommended that membership wouldn't be worth it for us at this time. Helen B. added that MURA will have to address our role in helping our changing membership, and at that point membership in AROHE could be revisited.

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

*"that MURA not join AROHE at this time"*

**Carried**

**MoU:** Hank thinks that the issue of the replacement of the MoU may have withered on the vine, since MUFA indicated that they would not negotiate without the other parties present. MUFA hasn't heard anything about it since then.

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

## 7. Reports on Special Projects

### 7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)

The endowment is almost up to \$16,000, up from just over \$14,000 last month. The mailer went out recently.

### 7.2 Archives (John Horsman) – no report

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

## 8. Information Reports from Committees

### 8.1 AGM (Mary Gauld)

At the last meeting we decided to wait until this meeting to decide how and where we would hold the AGM. Council agreed that in light of new variants of the coronavirus, there is sufficient uncertainty that we should hold the meeting virtually.

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

*“that the 2022 MURA AGM be held virtually on Tuesday June 7, 2022”*

**Carried**

**Speaker:** Doug Welch, current Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is doing some research connected to the McMaster Forest, “[The Hamilton BioAcoustics Research Project](#)”. He has agreed to speak at the AGM if we want him to, and if the date works for him. A possible title is “Listening to Nature All Day and All Night in the McMaster Forest”, which describes the project’s work of collecting and analyzing acoustic data and using acoustics tools to attract Ontario bird species-at-risk to suitable breeding habitats. Helen A. remarked that he also takes very good bird photos, so maybe he might also be able to share some of those. It is also possible that he could pre-record his presentation if it turns out he has a conflict with our meeting date.

## **8.2 Holiday Lunch** (Mary Gauld)

Council agreed that there will be no Holiday Lunch this year.

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

### **8.3.1 Condolence cards** (Barb Carpio) – November was a busy month.

Procedures are running a bit smoother and we are catching up on the backlog.

### **8.3.2 Web site** (Nora Gaskin)

- added new winter photos to the home page slideshow
- added a link to the CURAC LLL events list to our Other Events page
- tour of the home page and the Events tab

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

## **8.5 Membership** (Kathy Overholt) – written report; Council agreed that quarterly reports will be sufficient going forward.

## **8.6 MURAnews** (Helen Ayre & Helen Barton)

- The next issue will come out towards the end of January. A good number of submissions for Members’ Corner have come in. There will be pieces on cataract surgery benefits, the pension increase, and an announcement of the AGM. Helen A. invited committee chairs to submit anything from their committees that might be of interest.
- The upcoming issue will be Helen Ayre’s last one as news editor. If there is anyone who is interested in filling this role, or knows of someone who is, please let the *MURAnews* team know. Helen B. and Hank thanked Helen A. for two successful years as news editor.

- There are still about 440 of about 600 people who haven't responded to our appeal to switch to digital delivery. About 60 people have asked to keep the printed version, and about 50 have agreed to switch to digital. Helen B. thanked the Council members who phoned the people who left their responses on the MURA voicemail. We will go until the Spring issue with the appeal to switch, before we stop sending print issues to the people we haven't heard from.
- When a retiree dies and they are receiving *MURAnews* via email and their spousal survivor has no access to their late spouse's email, we will have to send a letter to the surviving spouse to let them know they are an associate member of MURA and can receive *MURAnews* if they so choose.

**8.7 Nominating** (Helen Barton) – Helen requests that any member of Council who is not up for renewal, and is willing to be on the Nominating Committee, contact her.

**8.8 Pensions and Benefits** (Brian Beckberger)

- Retiree in TMG who was having a claim problem that came via Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting
- Request for the MEDOC group insurance code
- Retiree who lost their access to library electronic resources in a database cleanup

**8.9 Trips & Special Events** (Mary Gauld) – no report

**8.10 Volunteering** (Dina LoPresti) – no report

## 9. Information Reports from Liaisons

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

**9.2 Community Engagement Committee** (Dina LoPresti) – Dina left a message with Ashley Shinde, but hasn't heard back. Barry reported that she is now on full time release with Unifor 5555 for a 3-year term as financial secretary. **Action:** Barry recommended Dina try contacting Ashley Shinde at her Unifor email address.

**9.3 CURAC** (Hank Jacek) – no report

**9.4 CURAC Later Life Learning Committee** (Barb Carpio) – Barb will forward any incoming emails about upcoming events to the Communications Committee, who will decide if they should be forwarded to the membership.

**9.5 MUFA** (Hank Jacek) – see President's Report

- 9.6 Unifor 5555** (Barry Diacon) Elections are in progress and most executive positions were acclaimed. Unit 5 (physical plant) is going into bargaining soon, and Unit 1 (salaried staff) in about 8 months. Beth Couchman is still President, Emily Heikoop is still Vice President. Kim Sardella has retired, and Ashley Shinde has taken over as Treasurer.
- 9.7 Hourly Staff Liaison** (Cliff Andrews) – no report
- 9.8 Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews) – A report about pension increases is being prepared for *MURAnews*.
- 9.9 Salaried Pension Committee** (Brian Beckberger) – An announcement about pension increases will be sent out on Friday once the HR web site has been updated. **Action:** Helen will send Brian the email that went out last year.
- 9.10 University Board of Governors** (Betty Ann Levy) – no report; next meeting is tomorrow morning

## 10. Other Business

Brian's McMaster email was compromised on November 27, and he has yet to figure out how that happened, as his password was complex. Microsoft has delayed for two years implementing multi-factor authentication (MFA), but by the end of April all current students, staff and faculty will have to implement MFA. Brian has become an early adopter. They will be forcing staff to change their passwords every 30 days and every 90 days for students. There is a Microsoft Authenticator app that is used for this. You have to pick 2 out of 3 ways to authentication yourself, e.g. text, email, app, etc.

There are about 500 retirees who haven't yet changed their MACID passwords, and Sue McKinlay sent an email to MURA about the plan to turn those accounts off. Helen B. requested that one warning email be sent to those accounts in case some people are using them only to redirect email to another account. Brian noted that the last time such accounts were deleted was 2008.

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 2:59 pm

*"that the meeting be adjourned"*

**Carried.**