



McMaster University Retirees Association
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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 1 PM (Zoom)

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Denise Anderson, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Susan Birnie, Barry Diacon, Nora Gaskin, Mary Gauld, Nancy Gray, John Horsman, Hank Jacek (chair), Michelle Jubinville, Betty Ann Levy

Regrets: Barb Carpio, Kathy Overholt, Dina LoPresti

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting January 12, 2022 (for approval)

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

“that the minutes of January 12, 2022 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Michelle Jubinville)

Release form and new retiree welcome letter:

- Michelle has a copy of the release form and of the welcome letter that goes to new retirees, but her copy of the welcome letter is out of date. Tim Doucette and Beata Dycha are responsible for the welcome packages for new retirees.
Action: Nora will send an updated copy of the welcome letter to Michelle, Tim and Beata, and in future, will send updated copies to all three.
- Does the release form still meet our needs? **Action:** Michelle will send a copy to us and we will respond with any suggested changes. One change will be to include a question regarding which email address new retirees would like to use for MURA communications.

Next-of-kin email addresses

- Helen noted with appreciation that death notifications sent to MURA now include next-of-kin email addresses where available.

Out of province/country travel insurance:

- Brian reported two recent communications from retirees who thought their out of province/country travel insurance was still active. He requested this be emphasized by HR during retirement preparation. **Action:** Michelle will review this with the relevant HR staff to make sure they are mentioning it. **Action:** MURA will communicate this more actively, and include an item in the next issue of *MURAnews*. **Action:** Michelle will ask Jordan which, if any, plans don't change to \$10,000 lifetime coverage upon retirement.

List of HR contacts:

- We are still looking for some sort of improvement in the list of HR contacts we can give to retirees. At their web page <https://hr.mcmaster.ca/about-us/our-services/human-resources-service-desk/>, HR lists service advisors who deal with specific employee groups. We asked if this list be used for retirees as well, but Michelle said it could not. If retirees are having trouble getting a response from the HR Service Centre phone or email, they should keep calling, keep emailing, and contact Michelle.

5. President's Report (Hank Jacek)

Hank reported that Phil Wood has resigned from Council.

McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA) has asked MURA to join their community partner network. Hank queried the connection with the Age Friendly University (AFU) Committee. Paraphrased from Mary Gauld's report: The role of the MIRA Community Partner Network is to provide input to specific research projects, or collaborate on initiatives that benefit MIRA members or communities, while the AFU committee identifies University driven projects to support the university in its AFU goals and is a bit more strategic.

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Mary Gauld

"that MURA accept MIRA's offer to become a community partner"

Carried.

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

All sponsor group cheques have been received, and the CURAC annual membership has been paid. The fee, \$300, was offset this year by \$255.88 in payments received when our members took advantage of CURAC partner offers for insurance, travel, etc. SAGE cloud-based accounting software is billed monthly.

7. Reports on Special Projects**7.1 Academic Awards Endowment** (Helen Barton)

The fund now stands at about \$18,000. The December 31 pledges are now in. We may achieve our goal by the end of the year, and be able to award the

scholarship in 2023. Still waiting to hear from Advancement if the fund will have to earn a nominal 4% a year for two years before any scholarship can be awarded. Helen will let us know at the next meeting.

7.2 Archives (John Horsman) – no report

7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards

Two batches of 10 cards each have been sold. Nancy anticipates being able to accept payment by email deposit to the MURA account soon.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM (Mary Gauld) – no report

8.2 Holiday Lunch (Mary Gauld)

Council agreed on a date of Tuesday Dec. 6, and if that is not available, the Wednesday or Thursday of the same week.

8.3 Communications (John Horsman) – no report

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Barb Carpio) – no report

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin) – Nora gave a short tour of the “About” section of the MURA web site.

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

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt) – no report

8.6 MURAnews (Helen Barton)

Since the last newsletter came out, a few more people have gotten back to us with email addresses that we haven’t had before. There are still about 400 people we haven’t heard from. We will publish one more newsletter before we cut people off. If any Council member would like to contribute content, or knows of someone who would, please contact Helen.

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

Input to the Nominating committee should be in by Feb. 15, for the meeting on Feb. 16. Will be looking for a VP. Two councillors will stand for another term, and one vacancy was created by resignation of Phil Wood. Please let Helen know if you know of anyone who would like to step into Phil’s role now, or for the next term.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

Suggestions:

- MURA should inform our members about out of province/country insurance, with a piece in *MURAnews*.

- At the new retiree lunch, emphasize checking benefits booklets to be aware of changes upon retirement.

Member queries

- One Professor Emeritus who was mistakenly going to lose access to Microsoft 365 upon retirement.
- One person without email who wanted a copy of their benefit booklet and insurance via postal mail. **Action:** Helen will refer the case to Michelle.
- One question about how to get retiree parking.

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

New Retiree Welcome event:

Speakers: Neither Bernice Downey nor Tracey Bear was available. Mary hasn't heard back from the McMaster Museum of Art or Margaret Denton yet. Another suggestion: Susan Dudley from Biology, on the topic of plant communication. There will be a fifteen-minute presentation and some time for questions.

8.10 Volunteering (Dina LoPresti) – no report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 Age-Friendly University Committee (Mary Gauld) – written report

The minutes from the last meeting are not out yet, but Mary will circulate when received.

The main issues of discussion were:

- An invitation to participate in the MIRA Community Partner Network
- University maintenance to avoid injuries
- How to make the campus accessible for former employees

Role of the committee is to identify on-campus initiatives that align with facilitation for older people, whether employees, visitors, retirees, etc.; outreach, accessibility, pathways marked clearly, maintenance, etc. There was no real answer to Mary's question about the difficulty for older people of navigating MacCheck to get on campus during the pandemic.

9.2 Community Engagement Committee (Dina LoPresti)

In an email, Dina reported that she was able to connect with Ashley Shinde, who, even though she's now working for Unifor 5555, is still helping out in the Office of Community Engagement. She said because of COVID and staffing changes they have had limited staff, and haven't had the usual network events. They hope that in the future they can have their committees and network events running again, and will contact Dina when that happens.

9.3 CURAC (Hank Jacek)

Jim Frank, Vice-President of the Waterloo Retirees Association, inquired with Hank about the benefits of being a member of CURAC. Hank suggested Helen's reply to him as the basis for a piece in *MURAnews*.

9.4 CURAC Later Life Learning Committee (Barb Carpio) – no report

9.5 MUFA (Hank Jacek) – no report

9.6 Unifor 5555 (Barry Diacon) – no report

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)

- The Pension Trust Committee met on January 20, 2022. They reviewed some of the fund managers and had a seminar on due diligence.
- The next meetings are PTC on March 24, and a couple of working group meetings between now and then.
- One of the PTC working groups still is working on the issue of the Memorandum.
- Another is dealing with questions regarding investing in Real Assets (real estate, utilities, airports, highways, etc.) i.e., how much and what types? The portion of the pension fund currently invested in real assets is now at about 5%.

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

The next meeting of the Board will be March 3, 2022. There are five meetings a year.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:42 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.