



McMaster University Retirees Association
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Barry Diacon, Recording Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, 1 PM (by Zoom)

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

Regrets: Helen Ayre

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting December 8, 2021 (for approval)

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

“that the minutes of December 8, 2021 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Michelle Jubinville)

- **A retiree was dropped from drug benefits.** At the last meeting Michelle said she would check with Tim Doucette. She said that according to Tim this was an anomaly situation. But this has now been settled and completed.
- **MURA would like to be notified of the next-of-kin email addresses when a death is reported.** Michelle says that this data will be sent along with the death notification. Michelle added that new retirees should be given a list of info of whom to contact. In addition, the membership privacy release form should have a place to enter additional email addresses, for example in the case that the retiree is not at present using McMaster email.

- **HR contacts** – MURA would like to have a notice in our newsletter listing the HR Pension and Benefit contacts. **Action:** Michelle said she would send them tomorrow in time for the next newsletter.
- **Membership privacy release form – Action:** Michelle will send MURA the most recent version of this form to aid in further improvement.
- **Sun Life pro-activity** – Sun Life should list what documents are needed instead of simply saying that more information is required. **Action:** Michelle will pass this request on to Jordan Roberts, the Program Manager for Benefits.

5. President's Report (Hank Jacek)

Recording Secretary: Hank announced that Barry will be the Recording Secretary, taking the minutes of Council meetings.

MURAnews Editor: This would have been Helen Ayre's last meeting, but she was unable to attend. She is stepping down after two years as *MURAnews* editor. Hank observed that we will have to appoint a new editor of the *MURAnews*. Helen Barton has been looking for a new editor. For the forthcoming issue, however, she volunteered to step in on a temporary basis.

Appointment of Auditor: Beth Csordas agreed to do this job. Beth was MURA Treasurer for fourteen years and has a designation.

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

“that Beth Csordas be appointed MURA auditor for 2021-22”

Carried.

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

There has been very little activity. Invoices have gone to the various sponsor groups, and so far, there has been one response from SEIU.

MURA donation to scholarship fund

- The scholarship is now half-way to its objective, and Nancy inquired as to whether the Association could contribute another \$5000 at the end of this fiscal year, however, instead of a formal contribution at this time, she proposed that MURA restrict the use of a similar amount, to keep it available for the potential donation, but not actually allocated at this point.
- Nancy gave notice of a potential motion that \$5,000 be moved from unrestricted funds to be restricted for the potential use of the scholarship. Helen commented that this motion should have a note in explanation, i.e., that MURA has had unusual surpluses for the last two years due to lower expenses owing to the COVID pandemic.

- Helen proposed an additional note that in terms of reaching the goal, we are now well beyond the half-way point, even without the year-end processing in the Development Office, the fund is now at \$17,000.
- There was generally positive support for Nancy's concept, but she will come to the May meeting (next fiscal year) with a more carefully worded motion. Nancy added that there are no guarantees about the interest rate that the University will earn for the accumulated fund, however, the markets have been performing well. Most institutions are paying 4%.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)
See Treasurer's Report.

7.2 Archives (John Horsman) -- no report

7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards
A member emailed asking if they could purchase some cards. Action: Nora will take care of this.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM (Mary Gauld)

- Date: Tuesday, June 7 at 1 – 2:30 pm on Zoom
- Doug Welch, Dean of Graduate Studies will be the guest speaker.

8.2 Holiday Lunch (Mary Gauld) – no report

8.3 Communications (John Horsman) – no report

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Barb Carpio) – information is flowing from HR a little better now

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

- We have switched our Wild Apricot membership type to a lower-priced option in advance of our renewal date to offset the upcoming price increase.
- Nora gave a tour of the Pensions and Benefits section of the MURA web site.

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

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt)

- there have been 23 new members and 22 deaths since the last report*

- **Action:** although Council agreed at the last meeting that quarterly reports will be sufficient going forward, Kathy will submit one in April as an end of year report

8.6 MURAnews

- Helen reported that the opt-in numbers for the printed newsletter have not changed much since December. We will send two more printed issues to people who haven't yet responded before taking any 'drastic action'. Hank noted that various retirees really appreciate getting a physical copy of the newsletter.
- Denise is working on the layout of the Winter issue. There will probably be 18 to 20 pages for the digital version. The print version will be 8 pages. A new notice on opt-out will go on the front page of the printed version.

8.7 Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)

Helen proposed that the committee membership as distributed be approved.

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

“that the proposed Nominating Committee for 2021-22 be approved”

Carried.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

- Query about orthotics where the member got a cryptic message from Sun Life requesting more info. Brian advised her to send in all documents.
- Complaint about the pension increase, which was based on the usual formula using the average CPI for the period July 1 to the following June 30
- Query about retiree parking

8.9 Trips & Special Events (Mary Gauld)

- we should have another new retiree event; the last one was March 23, 2021
- there have been approximately 75 new retirees since the last event

8.10 Volunteering (Dina LoPresti) – no report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 **Age-Friendly University Committee** (Mary Gauld) – there is a meeting of the committee next week

9.2 **Community Engagement Committee** (Dina LoPresti)

- Ashley Shinde, of the Office of Community Engagement, has not responded to Dina's email. **Action:** Dina will try Jay Carter, the office manager, as well as Ashley at her Unifor email address,

9.3 CURAC (Hank Jacek) -- Council to approve renewal of CURAC membership

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by John Horsman

“that MURA renew its membership in CURAC for the upcoming year at the \$300 rate”

Carried.

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

9.5 MUFA (Hank Jacek) – no report

9.6 Unifor 5555 (Barry Diacon)

There were some elections for some positions of lesser significance, such as delegates to periodic conventions.

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 next Pension Trust Committee will be Thursday Jan. 20, 2022

9.10 University Board of Governors (Betty Ann Levy) – written report

- The University is now operating on parallel contingencies for student attendance, one for virtual learning and one for live instruction

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:41 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.