



McMaster University Retirees Association

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

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Denise Anderson, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Nora Gaskin, Hank Jacek (chair), Michelle Jubinville, Betty Ann Levy, Dina LoPresti, Kathy Overholt

Regrets: Susan Birnie, Barb Carpio, Barry Diacon, Mary Gauld, Nancy Gray, John Horsman

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting February 9, 2022 (for approval)

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

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

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Michelle Jubinville)

- **Out of province/country travel insurance updates:** Jordan Roberts has confirmed that all of the plans that have \$3M coverage before retirement move to a \$10,000 lifetime maximum upon retirement. **Action:** Michelle will confirm with Jordan that this applies to out of province travel as well. **Update: done, March 9.** Yes, it applies to out of province as well as out of country:
<https://hr.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/01/HR-McMaster-Retiree-Out-of-Province-revised-11242016-1-43.pdf>
- **Shingrix:** A first vaccine was covered by Sun Life for a retiree, but the second dose was not. Michelle reported that the reason why the 2nd vaccine wasn't covered is that Health Canada changed the drug from schedule 1 to schedule 2 as of January 2022. Schedule 2 drugs do not require a prescription, and are therefore not covered. The McMaster HR Sun Life page has been updated to reflect this. As of October 2020, the Ontario government is now covering Shingrix, but only for ages 65-70. **Action:** Michelle will send us links to the HR information, and the

Government of Ontario information about coverage for ages 65-70, and the pandemic grace period. **Action:** Michelle will send us a link. **Update: done, March 9:**

- <https://hr.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2022/03/Vaccine-Communication-to-HR-and-Website.pdf>, and
- https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/immunization/docs/shingles_patient_fact_sheet_en.pdf.

Action: Brian will follow up with the retiree and with Jordan.

Action: Denise will send to Council a copy of the email that went to Unifor 5555 retirees on the topic, which provided a good summary of the issues. **Update: done, March 9**

- **New retiree release form:** Michelle has sent us a copy of the release form. We will review and send any suggested changes to Michelle.
- Issue of retiree who was looking for her **spouse's retirement date** has been resolved.
- **Action:** Brian suggested a *MURAnews* article about the importance of having a power of attorney set up in advance of need, so it is ready to be executed when needed.
- **Benefit Booklet and Life Insurance Document via Postal Mail. Action:** Michelle will follow up on the query from the person with no email who needed a copy of their benefit booklet and life insurance details via postal mail, details in an email Helen sent from the MURA email address to Michelle on Feb. 2.
- **Lack of Response to Some Queries to HR by Phone and Email. Action:** Michelle will follow up with the team who take the phone calls to HR about the lack of responses to some queries.

5. President's Report (Hank Jacek)

- **MIRA community partnership program:** Hank sent MIRA a letter accepting the invitation to be a member of the program, and heard back from Alison Dube on March 1.
- **Appointment of Secretary & Treasurer for next year**

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

“that Nora Gaskin be appointed as MURA Secretary for the 2022-23 year”

Carried

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

“that council appoint Nancy Gray as Treasurer for the 2022-23 year, pending her agreement”

Carried

Action: Hank will ask Nancy if she will accept the role of Treasurer for the year 2022-23.
Update: done, March 12.

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

- we are now set up to receive email money transfers, and have received our first transfer, \$15 for greeting cards
- **Treasurer’s Report** – CURAC membership is listed at \$44.12 when it should be \$300, and CURAC-related income should be separate. There are no expenses listed for printing the Winter edition of *MURAnews*. **Action:** Helen will ask about the CURAC line and about *MURAnews* expenses since January. **Update:** done, March 10.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)

- We need to know whether the fund needs to earn for 2 years before awarding. **Action:** Helen will resend the query. **Update:** done, March 10.
Answer: yes.

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, 1-3 p.

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

Zoom virtual meeting

8.2 Holiday Lunch (Mary Gauld) – written report

Date: Tuesday Dec 6, 2022

Time: CIBC Hall is available from 9:30 to 2:30 to allow for decorating/setup and takedown

- **Parking details:** Parking last time was by special arrangement from 11 am for attendees, and earlier for the organizing group. **Action:** Helen will make sure Mary has information on the arrangements needed with Parking Services, and, in

particular, that the organizing group can enter before 11 am by arrangement with Parking Services.

- Assistance in finding gifts for door prizes is welcome. Put your talents on the table! (or ask for gifts from friends and local establishments).

8.3 Communications (John Horsman)

- Council made decisions on announcements to be sent out to the membership email lists. An online presentation was approved and a travel medical insurance promotion rejected.

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Barb Carpio) – written report

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

- Added Manulife (McMaster Alumni Association group insurance partner) dental, life and travel insurance to MURA web site.

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

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt) – no report

8.6 MURAnews (Helen Barton)

- Most of the topics that were suggested at the last meeting have been added to the list for the next issue. Hank picked up a voicemail from someone who wants to continue to receive a hard copy, and Helen reports about 25 more since the last meeting.

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton) – written report

- Helen and the committee have been working on finding someone to come onto Council as Vice President with a view to being President the following year. Should we send out an email to the membership looking for a TMG or faculty person in that role (to maintain balance)? Or should we nominate someone from within Council to be VP next year without the expectation that they will assume the role of President, and look for another Council member?
- **Action:** The committee will try for 1 TMG person to come on council and will look for people on their list, and if nothing, send an email, running a draft by Council ahead of time. Will wait until the April meeting to accept the slate.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

- Power of attorney: good idea to have one set up so that it's ready to go when the time comes.
- A query from a retired faculty member looking for help with a dispute about co-authorship of a journal article. After consulting MUFA, was referred to the Office of Academic Integrity.
- A query from someone looking for their T4A.
- A query about life insurance options after age 65. McMaster group life insurance coverage changes to \$5,000 at 65, but you can convert the group life insurance policy to an individual policy with Sun Life if you do the conversion within 31 days of the group policy ceasing. This can be done

without proof of good health, which is important if you have any health condition(s) that would make you a higher risk.

- Hank picked up a voicemail about vision coverage. **Action:** Hank will forward name and phone number to Brian, who will forward to Michelle.

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

- Will need another meeting of the **New Retiree Luncheon** group. **Action:** Nora will arrange.
- **Special Event:** May (?) 2022 - Nicole Knibb and Teresa Gregorio from the McMaster Art Gallery are willing to lead a presentation of the Museums recent acquisitions and new exhibitions and would be able to create a similar program for MURA. Tuesdays work best for virtual programs as well.

8.10 Volunteering (Dina LoPresti) – no report

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

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

9.2 Community Engagement Committee (Dina LoPresti) – no report

9.3 CURAC (Hank Jacek) – no report

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)

- there was a meeting of the working group for expenses; nothing decided
- there was a meeting of the real assets working group; some decisions made; going to the committee of the whole on March 24
- pension is in pretty good shape as of the last quarter; 99% funded for immediate solvency and 106% on ongoing basis, so Mac will not have to make any special payments for the next 3 years
- premium McMaster was paying to insure pensions has gone down considerably since 2019

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

The McMaster Art Gallery and McMaster Innovation Park are wonderful, and would be good places to visit. We should all be impressed and thankful that Mac has been in the forefront on COVID research.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:45 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.