



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 1 PM (Zoom)

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Denise Anderson, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Susan Birnie (chair), Barry Diacon, Nora Gaskin, Mary Gauld, Nancy Gray, John Horsman, Hank Jacek, Betty Ann Levy, Dina LoPresti, Jan Nicholson, Jordan Roberts, Richard Stubbs

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Kathy Overholt

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting January 11, 2023 (for approval)

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Hank Jacek

“that the minutes of January 11, 2023 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising – None

4. Human Resources Report (Jordan Roberts)

- The definition of a retiree policy is still in a pending state; Jordan will have more for the next meeting as something will be happening with regards to this next week.
- Effective Jan 1, 2023, pharmacists and nurse practitioners have some prescribing authority over 13 routine health conditions. Jordan will share the list of 13 with us. Benefits booklets currently say prescriptions will only be covered if prescribed by a doctor or dentist. Jordan has reached out to Sun Life to make sure that they are accepting pharmacy or nurse practitioner prescribed prescriptions for these 13 ailments. Jordan will send over any benefit booklet revisions as a result of this. Should we send an email in addition to putting it in the next MURAnews? **Action:** Jordan will draft something and send it to us.
- **Action:** Helen will add Jordan to murafriends-l so he will get MURAnews via email.

5. President's Report (Susan Birnie)

- Susan is meeting with Jordan and Wanda re: definition of a retiree next week.
- Susan will attend the CURAC annual meeting in Saskatoon.

- **Actions:** Jan will forward CURAC's quest for a webmaster to MPS. Nora will send a zipped copy of the SFU newsletter to Hank, and a copy to Nancy at her mcmaster.ca email address.

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

- There was a discussion about the upcoming expenses for HostPapa (paid on Helen's credit card), which provides our domain name, and Flickr, where we store our photos (paid on Nora's). **Action:** Helen and Nora will send the invoices to Nancy.
- There was a discussion about what to ask for the next three year's funding. We decided to go with our original budget.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)

We are now up to \$21K, only \$1K from our \$22K goal, after which MURA will kick in our \$5K and award it this year. Within the next month, Helen proposes that the President send out an email thanking all who have donated already and asking members to chip in another \$1K within the next month so we can award this year.

Moved by Mary Gauld, **seconded** by Hank Jacek

“that MURA will send an email to members requesting donations to make up the final \$1K so that the award can be given this year, and if we don't have enough by then, MURA will use the accruing interest on the bank balance to make up the \$25K to achieve the funding goal”

Carried

7.2 Archives (John Horsman) – no report

7.3 Fundraising – MURA Cards (Mary Gauld) – no report

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM (Mary Gauld)

Date: Wed Jun 14, 1 pm on Zoom. No speaker so far. Mary will continue looking.

8.2 Holiday/Spring Lunch (Mary Gauld)

Date: Tuesday June 6 from 11:30-2:30

Location: Phoenix patio, but we can move indoors if it's raining.

- A letter has been prepared to request the standard support from the President's office.
- We may have to limit numbers to 125.

- A meeting with the Phoenix is scheduled for March 2nd at 3 pm. Other members of Council are invited to join Mary at this meeting.
- The actual cost for lunch is \$25-30 per person, at the moment.
- Council decided against having all of the new retirees from the last 3 years attend for free, since they all had the opportunity to attend a New Retirees Lunch.
- Mary will ask Parking for early access and parking chits.

8.3 Communications (John Horsman) – no report

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Dina LoPresti) – no report

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

- An increase in prices for Wild Apricot in 2024 has been announced. Our renewal date is April 27, 2024. Currently our Personal account is USD979.20 for 2 years. The new price will be USD1,224.00 for 2 years. We save 15 % by paying for 2 years.
- **Action:** Jan will contact MPS to see if they can offer a competitive price.

8.4 Constitution & By-Laws (Brian Beckberger)

Brian and Nora will discuss how to present the changes for the AGM. A summary of the changes and a link also need to be published in the next newsletter.

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt) – written report

8.6 *MURAnews*

Another notification letter, including the official notification of the AGM, will go out to the non-responsive print recipients in the Spring. When UTS starts purging inactive email accounts, last done in 2008, we will probably see a dropoff in email recipients. Brian thinks the last deletions from the UTS email list were in 2008.

8.7 Nominating (Hank Jacek)

The committee is coming along and are fairly confident they will have a full slate for the March meeting. We will also need a new Treasurer.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

Inquiries since the last meeting:

- A question about deals on Office 365
- A question about \$10,000 out of province travel health insurance coverage used as a deductible
- A question about dental/medical coverage in retirement vs. as an employee
- An inquiry from a daughter who has power of attorney for her mother, which was passed along to HR
- Should MURA be thinking about procedures when a POA takes over affairs for a retiree? Should we request that HR notify us when this happens? The retiree would probably have to agree with it. **Action:** Maybe put a piece in *MURAnews* about it, e.g., ask your POA to contact MURA. It could go in the

end-of-life planning article, which is due to come out in the next issue of *MURAnews*.

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) – no report

9.3 CURAC (Susan Birnie)

Moved by Brian Beckberger **seconded** by Hank Jacek

“That Council approve the renewal of MURA’s CURAC membership for 2023”

Carried

9.4 CURAC Later Life Learning Committee– no report

9.5 MIRA Community Partner Network (Jan Nicholson) – no report

9.6 MUFA (Hank Jacek) – no report

9.7 Unifor 5555 (Barry Diacon)

The Retiree Workers Committee is planning a bus excursion to Ripley’s aquarium in Toronto.

9.8 Hourly Staff Liaison (Cliff Andrews) – no report

9.9 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews) – no report

9.10 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)

- The next meeting of the committee is March 23.
- There will be a working group meeting on March 9 to discuss looking for a lawyer and asset liability.
- Nancy Gray reported that the universities in the UPP got a 4.7% increase.

9.11 University Board of Governors (Richard Stubbs) – no report

The next BoG meeting is Mar. 2.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:43 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.