



## McMaster University Retirees Association

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### Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 1 PM (Zoom)

#### 1. Welcome & Regrets

**Present:** Denise Anderson, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Susan Birnie (chair), Barry Diacon, Nora Gaskin, Mary Gauld, John Horsman, Hank Jacek, Jan Nicholson, Jordan Roberts, Richard Stubbs

**Regrets:** Cliff Andrews, Nancy Gray, Betty Ann Levy, Dina LoPresti, Kathy Overholt

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

##### 2.1 Council Meeting December 14, 2022 (for approval)

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

*“that the minutes of December 14, 2022 be approved”*

**Carried.**

#### 3. Business Arising

#### 4. Human Resources Report (Jordan Roberts)

Updates:

- Sun Life is moving to Express Scripts Canada from Telus Health on March 1, 2023 for pharmacy claims. **Action:** *MURAnews* will include a piece on this in the upcoming issue.
- Alliance, Sun Life's travel assistance provider, is exiting the group insurance market as of July 1, 2023. Sun Life and other group insurance providers are now scrambling to fill the gap, as Alliance was the primary provider in this market.
- Helen thanked Jordan for resolving a hospital coverage (semi-private versus private) issue for a spousal survivor.

#### 5. President's Report (Susan Birnie)

- Definition of a retiree issues are still outstanding. **Action:** Susan will communicate with Wanda and Jordan.
- The meeting with the President has been delayed to the end of February.
- Susan will circulate her *University Affairs* article about MURA to Council.

**6. Treasurer's Report** (Nancy Gray) – via email

- We need \$12,500 for each of the next 3 years, and have draft letters to our funding partners that are ready to go when needed.
- So far, we have received funds from MUFA and OPSEU, and promises to pay from Unifor and the President's Office.
- We're waiting for the January update from HR to get the numbers in each employee group before we submit the requests, however when Kathy asked for the list of Jan 1 retirees including Nov and Dec, she was told she could get nothing until Jan 16.

**7. Reports on Special Projects**

**7.1 Academic Awards Endowment** (Helen Barton) – no report

**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)

Mary has put out some feelers for speakers: Susan Dudley, Marvin Gunderson, Indigenous Studies, Red Wilson.

**8.2 Holiday Lunch/Spring Social** (Mary Gauld)

• **Tent option**

- We are still on track to use the tent on June 22; will have to pay for table and chair rental
- box lunches from catering are \$15; the total cost would likely be \$35 per person

• **Phoenix option**

- Mary also asked the Phoenix if we can use their patio for 3 hours, but on a different date to avoid the Alumni events.
- Lunch would be on a ticketed basis.
- The President's Office was paying the whole shot for new retirees, and subsidizing a smaller amount like \$10 for everyone else for the Holiday lunches in the past so we hope they will do the same for this.
- The Tuesday June 6 date for AGM needs to go in the Winter edition of *MURAnews*; notice of the social can wait until the Spring edition.

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

**8.3.1 Condolence cards** (Dina LoPresti) – no report

**8.3.2 Web site** (Nora Gaskin) – no report

**8.4 Constitution & By-Laws** (Brian Beckberger)

Council agreed that the proposed changes to the Constitution be accepted by Council for presentation at the 2023 AGM. To summarize, the proposed changes are:

1. Allow virtual and hybrid meetings of members, specifically annual general meetings and special meetings.
2. Incorporate Bylaws 1 and 2 into the Constitution: Bylaw 1 calls for the annual review of MURA's financial records by an independent party; Bylaw 2 adds the Secretary of MURA to the list of officers with signing authority.
3. Reduce the number of members required to call a special meeting of the association from 50 to 25.
4. Make Article 11 (Amendment) consistent by adding special meetings in addition to annual general meetings as a possible occasion for proposed Constitutional changes and effective date of those changes.
5. Use more inclusive language throughout the Constitution as specified in the Ontario Human Rights Code.
6. Minor wording and formatting changes.

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

*“that the proposed changes to the MURA Constitution as of December 14, 2022 be approved”*

**Carried.**

**8.5 Membership** (Kathy Overholt) – no report

**8.6 MURAnews**

- Submission deadline is Friday Jan 13.
- Several more Members' Corner pieces have come in.
- Great cooperation from Jordan on the HR pieces. HR will now try to forward address changes from retirees to MURA when they are available.
- We will go for at least one or two more mailings to the remaining people from whom we haven't heard about receiving postal mail versions. We are currently mailing about 175 print versions.

**8.7 Nominating** (Hank Jacek)

The Nominating Committee is Helen Ayre, Heather Grigg, John Horsman and Kathy Overholt. The committee will meet and hopefully finish this month. Hank welcomes suggestions for nominees.

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

*“that the proposed Nominating Committee for 2003 be approved”*

**Carried**

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

One issue was referred to Jordan regarding a spousal survivor and hospital coverage for a private room.

**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)

**9.2 Community Engagement Committee** (Dina LoPresti) – no report

**9.3 CURAC** (Susan Birnie)

**Action:** Nora will move the “approve CURAC membership” item on the monthly list to February, as we haven’t been getting renewal notices until then.

**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 Christmas dinner was well received.

**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 is tomorrow.

**9.11 University Board of Governors** (Susan Birnie for Richard Stubbs) – written report

Susan attended on Richard’s behalf. The university plan for the next 10 years is out, and Susan recommends we go have a look at it; people can still give individual feedback about the plan if they wish to.

**10. Other Business**

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 2:06 pm

*“that the meeting be adjourned”*

**Carried.**