



**McMaster University Retirees Association**  
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## **Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 1 PM (Zoom)**

### **1. Welcome & Regrets**

**Present:** Denise Anderson, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Susan Birnie (chair), Tim Doucette, Nora Gaskin, Mary Gauld, Nancy Gray, John Horsman (will probably be late), Hank Jacek (will leave at 2), Betty Ann Levy, Richard Stubbs

**Regrets:** Barry Diacon, Dina LoPresti, Kathy Overholt, Jan Nicholson

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

#### **2.1 Council Meeting April 12, 2023 (for approval)**

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

*“that the minutes of April 12, 2023 be approved”*

**Carried.**

### **3. Business Arising**

#### **4. Human Resources Report** (Tim Doucette)

- Jordan Roberts has left McMaster, and Tim Doucette has taken over as MURA rep
- The Sun Life & Express Scripts issue with higher prices for compound drugs has been resolved. If we hear of any further problems, we should let Tim know.

#### **5. President’s Report** (Susan Birnie)

Susan is registered for the CURAC Conference in Saskatoon. She has also been invited to the Grad dinner, hosted by the President.

##### **5.1 Appointment of representative to the Board of Governors**

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

*“that Council appoint Richard Stubbs as MURA’s representative to the Board of Governors for 2023-24”*

**Carried**

## 6. Treasurer's Report (Nancy Gray)

- We have a surplus of \$6,675 bringing unrestricted equity at the end of the year to \$25K.
- Beth Couchman has resigned as President of the Unifor local, and Emily Heikoop has taken over.
- One of the holdups for a funding agreement with Unifor is that they don't want to pay for the physical plant (BUC) people who retired before BUC joined Unifor.
- Beth Csordas will do a review of the books before the AGM.

## 7. Reports on Special Projects

### 7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)

Susan and Helen met with Lori to talk about stewardship and getting thank yous out to donors.

### 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)

The subgroup for AGM planning will be Mary, Nora, Susan, and Helen if needed. Helen is keeping track of the incoming RSVPs.

### 8.2 Holiday Lunch / Spring Fling (Mary Gauld)

- We have heard from Parking about the golf cart. It costs \$250 to rent, and someone has to take the 10-minute online training course on how to drive it. We will decide if we need it after the registration deadline, when we know how many people will need assistance.
- Name tags should have MURA Spring Fling on them, so they can double as ID for food service.
- **Action:** Nora will send Mary the MURA logo
- Susan invited the President and he may drop by if he can.

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

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

#### 8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

##### **Possible switch from Wild Apricot to McMaster Media Services for web hosting**

- Jan reported that she can get the transfer of the website for free. The maintenance fees are \$1,200 per year. No definitive answer on whether we might get it for less down the road.

- Wild Apricot fees are currently USD \$979.20 / 2 years = CAD \$1,383.34, or \$691.67 / yr. for a Personal account
- Starting April 27, 2024, they will go up to USD \$1,224.00 / 2 years, = CAD \$1,638 / yrs., or \$819 / yr. (at today's exchange rates)
- Council decided that owing to the comparative prices, and the work involved in switching, there is no advantage to switching web hosts at this time.

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

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

**8.6 MURAnews**

- John is willing to continue to write articles for the newsletter after he leaves Council.
- There is one possible prospect for the MURAnews team, whom Susan has contacted.
- We are planning a light Summer issue to give the team a bit of a rest.
- The deadline for the summer issue will be mid-July, publication at end of July/beginning of August.

**8.7 Nominating** (Hank Jacek) – no report

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

- Problem with a claim involving Economical Insurance
- Prevnar 20 vaccine (pneumonia) coverage question
- Microsoft 365 license question

**8.9 Trips & Special Events** (Mary Gauld)

- The first walk has been publicized by email, and another email will go out before the walk.
- Will send email reminders of the AGM and Spring Fling.

**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) – no report

**9.4 CURAC Later Life Learning Committee**  
Susan went to a meeting, uneventful.

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

**9.6 MUFA** (Hank Jacek) – no report

**9.7 Unifor 5555** (Barry Diacon) – no report

**9.8 Hourly Staff Liaison** (Cliff Andrews) – no report

**9.9 Hourly Pension Committee** (Cliff Andrews)

There was a pension meeting; it's not looking good for an increase at this time.

**9.10 Salaried Pension Committee** (Brian Beckberger)

- There is a meeting tomorrow to look at 1st quarter results; there is a possibility of an increase, but that could change.
- Brian was talking to a lawyer who said to his knowledge we are the only plan that has increases tied both to CPI and plan performance; usually it's just CPI.
- **Action:** Hank said he'd talk to the President of MUFA about the partial indexation of the plan.

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

## 10. Other Business

**Moved** by Brian Beckberger at 2:03 pm

*“that the meeting be adjourned”*

**Carried.**