



McMaster University Retirees Association

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

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Denise Anderson, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Barry Diacon, Nora Gaskin, John Horsman, Hank Jacek (chair), Betty Ann Levy, Jordan Roberts, Richard Stubbs

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Susan Birnie, Mary Gauld, Nancy Gray, Dina LoPresti, Jan Nicholson, Kathy Overholt

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting October 12, 2022 (for approval)

Moved by Brian Beckberger, **seconded** by Richard Stubbs

“that the minutes of October 12, 2022 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Jordan Roberts)

- **Travel insurance:** Following a recent significant spike in inquiries on travel insurance, HR is drafting a newsletter-type guide to help retirees. There have been problems with Alliance, the travel insurance provider, getting in touch during a medical emergency. There were numerous phone numbers out there for Alliance, some of which were answered right away, and some of which had the caller on hold for 2 hours. **Action:** When MURA receives this info from HR, we will post it on our website, include it in the next newsletter, and/or possibly send it out as an email.
- **New retiree release form:** HR is still working on it; should have new draft back by end of this week or early next.
- **Retiree policy in UTS:** Jordan’s meeting with Gayleen was postponed last month, but in a couple of weeks should have progress on this and will give an update.

5. President's Report (Susan Birnie)

Susan and a few other MURA reps will be meeting with the President in January; if anyone has any suggestions about what to talk about, please send them to Susan.

6. Treasurer's Report (Nancy Gray)

Outstanding: projection for the fiscal year, which needs to be reviewed; 3-year budget preparation due early in the new calendar year. **Action:** Helen will write Susan and Nancy a note about this.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)

The Alumni Development Office is preparing a mailing that may bring us up to target by the end of the year. We are at 19K and to reach the target, need 3K from members matched by 3K from MURA. **Action:** Helen will ask Lori if the mailing will go out to all, or only those who haven't yet donated this year.

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) – no report

8.2 Holiday Lunch (Mary Gauld) – written report

This event has been cancelled. No charges were incurred from cancellation of CIBC Hall or caterer. All special guests were notified and all were supportive of the decision. They are looking forward to a special event to be held in the late spring – as yet to be determined!

N.B. When setting our date for the MURA AGM or spring event, we've been asked to keep in mind that MUFA has also postponed their retiree luncheon. Their luncheon has been scheduled for April 24th so if MURA could avoid that same date, it would be appreciated since many of our attendees overlap.

8.3 Communications (John Horsman) – no report

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Helen Barton for Dina LoPresti)

A lot of cleanup has been done; we asked HR about deaths that we knew about, but hadn't been notified about by HR, and we got some info from HR.

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin) – routine updates and new issue of *MURAnews*

8.4 Constitution & By-Laws (Brian Beckberger)

Brian drafted the changes into a proposed updated document.

- **11.02 Proposed Amendments:** to change notification period for Constitutional changes from 60 days to 37 days creates a time constraint. It is important to have more than 37 days, so we will leave it at 60 days.
- **14 Auditor/Financial Reviewer:** Brian will change Bylaw #1 to article 14.01

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt) – written report

8.6 MURAnews

- 312 letters went out to people who haven't told us how they want to receive the newsletter
- 166 postal mail newsletters went out

8.7 Nominating (Hank Jacek) – no report

If you have suggestions for anyone to be on the Committee who are not on Council, let Hank know. Helen suggested one or two of last year's non-Council members could be considered.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

There was one question about free access to the online Hamilton Spectator, which used to be associated with the Human Resources website, but this perk is no longer available. **Action:** Nora will write a piece for the next MURAnews about how to get access to the Spec online through the Hamilton Public Library.

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

We were almost sold out – expecting 35 in the evening and 32 to the afternoon show. Unfortunately, there were a few no shows at the afternoon show and we were down to 28 in attendance. Neither of the organizers (Kevin Sulewski and Mary Gauld) were ultimately able to attend the show due to personal reasons. Thanks to Susan for providing payment and ensuring there were people to help. Thanks to John, Nora and Denise for their assistance at the afternoon show. The event was well received. It was a good test for the electronic payment which Nancy found to be a bit cumbersome. We will need to see if we can figure out an easier way to manage it.

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 (Susan Birnie) – no report

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)

Unifor 5555 campaigned for Andrea Horwath; demonstrated in support of CUPE, and donated to them.

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)

There is a meeting tomorrow. In July 1 2021, assets were 2.5B; went up to 2.7B, in Jan 1 2022; dropped down to 2.2B by July 1 2022. Actual reduction in assets was .25B. The viability of the plan is still good and still in a surplus situation, due to interest rates and reduced liability.

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

The meeting seemed relatively routine, other than the excellent but depressing talk about the possible long-term sequelae of COVID by Dr. Dawn Bowdish. Betty Ann opined that the speaker series was one of the best things that has happened to the BoG meetings.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:41 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.