



McMaster University Retirees Association
Gilmour Hall Room B108
1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4L8, Canada
(905) 525-9140 ext. 23171
mura@mcmaster.ca
www.mcmaster-retirees.ca

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 1 PM (Zoom)

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Denise Anderson, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Susan Birnie (chair), Barry Diacon, Nora Gaskin, Hank Jacek, Michelle Jubinville, Betty Ann Levy, Jan Nicholson, Jordan Roberts, Richard Stubbs

Regrets: Mary Gauld, Nancy Gray, John Horsman, Dina LoPresti, Kathy Overholt

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting June 22, 2022 (for approval)

Moved by Cliff Andrews, **seconded** by Betty Ann Levy

“that the minutes of June 22, 2022 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

- **Vacant positions** on committees, liaison, and special projects were discussed. Susan invited Council members to suggest anyone they think might be interested in becoming involved with *MURAnews* as Chair or editor, in Volunteering, or in the CURAC Later Life Learning Committee. Helen is looking for anyone who is interested in helping with the Academic Awards Endowment fund work. **Action:** Helen will ask Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting if she might be interested in working on *MURAnews*.
- **Future meetings:** in-person or hybrid? **Action:** Jan is doing research on possible rooms for hybrid meetings.

4. Human Resources Report (Michelle Jubinville and Jordan Roberts)

- Michelle introduced Jordan Roberts, Program Manager of Benefits programs and the new HR rep to Council. Michelle will transition for one more month with Jordan.
- Denise has submitted a *MURAnews* article about benefit restatements and Sun Life to Jordan, who will review the article and share any suggestions he has.
- Brian asked if Sun Life gives us any heads up about coming administrative changes, and Jordan has asked Sun Life about this.

- **National dental program:** likely won't have too much of an impact for Sun Life coverage, because currently anyone with private coverage is supposed to be excluded from the plan. McMaster will coordinate with the public plan when and if appropriate.
- **Tuition assistance:** Jordan reported that the application form for employees will be altered to apply to retirees as well. Further down the line there will be an electronic form, but that is still a way off. **Action:** Jordan should have a response about other issues Denise raised regarding the *MURAnews* article on tuition assistance some time in the next week or so.
- Susan thanked Michelle for all the work she has done for MURA.

5. President's Report (Susan Birnie)

- Susan welcomed everyone back from the summer holidays.
- Susan had a meeting with Wanda McKenna about a number of issues: the proposed change in pension plan governance; the definition of a retiree (Susan and Wanda agreed to work on this together); and tuition assistance issues (this is now moving ahead). Susan and Wanda will meet bimonthly over the next year.
- **Action:** Susan asked Hank to check with MUFA about whether they have had any discussions with the university about the proposed change in pension plan governance.
- UTS wants to meet to talk about retirees and technology; this may have something to do with McMaster email, but we will find out at the meeting.
- There will be a remembrance service for McMaster employees and retirees who have passed away on Oct. 5, and Susan will be present to light a candle for retirees.

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

"That MURA council approve the list of Committee Chairs, Liaisons and Special Projects for 2022-23"

Carried

6. Treasurer's Report (Nancy Gray) – no report

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)

Since the June meeting we are up \$1000, and \$3000 in terms of pledges. We need about \$3000 more to get to the point we can kick in our own \$3000 and start giving out the scholarship. That will be the goal of the upcoming fundraising campaign.

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

In the past the President's office covered \$10 on the catering bill for retirees and the whole amount for new retirees. Helen recalled that in the past the Treasurer made the request to the President's Office. **Action:** Susan will work with Nancy on the request.

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) – written report/proposal

Action: After a discussion, Council asked Hank and Brian to further discuss the draft proposals and bring something to the next meeting of Council.

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt) – no report

8.6 MURAnews

Deadline for articles will be Friday October 14, so Committee Chairs should submit any contributions by then.

8.7 Nominating (Hank Jacek) – no report

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

- Most of the inquiries since the last meeting have been about out-of-province/country travel insurance.
- There was a query by someone whose benefits were cut off due to an error. It was fixed once, then Sun Life dropped the person a second time. Jordan worked with Sun Life to fix the problem.
- There was a query from someone who wanted to get a retiree ID card.

8.9 Trips & Special Events (Mary Gauld)

8.9.1 Virtual Visit with McMaster Museum of Art, Tue Oct 4, 1:30-2:30 PM

- Nicole Knibb and Teresa Gregorio from the McMaster Museum of Art will present on the Museum's recent acquisitions and exhibitions
- At the time of the meeting 25 participants had registered for this Zoom presentation, and each had been contacted and confirmed. One more reminder will be sent, and final details emailed to participants on Monday October 3.

8.9.2 MURA visit to the Planetarium: Fri Oct 28, 1pm and 7 pm

- Event cost is \$300. We are charging \$5 per person.
- There will be a need for 3 or 4 volunteers at each show to collect fees, hand out masks, and show people the way.
- Susan offered to bring a box of masks.

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 – 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 has a new national President, Lana Payne.

9.8 Hourly Staff Liaison (Cliff Andrews) – no report

9.9 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)
Wanda has proposed that due to recent problems achieving a quorum, the size of the Hourly Pension Committee should be reduced. The next meeting is Sept. 25. Cliff has agreed to stay on until the end of his mandate with MURA.

9.10 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)
Looking at the unaudited numbers, Brian is not optimistic for an increase this year. The next meeting is September 15.

9.11 University Board of Governors (Richard Stubbs)
The next meeting is on September 23, with an orientation session on the 22nd.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:25 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.