



McMaster University Retirees Association

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Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 1 PM in MUSC-313/311 & on Zoom (Hybrid)

1. Welcome & Regrets

Present: Denise Anderson, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Brian Beckberger, Susan Birnie (chair), Barry Diacon, Tim Doucette, Nora Gaskin, Mary Gauld, Hank Jacek, Dina LoPresti, Jane Mah, Jan Nicholson, Diana Parker, Richard Stubbs

Regrets: Virginia Aksan, Kathy Overholt

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting November 8, 2023 (for approval)

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

“that the minutes of November 8, 2023 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Tim Doucette)

- Brian re federal dental plan; asked Tim how many retirees have no dental plan, so we can inform retirees what to do. **Action:** Tim will look into it. Tim said that the federal plan only applies to those who have no coverage, and it also has an income cap.
- Tim resolved a few items but didn't tell Brian the details of the resolutions, so Brian requested that Tim provide those.

5. President's Report (Susan Birnie)

- **Holiday Lunch** – Susan thanked everyone who helped. She especially thanked Mary and the others who contributed to the almost overwhelming number of door prizes!
- **McMaster Museum of Art tour:** June 18, 1 pm and 2 pm

- Ticketing: Eventbrite charges considerable fees if you're holding an event for which you have to pay. The Museum tours are free, so that shouldn't be a problem.
- Susan emailed Emily Heikoop re non-payment from Unifor; no response so far.
- Susan emailed Wanda about **retroactivity for group RRSP retirees** who have retired and are affected by the new definition of a retiree. They are now willing to go backwards and pick up people they have missed, but there may be a problem contacting them. Last known address, perhaps, since they won't have a McMaster email any more. The supplementary retiree benefits are available on a go forward basis. HR will put something up on the supplemental benefits web site. They're going to put together a report to see how many people are impacted, and share that number with us. No person who has left who meets the criteria will be excluded.

6. Treasurer's Report (Diana Parker) – written report

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)

We've heard nothing back from Lori Moulden on the terms of the grad scholarship; to be held over until January. Little action on the endowment funds in this fiscal year, but will hope for more contributions by year end. We did have a voicemail from a retiree who wanted to donate to the undergrad scholarship fund.

7.2 Archives – no report

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

We made \$44.50 at the lunch, only \$6 from our annual target.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM (Mary Gauld) – written report

- We need a date that avoids convocations in the weeks of May 20-24 and June 10-14. Council decided on **Tuesday June 4**.
- If the meeting is hybrid, we need to book a room.

8.2 Holiday Lunch (Mary Gauld) – written report

Council set the date of the next Holiday Lunch for Tuesday Dec. 3 2024.

8.3 Communications

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Dina LoPresti)

All up to date.

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

Host Papa bill will be paid by Helen on credit card.

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

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt) – no report

8.6 MURAnews (Helen Barton)

- Jan 12 submission deadline
- Call for nominations will be included.
- Susan talked to someone at the lunch who was interested in *MURAnews*.

8.7 Nominating (Hank Jacek)

- Will need nominating committee membership by next month
- Hank would like a list of all the new retirees who were invited & all the retirees who attended the Holiday Lunch. **Action:** Helen will send that to Hank.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

- a few people asking for benefits booklets
- a person asking for help to access Library e-resources from off campus

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

- Date for new retiree in-person event: **September/October**.
- Date for Spring Fling: towards the end of May when classes are out. Will put it into the Winter newsletter, so need a date by end of January.

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 Birnie) – no report

9.5 MIRA Community Partner Network (Jane Mah) – no report

9.6 MUFA (Hank Jacek)

- MUFA has had a meeting with Ari Kaplan, the lawyer hired by the PTC to look at the MOU. The position of MUFA is that the MOU should be retained, but if it is replaced or updated, the new agreement should include equal balance between employer and employees, and any changes to the expenses policy should not negatively affect the annual pension increase.
- MUFA President Catherine Anderson reports she's never heard of the Definition of a Retiree policy.

9.7 Unifor 5555 (Barry Diacon)

- The retiree committee had elections yesterday and Nancy Clark is the new chair of that group. Emily Heikoop is the new President.
- Are we going after back dues, or just going forward? Maybe just going forward.
- Barry recommends a personal conversation. **Action:** If Susan doesn't hear from her, she'll get in contact in the new year.

9.8 Hourly Staff Liaison (Cliff Andrews) – no report

9.9 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

- There will not be a pension increase this year.

9.10 Salaried Pension Committee (Brian Beckberger)

- The BoG is meeting tomorrow to approve the increase/no increase to the pension plans. An email should be going out next week to all retirees.
- Ari is meeting with all groups again.
- Next meeting of PTC is Feb 1.

9.11 University Board of Governors (Richard Stubbs)

- The next meeting of the BoG is tomorrow. He expects much of the meeting to revolve around finances.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:39 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.