



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, January 10, 2024, 1 PM in MUSC-203 & on Zoom (Hybrid)

1. Welcome & Regrets

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

Regrets: Dina LoPresti

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Council Meeting December 13, 2023 (for approval)

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

“that the minutes of December 13, 2023 be approved”

Carried.

3. Business Arising

4. Human Resources Report (Tim Doucette)

- Brian had a query today about co-pay; they will take it offline
- Helen asked how many retirees have no dental, but Tim wasn't able to find out in time for this meeting. He also wants to talk to Brian about that later.

5. President's Report (Susan Birnie)

- nothing back about definition of a retiree
- nothing back from Emily re Unifor dues
- The annual CURAC/ARUCC Conference organized by the University of Waterloo Retirees Association will be held May 22-24, 2024. It's close so will be easier for more people to attend.

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

- The bookstore was only going to charge 3% of ticket sales for our ticketed events, but they have charged 10%. We will go back to them to clarify, if we have anything in writing. **Action:** Susan, Diana and Jan will get together to make the business case for Unifor to contribute & sort out what they've contributed so far & when.

7. Reports on Special Projects

7.1 Academic Awards Endowment (Helen Barton)

- Question about the suitability of the grad student award going to someone who had graduated before they got the money: The recipient was registered full time at the time of the award, even though they graduated shortly thereafter.
- Lori said it would not be possible to change easily, so they would like to keep the terms as they are, and can talk to the award team about a modification if it keeps happening. Council decided to follow that course.

7.2 Archives – no report

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

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 AGM (Mary Gauld) – written report

- Date: Thursday June 13
- Location: Zoom
- A save the date will go in the Winter issue of *MURAnews*
- Council approved GeoTrails as the speaker subject

8.2 Holiday Lunch (Mary Gauld) – written report

- Tuesday Dec. 3
- Mary will book CIBC Hall and pay the \$50 deposit
- Idea: just have appetizers and wine? since it's getting so expensive

8.3 Communications

8.3.1 Condolence cards (Dina LoPresti) – no report

8.3.2 Web site (Nora Gaskin)

- The Flickr invoice for this year has been paid by Nora
- The holiday lunch pics have been uploaded to MURA's Flickr account at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mcmaster-retirees>
- Some of the photos will be added to *MURAnews*

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

8.5 Membership (Kathy Overholt)

- Kathy will be getting the names of the “new definition of a retiree people” from HR.
- Hank suggested that “this is your opportunity for a free lunch” should be part of the contact release form “introductory offer”.

8.6 *MURAnews* (Helen Barton)

- Deadline is Friday Jan. 12
- Not as many Member's Corner contributions this time

- Regina Bendig has offered to participate by researching and copy editing
- Helen contacted 2 people who had expressed interest in the past; nothing back from either of them yet.

8.7 Nominating (Hank Jacek) – written report

- The constitution requires 2 Council people and 2 non-Council; the proposed slate has all Council and no non-Council, so needs to be revised.
- Jane and Mary were removed from the committee, and Hank needs to find 2 non-Council people in the next week or so, before *MURAnews* goes out.
Action: The 3 remaining committee members will meet to brainstorm possible committee members.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Brian Beckberger)

- It was remarkably quiet this month; only one question, about benefit co-pay.

8.9 Trips & Special Events (Mary Gauld)

- **Spring Fling:**
 - **Venue:** Mary has made preliminary investigations at the Phoenix
 - **Date:** Council settled on Thursday June 6
- **New Retiree event:**
 - We could have an in-person event in September at Alumni House in the Great Hall for new retirees from Oct. 1 2023 on. Mary will investigate for next meeting.
 - Alternatively, to catch everyone who retired since the last Zoom New Retiree Event, we could go back further and have an online event as a catch up, and then have an in-person lunch next. We could alter the \$25 lunch voucher accordingly. If we go the Zoom route, we'll need a guest speaker.

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)

- Catherine Anderson elaborated on what the administration had in mind when they said they would freeze benefits. The proposal was that there would be no change in benefits after 2022. MUFA rejected that.

9.7 Unifor 5555 (Barry Diacon)

- Last Friday the retiree chapter held a movie night online and in person.
- This coming Tuesday there will be a meeting of the Retired Workers Council, working on bylaws.

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)

- On Jan 17 there will be a meeting of a working group about investment strategy integration plans.
- On Jan. 24 they are meeting with the lawyer.
- There will be a meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Feb. 1.

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

- Richard mentioned that a number of universities are in financial trouble.
- Eight universities, including Queen's are in a deficit position right now.

10. Other Business

Moved by Brian Beckberger at 2:43 pm

“that the meeting be adjourned”

Carried.