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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

Minutes for COUNCIL MEETING of McMaster University Retirees Association,
Wednesday June 9, 2010, 1:30 PM at Togo Salmon Hall, Rm 122.

Present: Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Al Fraser, Joe Laposa (Chair), Michele Leroux, Shari Mercer, Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Wayne Rouse, Anne Sinclair

Regrets: Cliff Andrews, Lorraine Allan, Mike Hedden, Mary Johnston, Marianne Van der Wel and Marianne Walters.

1. Welcome & Regrets:

Joe Laposa called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved by Stefania Miller, **seconded** by Kathy Overholt that the Council meeting minutes of May 12, 2010 be adopted as corrected. **Motion carried.**

3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)

3.1 \$10,000 out-of-country medical insurance policy.

There are ongoing efforts to fully understand this and various parties (insurance + university) are working on statements. We need to know how it is structured. MUFA has indicated it will take up the question with respect to future retirees and we will remain in contact to try and insure that contemporary retirees are in the loop as noted in **8.8** below.

3.2 +65 Tuition Fees

There is an article in a recent addition of 'The Silhouette' on this issue. This matter is dealt with in more detail in **4.6** below.

3.3 New Human Relations (HR) Centre

An article with photographs is earmarked for the summer edition of MURANews.

3.4 Information Available to Employees thinking about retirement.

Michele outlined some of the many different sources of information and support available. She will advise Council about web locations where this can be found, and provide a write-up for the summer MURANews. Michele also asked that a notice about the retiree benefits year-end would be included in the upcoming MURANews, since last year's notice generated good results.

3.5 Meeting with Clinical Faculty, University Administration, MURA

This is dealt with in detail in 4.3 below. Michele and Kathy Overholt took notes and plan to combine them for MURA Council.

4. Business Arising – updates on

4.1 Academic endowment fund raising campaign (Beth Csordas/Helen Barton)

To date \$40,273 has been raised. There will probably be a short article on this initiative in an upcoming McMaster Daily News edition.

4.2 Review of Annual General Meeting and 25th MURA Anniversary (Joe Laposa)

A total of 96 MURA members attended the AGM out of an estimated total attendance of 100. The small number of RSVPs who did not attend was balanced by an equal number of non-RSVPs who did. It was **moved** by Kathy Overholt, **seconded** by Helen Barton that the AGM minutes be provisionally accepted by Council as corrected and with the addition of a preamble. **Carried** unanimously.

4.3 Clinical Faculty Supplementary Pension Benefits – May 13 meeting (Helen Barton/Les Robb)

The meeting took place as scheduled with the personnel as described in May 13 Council Minutes. Kathy Overholt took notes for MURA and Michele Leroux took notes for the administration. Roger Couldrey put forth the administrations case emphasizing that the Clinical Faculty Retirees had overall actually done better from the pension surplus distribution than their working colleagues. Representatives of the Clinical Faculty Retirees did not get a chance to state their perspective and claims before the meeting ended. It was agreed that there would be another meeting in the fall, perhaps in October. This issue is unlikely to have a resolution until a class action lawsuit from another group of the Clinical Faculty is resolved. MURA should compile both Michele Leroux's and Kathy Overholt's notes on this meeting. MURA

has been acting somewhat as a mediator in this case and should withdraw once both of the major parties are fully engaged in negotiations.

4.4 Revised portfolio descriptions (Wayne Rouse)

This is a work in progress. The tentative deadline for a full update is the end of the summer.

4.5 Bookstore discounts (Joe Laposa, Helen Barton)

There is not a lot new on this topic. Basically when this topic was pursued by CURAC in 2006, out of about 25 universities who responded to a questionnaire only one had discount arrangements with their bookstore. At this time no one is aware of whether or not students or active faculty have discount privileges with the McMaster Bookstore (Titles). Joe Laposa hopes to meet with the bookstore manager to discover what discounts, if any, are available to retirees and other employees.

4.6 Abolishing tuition for students over 65 – update (Joe Laposa)

As noted in the May 12 Council Minutes, the Board of Governors returned the proposal to abolish the tuition fees for Seniors back to the Finance Committee. This committee was to review the proposal at its June 3 meeting. In the interim the undergraduate fees committee chaired by Peter Smith, who made the original proposal, withdrew it. A MURA representative will be asked to meet with the fees committee if and when this issue is reactivated. This message culminated from exchanges of email between Joe Laposa and Peter Smith.

4.7 New treasurer needed (Joe Laposa)

Joe invited Council to consider people who might be potential candidates for Treasurer. The idea was raised to note the need for candidates for this position in the summer edition of MURANews.

4.8 Convocation Dinner on Thursday, June 10 (Joe Laposa)

Joe queried if any Council member would care to accompany him to this event.

4.9 McMaster Online Directory (Helen Barton)

Helen reported on the nuances (complexities) of being listed in the Online Directory or getting one's listing changed. Details on this will be noted in the summer MURANews.

5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

5.1 Forwarding Address Changes from MURA to HR

Michelle Leroux noted that any address changes received by MURA can be forwarded to Human Resources in case the latter have not received the same information.

5.2 Press release for McMaster Endowment Fund

Joe noted the recent publicity that McMaster had superceded its goals in the recent fundraising initiative.

5.3 President's Contribution to Christmas Luncheon

The president's office will subsidize the Christmas Luncheon at \$10/attending retiree.

6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

6.1 New Retiree Letter

Joe has prepared a new (revised) welcome letter to be sent to new retirees.

6.2 Christmas Lunch Invitation to President and Mrs. Deane

Joe will send an invitation to President and Mrs. Deane to attend the Christmas luncheon as guests on Monday, December 6.

6.3 Committee changes, portfolio reassignments

Kathy Overholt will take over as CAW liaison and Anne Sinclair will become chair of Trips. The one portfolio chair still vacant is Special Events. If there are Council members who are on other Council committees who would be interested in assuming this chair position or changing from their current committee assignments, this should be communicated to Joe or Helen Barton.

7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

No Report.

8. Information Reports from Committees

8.1 Christmas Luncheon (Pam Penny)

Pam will welcome ideas to help celebrate the Christmas luncheon on Monday December 6.

8.2 AGM (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

Everyone seemed to enjoy the AGM. The food was good and the quantities worked out about right. There was chocolate cake left over but this problem was laid to rest so to speak at the Council meeting.

8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

John Myers	Civil Engineering	May 12, 2010
Evelyn Arnold	Building Operations	May 16, 2010

8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)

No Report.

8.5 Membership (Pam Penny/Joe Laposa)

1960 members as of June 10.

8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)

The summer newsletter will probably go to press the week of July 19. This makes July 9 the cutoff date for news items.

8.7 Nominating (Helen Barton)

No Report.

8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)

Helen Barton reported on behalf of Marianne Walters. With Lorraine Allan, Marianne has been in contact with Virginia Aksan, MUFA President, on the 10K emergency medical coverage matter.

MUFA is interested in pursuing this on behalf of their future retirees. Discussions will also include trying to have any improvement apply retroactively to current retirees. Action on this is on hold until the Fall when the MUFA Remuneration Committee gets its work underway for the upcoming round of negotiations.

Marianne has also offered to work with MURA's liaisons with the CAW and hourly employee groups to plan an approach on this issue that covers all employees and retirees.

8.9 Special Events

No Report.

8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)

All of the planned trips are well-subscribed.

8.10 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)

Marianne and Patricia Chang (who recently joined the MURA website team) have been taking a number of updating courses. Marianne will shortly introduce Patricia to the complexities of the MURA system.

9. Information Reports from Liaisons

9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)

No Report. The Board of Governors will not meet until June 17.

9.2 College and University Retirees Assoc. of Canada (CURAC) (Marianne Walters/Helen Barton)

Marianne and Helen are preparing a report on the May meeting of CURAC for the next MURAnews.

9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)

See discussion under **8.8** above.

9.4 CAW (MUSA)

No Report.

9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)

No Report.

9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)

No Report.

9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)

The report from the Pension Trust Committee meeting held on May 13 will be posted on the Just Council web site and be a September Agenda item.

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjournment

Moved by Helen Barton, **seconded** by Al Fraser that the meeting be adjourned.
Carried at 3:20 P.M.

12. Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday September 8, 2010 at 1:30 P.M. in MUSC 220.