



**McMaster University Retirees Association**

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Wayne Rouse, Secretary

**Minutes for Council Meeting of McMaster University Retirees Association –Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 1:30 PM at McMaster Student Centre, Room 220.**

Note. Any item marked with a \*\* denotes an action item.

**1. Welcome & Regrets**

**Present:** Lorraine Allan, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Helen Dietsche, Mike Hedden, Mary Johnston, Joe Laposa (Chair), Shari Mercer, Stefania Miller, Kathy Overholt, Pam Penny, Wayne Rouse, Marianne Walters, Marianne Van der Wel.

**Regrets:** Al Fraser, Michele Leroux, Anne Sinclair.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**2.1 Council Meeting –December 8-for approval.**

**Moved by Mike Hedden, seconded by Beth Csordas**

*“That the minutes be adopted as revised”*

**Carried unanimously**

**3. Human Resources Report (Michele Leroux)**

No Report

**3.1 Update on HR and MURA database comparison**

No Update

**4. Business Arising – updates on**

**4.1 Academic awards and endowment fund raising campaign (Beth Csordas)**

The current total for the endowment fund is \$42,408, an increase of \$750 in the past month. A revision to the Gift Agreement between MURA and the University, to raise the value of the annual scholarship to \$1250 and the prize to \$350 has been signed.

**4.2 Link for University President’s Reports to Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)**

The October report was posted to the MURA website in a timely fashion but the December 16 report has yet to appear. Lorraine noted that a one month delay in posting the report makes the information dated. There seems to be a bottle neck in Public Affairs in getting it posted. Joe Laposa will write Mary Arnold to see if faster action can be achieved.\*\*

**4.3** Les Robb's continuation on Salaried Pension Committee (Joe Laposa)  
No Update.

**4.4** McMaster Directory Problems (Helen Barton)

The problem of a retiree without a "MAC ID" has already been discussed (Helen Dietsche) at the December Council meeting. It is not necessarily straight-forward to be listed on the directory because Human Resources has to approve retiree requests for MAC IDs, which are a prerequisite to getting on to the directory. Helen Barton and Helen Dietsche will look into this and seek a resolution to the problem. \*\*

**4.5** Retirees working at the University (Joe Laposa)

Joe has drafted a statement with respect to the University's position on retirees working at the University. This will appear in MURAnews, on the MURA website and on a Human Resources (HR) page for retirees. The letter has been sent to Roger Couldrey, VP Administration, to ensure that he and MURA are in agreement. As of the Council meeting date no reply has been received.

**4.6** Meeting with Roger Couldrey on Jan. 21 re \$10 K out of province emergency medical coverage (Joe Laposa)

The MURA representatives who have been asked to attend this meeting are Lorraine Allan, Cliff Andrews, Helen Barton, Beth Csordas, Mike Hedden, Joe Laposa, Les Robb, Wayne Rouse and Marianne Walters. The invitation was copied to the following Human Resources personnel. Mark Haley, Michele Leroux, Nancy Vukovich. It is not known at this time how many of the invitees will be able to attend.

Helen Barton has been prioritizing a list of questions which MURA needs answered. MURA seeks a written statement that clearly states the coverage, policies and procedures. This is needed within a specified date. Such a statement should be circulated to all retirees.

**4.7** Contact with MURA members re \$10 K out of province emergency medical coverage (Helen Barton)  
No update.

**4.8** 3-Yr Budget (Beth Csordas)

Version 5 has been posted on the 'just-council' web. Beth noted the minor changes from Version 4 that have been made.

**4.9** Contacts with MURA Supporting Groups re 3-Yr Budget (Joe Laposa, Helen Barton)

A letter requesting support from SEIU has been drafted and sent by Joe to Vice-President Ted Mansell. Mansell has changed portfolios and the letter was forwarded to his replacement. No response has yet been received. Joe will contact the McMaster Clinical faculty seeking their support for their members who belong to MURA. Kathy Overholt and Helen Barton met with the relevant decision makers in CAW. CAW was given a copy of MURA's \$ request. They appeared willing to continue support, but authorization is needed from their representative body. It is felt that

now is an appropriate time that MUFA should be solicited by Joe, Lorraine and Marianne Walters\*\*. It is also time to seek continuing support from the McMaster President\*\*.

## 5. Correspondence (Joe Laposa)

**5.1** A MURA member was informed that her pay direct prescription drug benefit had been cancelled when she retired. There could be a number of reasons for this. The letter will be forwarded to Human Resources so they can deal with it\*\*.

**5.2** Joe has been invited to attend an event on February 3 at the McMaster Art Gallery that is recognizing an extraordinary donation to McMaster University supporting teaching and learning and the McMaster Museum of Art.

**5.3** Thank-you notes from the two scholarship winners have been received.

## 6. President's Report (Joe Laposa)

### 6.1 Suggestions for AGM Speaker

Wayne circulated a brief biography on Dr. Walter Peace who was approached informally to see if he would be willing to give a presentation tentatively entitled 'Hamilton's Architectural Heritage as Influenced by its Geography, History and Culture'. Walter's response was an enthusiastic yes. Council was impressed by the topic and Dr. Peace's reputation as an excellent speaker. As a result it was

**Moved by Pam Penny and seconded by Kathy Overholt**

*That Dr. Peace be formally invited to address the AGM on the topic outlined.*

**Carried unanimously.**

Wayne was instructed to contact Dr. Peace with the formal invitation\*\*.

## 7. Treasurer's Report: (Beth Csordas)

### 7.1 Christmas Luncheon

Beth announced that the final MURA commitment for the Christmas Luncheon was \$324.21. The President's office is paying for 163 attendees as agreed upon.

## 8. Information Reports from Committees

### 8.1 Christmas Party (Pam Penny)

A summary article on the Luncheon has been submitted by Pam to MURAnews. Larry Marsh has been approached about a date for next year's Luncheon.

### 8.2 AGM (Joe Laposa, Pam Penny)

See 6.1 above.

### 8.3 Cards (Helen Dietsche)

A card was sent to the family of Amy Keeman, Housing and Food Services, who passed away on December 14, 2010.

**8.4 Constitution and By-Laws (Helen Barton)**  
No Report.

**8.5 Membership (Pam Penny)**

Total membership as of January 12 is 1984.

**8.6 MURAnews (Kathy Overholt)**

Wednesday January 12 (today) is the final date for submissions to the winter newsletter.

**8.7 Nominating Committee (Helen Barton)**

Committee will meet Monday next (January 17) for an initial naming of potential Council members. After that it is necessary to wait upon possible nominations from the membership at large which are solicited in the upcoming MURAnews.

**8.8 Pensions and Benefits (Marianne Walters)**

Marianne received a number of responses in a query to MURAmembs on who had used the 10K out of province insurance. Of these, two had used it as a deductible to obtain reduced rate secondary insurance and a third was thinking of using it for this purpose. She thought that there could be others using it for this purpose. During discussion in Council it was evident that there is massive confusion surrounding this issue.

**8.9 Special Events (Mary Johnston, Shari Mercer)**

Two events are in the planning stage. These comprise an on-campus June event and an off-campus fall event.

**8.10 Trips (Anne Sinclair)**

Anne is planning an Alaska cruise for 2012.

**8.11 Web Site (Marianne Van der Wel)**

Marianne has been working diligently on her redesign of the web site with drop-down menus. She emphasized that she needs feedback from Council as to its behaviour and usefulness. Those who have looked at the sample site like it especially noting its user-friendliness. Marianne's long-term goal is for users to be able to selectively change and/or add information to the web site.

**9. Information Reports from Liaisons**

**9.1 University Board of Governors (Lorraine Allan)**

No Report

**9.2 College and University Retirees Assoc. of Canada (CURAC) (Helen Barton)**

No Report

**9.3 MUFA (Lorraine Allan, Marianne Walters)**

Last Fall Lorraine and Marianne had a meeting with the President and Remunerations Committee Chair of MUFA to make them aware of the problem with the \$10k emergency medical travel benefit for retirees, and to enlist their concern and support in trying to get an improved benefit. We were pleased to see that in their Remuneration Brief of December 15, 2010 they included the following:

**" Out-of-Province Medical Insurance for Retirees**

MUFA proposes a re-examination of this benefit in order to determine how the coverage could be made more valuable to the retiree and more cost effective for the University."

In addition, Lorraine and Marianne will raise with MUFA the idea of establishing links on the MURA and MUFA websites to the newsletters of the two associations.

**9.4 CAW (MUSA) (Kathy Overholt)**

Kathy noted that CAW (MUSA) will create a link on their website to the MURA website.

**9.5 Hourly Staff Liaison (Al Fraser)**

No Report

**9.6 Hourly Pension Committee (Cliff Andrews)**

No Report. The committee will be meeting next month.

**9.7 Salaried Pension Committee (Les Robb)**

No Report

**10. Other Business**

**10.1 Second MURA telephone to provide information for members not using computers.**

After brief discussion this idea was held in abeyance as holding promise but also one that could have negative financial implications.

**11. Date and Location of Next Meeting**

**February 9, 1:30 PM in MUSC 220.**

**12. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Helen Dietsche at 3:25 PM

*"that the meeting be adjourned".*

**Carried**

**February 14, 2010**