UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA RETIREES ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
19 TODD DRIVE
February 25, 2005
10:00 a.m.

Present: L. Brockman, B. Clark (Secretary), J. Goldstein, I. Gusdal, D. MacEwan
(Treasurer), J. Markham, J. Mundie (Chair), S. Stothers. Also present as a guest:
Rosalyn Howard.

Regrets: J. Hamerton
Absent: N. Losey, J. Stewart

1. Minutes of the Meeting of December 17, 2004: On a motion by Irv Gusdal and Doug
MacEwan, the minutes were approved as circulated.

2. Business arising from the minutes:
   a. President’s Reception: The reception will be held in the Marshall McLuhan Hall
      (formerly called the Beausejour Room) in UMSU on the Fort Garry Campus on Saturday,
      April 23, 2005, 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Barry Prentice will speak on the possibilities of
      replacing Manitoba’s winter road system with dirigibles. Rosalyn Howard agreed to find
      out who will be speaking on behalf of the President.

   b. Communications - official announcement: John Mundie said that he had not yet
      pursued the official public relations announcement concerning the existence of the UMRA
      Executive. He suggested that John Markham arrange to have such an announcement appear
      on the Association website.

   c. Securing members upon retirement: Rosalyn Howard agreed to find out whether an
      exit interview routinely occurs and whether it could be used to secure Association
      members upon retirement. Doug MacEwan suggested that we should send a personally
      signed letter asking retirees to join the Association.

   d. Services for members: John Mundie said that he had verified with Julie Mikuska that
      retirees were entitled to receive the UofM Bulletin, but did not know why many were not
      being sent it. Rosalyn Howard asked that she be allowed to pursue this issue with Barb
      Cameron rather than have UMRA deal directly with Julie Mikuska. It was so agreed. John
      Mundie said that he would wait a week and then pursue the matter.

   e. Privacy policy: John Mundie asked if John Hamerton had said anything about the draft
      policy on privacy. Brent Clark said that he had only sent regrets. John Mundie said that we
      favour the "opt-out" process whereby retirees would be told at the exit interview that
      unless they opt-out they would be added to the Association’s list. Rosalyn Howard asked
      whether we were sure this is legal. John Mundie said yes. Irv Gusdal said that since
      UMRA would not be making the list public it would be alright.

   f. Mailing and email lists: Rosalyn Howard said that mailing was very expensive so the
      University was leaning toward using email. John Mundie said he would contact Nick
      Donaldson to discuss the addition of new members to the email list.
g. CURAC Conference 2004 wind-up: John Mundie said that this was all cleaned up.

h. Bank account: Doug MacEwan reported that the bank account had been set up and has a balance of approximately $1,000.

i. Appointment of retirees to University committees and governing bodies: John Mundie said that he had not yet contacted the President concerning this topic. He said that Terry Voss and Rosalyn Howard are looking into it.

j. Communications committee: John Markham distributed a 4-page draft of the Retirees' News. The Executive vetted the text. John Markham asked if he should mention the Fall Annual General Meeting in this newsletter or the next. Rosalyn Brockman suggested that it be included in this one. John Markham asked if the matter of paying membership fees should be included. Jay Goldstein pointed out that the text should changed to say that the fee will be set at the Annual General Meeting. It was so agreed. It was also agreed to remove the reference to inactive members. Doug MacEwan asked that the bank balance be reported as $1,000 (rather than $1,200). It was so agreed. Regarding the Fall President's Reception, Rosalyn Howard said she would like to check to see if Marshall McLuhan Hall would be available (rather than Smart Park). It was agreed to remove the University of Saskatchewan website address. It was also agreed that the email address for June Stewart should be verified. At Rosalyn Howard's inquiry, John Markham said he would have the final text submitted by the following Wednesday.

k. Raising floor levels for supplementary health and dental benefits: John Mundie said there was still no data on costs from Barb Hanchard. He said that she opposes raising the floors for supplementary health and dental benefits because she feels it is too expensive. He said that June Stewart is discussing this issue at the Staff Benefits Committee.

l. Providing supplementary health benefits for those over 75: John Mundie said that Great West Life is very expensive for this kind of benefit. Steve Stothers said there are many exclusions in the fine print. [No decision was reached].

m. Membership fees charged by other retiree associations: Jay Goldstein distributed a 1-page summary of 27 university retirees' associations fees. He pointed out that Waterloo ($100) and Victoria ($150) offer lifetime memberships. He noted that we should have a rationale for whatever fee we choose. Rosalyn Brockman asked if he had found any information on the percentage of participation within associations. Jay Goldstein said he had not. John Mundie suggested that Ken Ray of CURAC might be able to provide this information. Rosalyn Brockman said that the Association would be viable only if it charged a large membership a small fee, or a small membership a large fee. Brent Clark suggested a fee of $15 based on the rationale that it is relatively small and it matches the University of Winnipeg's. Rosalyn Brockman said that if we offered a lifetime membership it would generate a large initial cash infusion. Brent Clark said that if we were seeking such a large fee that members would expect a tax receipt. John Mundie said that matter could be decided in the Fall. Doug MacEwan said that we needed a budget to show the proposed usage of the fees. John Mundie thanked Jay Goldstein for his work in preparing the summary.

n. Nominating Committee: Jay Goldstein confirmed that under the constitution a
Nominating Committee could be created at the recommendation of the Executive. John Mundie suggested that a three-person committee be used, and noted that usually the past-president would be on such a committee. In the absence of a past-president, Irv Gusdal recommended that the most senior President serve on the Nominating Committee. John Mundie indicated he would be willing to serve. Lois Brockman proposed Nora Losey. Irv Gusdal proposed Norm Long. It was tactfully agreed that these members would constitute the Nominating Committee (if they agreed to serve). Doug MacEwan said that the nominations for replacement and new members should be distributed with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. Lois Brockman suggested that the creation of the Nominating Committee should be included in the current Newsletter. John Mundie said that he would contact Nora Losey and Norm Long right away.

o. Creating a bursary: Doug MacEwan said that we should wait for the Association to become healthy and well established before sponsoring a bursary. John Mundie said that the topic would be held for follow-up.

3. New business: Jay Goldstein asked who would create the Association budget. John Mundie said that, as Treasurer Doug MacEwan should prepare it. Doug MacEwan said that he would consult with John Mundie and make a presentation at the next meeting. Lois Brockman said that we need a budget ready for the October Annual General Meeting.

It was agreed that Rosalyn Howard, Barb Cameron, John Mundie, and Lois Brockman would meet to discuss privacy issues, distribution of the Bulletin, and other follow-up topics.

4. Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on April 29, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at 19 Tod Drive. Brent Clark agreed to send out an email reminder of the meeting.

5. Adjournment: There no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.