

## UMRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The second **Annual General Meeting** of the **University of Manitoba Retirees' Association** was held Saturday, October 15, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in 217 University Centre on the Fort Garry Campus.

The following signed the attendance sheet: P. Aitchison, G. Baureiss, H. Boskamp, L. Brockman, V. Bruce, B. Clark, R. Fonseca, H. Frank, B. Furlong, J. Goldstein, I. Gusdal, J. Jamieson, N. Losey, D. MacEwan, E. MacPherson, B. McDonald, J. Markham, V. Moroz, J. Mundie, M. Mundie, H. Neufeld, L. Philip, W. Philip, H. Rachlis, R. Rachlis, H. Senysleiw, J. Steele, M. Stothers, S. Stothers, G. Tabisz, H. Thompson, E. Williams, B. Webster, A. Wilson, H. Wilson.(35) [There was also one illegible signature]. Regrets: J. Hamerton.

John Mundie, as President of UMRA, distributed copies of the agenda along with the minutes of the October 16, 2004 Inaugural Annual General Meeting, the new Privacy Policy, new By-laws, the Treasurer's Report, and the Nominating Committee Report.

### **1. Minutes of October 16, 2004:**

The minutes of the October 16, 2004 Inaugural Annual General Meeting were approved as circulated.

### **2. Review of the Meetings of the Executive Committee since October 16, 2004:**

John Mundie listed the matters dealt with by the Executive at its 5 meetings: (a) creation of the UMRA Staff Benefits and Pensions Committee (b) naming of members to the University Staff Benefits Committee (representative June Stewart, with Nora Losey as alternate) (c) approval of a by-law that enabled the Retiree Chair of the University United Way Campaign to be an *ex officio* member of the UMRA Executive (d) setting up a bank account (e) approval of a Privacy Policy (f) requesting retirees' representatives to be included in the revised terms of reference of the University Pension Committee and Trustees' Committee (g) informal discussion about having an UMRA assessor on the Board of Governors. (It was decided it was not the time to pursue this (h) a request for the University Staff Benefits Committee to consider raising the amount of coverage provided under supplemental health and dental benefits. (So far, there has been no positive response, but the matter is on the agenda). (i) consideration of establishing a bursary program (It was decided to set this aside until the Association is better established) (j) discussion with Human Resources personnel how best to let those employees who are about to retire know about UMRA, and how to secure information so their names could be added to the postal and email lists. (k) survey of other Canadian university retirees' associations concerning membership fees. (The average was found to be \$15) (l) publication of the Retirees News (prepared by John Markham), and selection of a speaker for the President's Reception (m) approval of UMRA letterhead (printed and paid for by the University) (n) discussion of which issues to bring forward at the CURAC Conference, and consideration of what was discussed at the Conference that would be of interest to UMRA members (o) provision of information to retirees living in Manitoba who are over 75 regarding the opportunity to purchase health insurance.

### **3. Privacy Policy:**

John Mundie said that the Executive had approved the Privacy Policy (attached to the agenda). He noted that the format was borrowed from the CURAC document, and was intended to conform with privacy legislation. He said that members' information provided to UMRA would remain confidential. He noted that mailings done by third parties would require from them a contractual guarantee of

confidentiality. He also pointed out that each member can access their own information and can have their name deleted from the lists (if they so desire).

#### **4. New By-laws:**

Jay Goldstein reviewed in detail the new UMRA by-laws that the Executive had passed: (1) the terms of reference of Standing Committees (the Staff Benefits and Pensions Committee, and the Communications Committee); (2) the Privacy Officer's term of service and duties; (3) the *ex officio* membership of the Retirees' Chair of the University of Manitoba United way Campaign on the Executive.

#### **5. CURAC Conference May 12-13, 2005:**

John Mundie reported he and Lois Brockman, UMRA Vice-President and President Designate, had attended the CURAC Conference in Vancouver. He said that several interesting ideas had been discussed. One involved the idea of an on-campus centre for retirees with space and amenities to run a retirees' association, as well as sufficient space to run a conference. He suggested that perhaps UMRA should consider this. He noted that currently UMRA is run from his office (with the approval of the Dean of the Asper School of Business). He pointed out that UMRA use of UofM space is now free. A second topic was the trend of universities creating campus housing for retirees. UBC is building condos on campus for retirees. He noted that UofM has already set aside land for new residences (using the agricultural land west of parking lot B). He also reported that CURAC had passed their own Privacy Policy.

#### **6. CAUT- Manulife Private Health Insurance Program:**

John Mundie said that CURAC had approached CAUT to help with the provision of health benefits to those retirees who had none. The result was the opportunity for a 2 month period (October 1 to November 30, 2005) for all University retirees to access health insurance (without a medical examination) through the Manulife program called "Follow Me". He pointed out that UofM retirees are covered by the University until age 75. He noted that one must join CAUT as an Associate Member at a cost of \$25 to participate. He said that overall it was a fairly expensive option, but it had no age restriction nor medical. A member from the floor said that Blue Cross coverage was only two-thirds the cost of Manulife. John Mundie clarified that he was not promoting Manulife, rather he was bringing an opportunity to the attention of retirees. He noted that the University itself will not recommend any particular health insurance provider. He said that he hoped the Executive could produce a brochure for those retirees reaching age 75 and coming off University coverage. Jay Goldstein said that those retiring before July 1, 2004 will be covered beyond age 75.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report:**

Doug MacEwan, UMRA Treasurer, summarized the written report. He noted that UMRA currently has 2 lifetime members. In reply to a question from the floor, he said that there was no auditor's fee. On a motion by Doug MacEwan and John Markham, the report was approved as circulated. On a motion by Harry Rachlis and Bruce MacDonald, the appointment of an auditor (Murray Hilton) was approved. The membership fee levels were also approved (\$15 for one year, or \$100 for a lifetime membership).

## **8. Nominating Committee Report:**

John Mundie noted that the Nominating Committee consisted of himself, Nora Losey, and Bernice Furlong. Nora Losey summarized the four Report recommendations. John Mundie called for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the Executive Committee members were declared elected by acclamation: President: Lois Brockman, Vice-President: Jay Goldstein, Past-President: John Mundie, Secretary: Jim Jamieson, Treasurer: Doug MacEwan, Members-at-Large: Horst Frank, John Hamerton, Karen Ogden, George Phillips, Steve Stothers. *Ex officio* Members: Retiree Chair- United Way: Irv Gusdal, Chair: UMRA Staff Benefits and Pensions Committee: Nora Losey, Retiree Rep - University Staff Benefits Committee: June Stewart.

## **9. New President's Comments:**

John Mundie introduced the new President of UMRA: Lois Brockman. She said she was pleased to see the Association celebrating its first birthday. She said that she hoped to be up to the task of serving as President and would do her best. She said she was familiar with the constraints involved in running an association (as evidenced by the necessity of a Privacy Policy). She reminded members to provide both their email and mailing addresses when they apply for membership. She said that she hoped to create an UMRA email address where comments and questions could be sent.

She said she learned a great deal at the CURAC conference including the fact that we are very lucky at the UofM with the several kinds of benefits extended to retirees. She noted that retiree centres were being built on campus at the University of Washington in Seattle and at the University of California in Berkley. (Brochures describing the centres were circulated). A member from the floor thanked those working on the University Staff Benefits Committee. Nora Losey said that the benefits were also due to the union structure on campus. Lois Brockman said that UMRA needs to stay in good communication with UMFA, and asked Jay Goldstein to pass along that sentiment. She noted that both UBC and the University of Calgary were considering retirees centres. She said that she had asked Harlan Thompson and Jerry Grey to serve on an *ad hoc* committee to consider the feasibility of a retirees' centre here. She asked for a volunteer from the floor to join the committee and report at the next Annual General Meeting. Harry Rachlis agreed to serve. Harlan Thompson said that he could discuss the details with Harry Rachlis after the meeting ended. Lois Brockman said that she felt the most difficult challenge will be fostering communication.

## **10. Other Business:**

A member asked why a membership fee is needed. John Mundie replied that the funds would cover the costs of running the Executive and would allow members of the Executive to attend the CURAC conference. He clarified that Lois Brockman and himself had attended this year's conference at their own expense.

Harry Rachlis asked if the Executive had considered incorporating UMRA. John Mundie said the Executive will look at it, considering that the Association may need its protection.

## **11. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.