



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Room 205 - 207 University Centre
October 18, 2008

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association was held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 205-207 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus.

Active Members present: S. E. Andrich, J. Barwinsky, G. Baureiss, H. Boskamp, E. Bridges, L. Brockman, A-M. Brownwell, L. Campbell, W. Christie, A. Cooper, M. Doyle, N. Fetterman, J. Goldstein, I. Gusdal, J. Jamieson, R. Johnson, G. Johnston, C. LeBlanc, H. Larimer, D. MacEwan, B. Macpherson, J. Mann, B. McDonald, V. Moroz, J. Mundie, S. Onyshko, J. Paterson, A. Patterson, D. Punter, J. Rempel, U. Rempel, E. Rzeszutek, B. Stovel, F. Stevens, G. Swift, S. Stothers, M. Stothers, K. Standing, H. Thompson, B. Watts.

Inactive Members present: C. Goldstein, I. Hedlin, M. Mundie, P. Newman, H. Sensykiw, T.G. Snihurowycz.

Guests present: J. Newman, A. Onyshko.

The fourth Annual General Meeting was called to order by President Lois Brockman at 12:35 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion (Doug MacEwan/Steve Stothers) that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the October 20, 2007 Annual General Meeting

Motion (John Mundie/Jay Goldstein) that the minutes be approved.

Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Lois reported that the mugs, which have the University logo on one side and the UMRA logo on the other, have been received. The mugs are being sold at today's meeting for \$12.00 incl. tax.

4. Reports

a. President – Lois Brockman

Lois reviewed some of the items of her circulated report. She apologized for the lateness of the mailing of the Newsletter indicating that its production is a long process which commenced in August. Once completed and out of our hands in early September, it was submitted to the University for formatting, printing and mailing. Why this issue was sent out late is unknown. The good news is that it has been on our website long before being mailed and there it is in colour! Information is being collected now for the Spring issue.

As the Association is five years old, procedures have now been established and tested. Over this next year we plan to prepare a manual with guidelines for recurring activities such as the preparation of the newsletter.

It is important that committee chairs have backups and UMRA invites members to participate on committees or the Executive. Thanks were expressed to new volunteers: Shelia Andrich, Editor of the Newsletter, Archie Cooper, Chair of the Membership Committee, Janice Mann, Assistant to the Webmaster, George Baldwin, Benefits and Pensions Committee member and Brian Macpherson, co-chair of the Retirees United Way Campaign Committee..

Lois invited members to submit ideas and suggestions for speakers and topics for the reception. It is a long process and we need to book speakers a year in advance. If you know of a speaker or a topic of interest, please send an e-mail to retirees@cc.umanitoba.ca or call and leave a message at 474-7175.

Lois thanked the helpful University Staff for their assistance: Roslyn Howard, Linda Lassman and Mark O'Reily. And thanks to Art Braid who has accepted to continue as our Privacy Officer.

Motion (Marjorie Doyle/Archie Cooper) to receive the report.

Carried.

b. Communications Committee – John Mundie

John emphasized the importance of keeping in touch. Last year, for example, our members were informed of the cancellation of the reception due to the strike. We would like to get access to the University mailing list for all retirees so we can reach out to everyone.

A new category has been added to our website identified as “Of Interest” which provides information from organizations with projects that may be of interest to our members. For example, recently posted is information and links to an NGO which recruits volunteers for consulting type positions at universities in third world countries. Currently, they are seeking volunteers for two universities in Africa: University of Cape Coast, Ghana and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania. Check the website for further information.

The committee meets two or three times a year. John thanked the committee members.

Motion (Steve Stothers/Jim Jamieson) that the report be received.

Carried.

c. Benefits and Pensions Committee – Frits Stevens

Frits thanked the committee members and presented his report which was circulated with the agenda. A question was raised about the security of the pension considering the current volatile market conditions. A response from June Stewart of the Staff Benefits Committee assured members that payment from the pension fund is guaranteed and cannot be reduced below the stipulated base rate. The University would have to make up any shortfall in funds to honour the commitment to retirees. A question was raised about the options available at the time of retirement regarding individual pension plans and whether it is possible to change the choice at a later date. No, this is not possible.

Motion (Jim Jamieson/Dick Johnson) to receive the report.

Carried.

d. Membership Committee – Archie Cooper

Having assumed the Chair of the Committee in August, Archie expressed appreciation to Jay Goldstein for his assistance over the transition period. As she is new to this position, she is thankful to the Committee for their help – Laraine Coll, Jay Goldstein and Helen Osman.

Membership has grown by 112% over the past three years. Active members are mostly in Winnipeg and inactive are out-of-province. UMRA is a good way of keeping in touch. Renewal of membership is now due. Please let us know of any address or e-mail address changes.

The responsibilities of the Membership Committee extend beyond just keeping a membership list. It is also responsible for organizing events of interest to its members. The questionnaire circulated with the agenda asks for suggestions on how our Association can serve our members. It is important that members return the questionnaire with their ideas so we may implement them. We welcome members to consider joining the Committee.

Thanks to Carol Goldstein for the good job of packaging the 352 members' notices for today's meeting.

Motion (Frits Stevens/Hans Boskamp) to receive the report.

Carried.

e. Treasurer – Doug MacEwan

Doug circulated a statement of Cash Receipts and Payments for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. He noted that investments in the dividend fund had lost about \$2,000. Suggestions were made to invest in GIC's or other not so risky bonds. There was a suggestion that printing and mailing costs could be reduced by sending the Newsletter via e-mail. The University does help in the mailing of the Newsletters. Doug observed that most people want hard copies instead of being sent on-line. They find it easier to read the hard copy and do not want to incur the costs of printing it on their own printers.

Motion (Jim Jamieson/Jay Goldstein) to receive the report. Carried.

Motion (Doug MacEwan/John Mundie) that Murray Hilton be appointed Auditor. Carried.

f. Retiree Centre Committee – Lois Brockman

The committee has met on several occasions to discuss ways in which synergies between the university mandate and functions and a retiree centre or residence could be realized. They have been checking out what is being done at other universities, especially in the United States. These findings have been shared with Alan Simms. Currently, the committee is working on a discussion paper. Lois expressed thanks to committee members for their contributions. Anyone interested in serving on the committee is welcome. The committee welcomes ideas and suggestions from UMRA members.

Motion (Irv Gusdal/Bev Watts) to receive the report. Carried.

g. United Way Committee – Irv Gusdal

Last year's campaign raised \$76,022. – an increase of 5%. Our donations represent 18% of the overall University campaign. Thanks very much to those who have contributed. This year's campaign is underway and letters should be going out to members soon. Brian Macpherson will be co-Chair with Irv.

Motion (Doug MacEwan/Hans Boskamp) to receive the report. Carried

h. Nominating Committee – John Mundie

The terms of two members of the Executive Committee expire in October 2008, namely, Bonnie Stovel, Secretary and Steve Stothers, Member-at-Large. Bonnie agreed to continue, but Steve, who has served two terms, would not seek re-election.

5. Elections – John Mundie

Motion (John Mundie on behalf of the Committee) to re-elect Bonnie Stovel as Secretary. Carried

The following members were nominated for election as Members-at-Large: Marjorie Doyle, Ed Rzeszutek and Constance LeBlanc.

As there were no further nominations from the floor, it was moved by Jay Goldstein that nominations be closed. Carried.

Motion (John Mundie on behalf of the Committee) that the three Members-at-Large be elected. Carried.

6. Other Business

The Centre on Aging has requested that we post an item regarding recruiting individuals to be part of an electronic research database on aging. Posters are available in the reception room for those interested.

Gunter Baureiss asked to speak. He explained that he joined UMRA three years ago and developed the website. Gunter thanked past-President John Mundie and current President Lois Brockman for their work and ideas, particularly the idea of having a mug. In appreciation, Gunter presented John and Lois each with a very attractive black fleece jacket with the UMRA logo on the back.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Gunter Baureiss/Steve Stothers) at 1:40 p.m.

Carried.