



## UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

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### *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Room 224 University Centre October 24, 2009*

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the University of Manitoba Retirees Association was held on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 224 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus

#### **Present:**

Active Members: P. Aitchison, S. Andrich, G. Baldwin, J. Barwinsky, G. Baureiss, E. Bridges, L. Brockman, L. Campbell, W. Christie, R. D. Connor, S. G. Connor, A. Cooper, N. Fetterman, A. Froese, J. Goldstein, J. Jamieson, B. Johnston, H. Larimer, B. Macpherson, J. Mann, B. McDonald, K. Mount, J. Mundie, J. Paterson, D. Punter, E. Rzeszutek, K. Standing, F. Stevens, M. Stothers, B. Stovel.

Inactive Members: C. Goldstein, E. Kuffel, M. Mundie, and P. Newman.

Non-Members: C. Froese, J. Newman

#### **1. Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion (J. Jamieson/J. Mundie) that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

#### **2. Approval of the Minutes of the October 18, 2008 Annual General Meeting**

Motion (J. Mundie/J. Jamieson) that the minutes be approved.

Carried.

#### **3. Business Arising from the Minutes:**

##### a. Organizing events/activities of interest to members.

One suggestion was a wine tasting event. John Rempel would organize it with good, cheap wines. The difficulty is finding the right venue. It was suggested that the Liquor Marts at Grant Park or Madison Square might be an option. John will look into the possibility of the University Club. Members should check out the website for other events. There have been other suggestions for events – even sharing events on the website. Members are making suggestions but not signing up to participate. Members should come forward with their ideas.

##### b. UMRA fleece jackets are on display for purchase.

They range in sizes from small to XXLarge and cost \$65.00. We will take orders today – a deposit of \$20 or payment in full. The manufacturer requires an order for at least 6 jackets.

#### **4. Reports:**

##### a. President – Lois Brockman

Lois' report was circulated with the agenda. In addition to her report, Lois mentioned the possibility of Campus Tours and a sheet was handed out for members to complete to see if there was interest. The Executive Committee is working on an Operation Manual that would summarize executive position responsibilities and practices, including time lines for booking meeting rooms and guest speakers. Lois emphasized that we require backups for every position on the Executive Committee and the Newsletter Editor. A year is needed to transfer over duties when a change is made. UMRA will continue to relay members' concerns to the University. The Executive had sent a letter to the President regarding the sudden demolition of the Alumni House – citing that UMRA lost its office as a result. The Office was then moved to Smart Park – but we have since been informed that Smart Park is renovating and that space is no longer available and as well, no meeting rooms will be available for the Executive Committee. Mark O'Riley is trying to find space for UMRA. Lois emphasized how grateful we are to have the support of the University. In particular, the office of Roslyn Howard and her staff – Linda Lassman and Mark O'Riley. They are of great assistance to us. The financial support from the University is greatly appreciated as well – the President's Office pays for printing and mailing the Newsletter as well as the President's Receptions and our membership in CURAC. The UMRA website is now on the University website. Lois thanked everyone for their cooperation – the Executive and those who come out the meetings. She has enjoyed the last four years and will still be around as Past President.

Motion (J. Mundie/A. Cooper) to receive the President's report.

Carried.

b. Communications Committee – John Mundie

Motion (J. Mundie/most members present) to show our appreciation to Lois for her service for the past four years.

Carried.

A round of applause followed the approval of the motion.

John outlined the responsibilities of the Communications Committee: newsletter, e-mail list, and website. In order to communicate with members, we must get their e-mail addresses. Janice Mann has taken over as webmaster and Sheila Andrich is editor of the Newsletter.

E-mails have been sent out to members about upcoming UMRA and University events.

Motion (J. Mundie/E. Bridges) to receive the committee's report.

Carried.

c. Benefits and Pensions Committee – Frits Stevens

The report had been circulated with the agenda and Frits asked for questions from the members. He gave a synopsis of his report: members of the committee are: Dick Johns, John Mundie, June Stewart, Glen Swift, Jean Zushman and George Baldwin.

Frits has had requests from members for increased medical and dental benefits – but Frits expressed his opinion that there is no way we can improve on our current benefits. In response to a question on the current state of the pension fund – Frits responded that the downturn in the market had affected the pension fund but that the shortage was an actuarial shortage and did not affect the payment of pensions to the members. The University has a commitment to pay the retirees.

Discussion was held on out-of-country medical coverage and the fact that pensioners must purchase such coverage.

There was a question about possible increases in pension payments – as long as the deficit exists there won't be any increases.

Motion (G. Baldwin/B. McDonald) to receive the committee's report.

Carried.

d. Membership Committee – Archie Cooper

The report was circulated with the agenda. Archie summarized that the Association has grown over the years from 166 members in 2005 to 387 in 2009. The troubling news is that the number of Active members has decreased by 22% and Inactive membership has increased by 40.5%. If this trend continues, most members will be inactive.

Archie thanked the members of the committee: Jean Paterson, Ursula Rempel and Laraine Coll. She also thanked the Bookstore for making coupons available to the UMRA members.

Motion (A. Cooper/J. Jamieson) to receive the committee's report.

Carried

Sheila Andrich noted that the newly formed Fort Garry Centre for Active Living Committee would be meeting again on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at Richmond –Kings Community Centre, 666 Silverstone. The first meeting was an overwhelming success and the group is still looking for volunteers and also a space for seniors to hold activities.

e. Treasurer – Douglas MacEwan

In Douglas' absence, Jim Jamieson presented the financial report for the year. The financial statement and the auditor's report were circulated with the agenda. In addition, he reported on the losses and gains over the year noting that the losses should have turned around as the markets have rebounded since June. We have begun a ladder of GIC's. The major expense for UMRA is to send a representative to the CURAC annual meetings.

Motion (J. Jamieson/A. Cooper) to receive the financial report.

Carried.

f. Retiree Centre Committee – Lois Brockman

Not much has happened over the past year but now that Lois' term as President has ended, she plans to start working with the University on a centre for retirees on the golf course property. Most other Universities have such centres. Lois will keep UMRA up-to-date on this project.

g. United Way – Brian Macpherson

Letters and pledge forms will be sent out shortly. Retirees were very generous last year and he hopes this will continue. Brian would like some volunteers to help with the mailing of the 1650 pledge forms and hope they will go out next week.

Motion (J. Jamieson/E. Rzeszutek) to receive the United Way report.

Carried.

h. Nominating Committee – John Mundie

The report was circulated with the agenda. Members agreed to take motions 1 – 5 as a package. UMRA does not have a Vice-President at the moment. The Executive Committee will have the power to elect one over the next year.

**5. Elections – John Mundie**

Motion (J. Mundie/A. Cooper) that motions 1 – 5 of the report be approved.

Carried.

**6. Other Business**

Lois reported that M. Hilton has agreed to audit the financial statement next year.

Motion (J. Jamieson/J. Mundie) that M. Hilton be appointed Auditor for the year 2010.

Carried.

**7. Adjournment**

Motion (G. Baldwin/R. Connor) that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Carried.