



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Room 204 Brodie Centre
October 15, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.**

Present:

Active Members: H. Andrich, L. Brockman, A. Cooper, G. Crumb, M. Doyle, J. Goldstein, C. LeBlanc, D. MacEwan, B. McDonald, J. Mundie, S. Onysko, D. Punter, E. Rzeszutek, R. Schilling, A. Segall, H. Senyskiw, D. Sitar, M. Stothers, G. Tabisz, R. Thomas, E. Unrau, J. Zushman

Inactive Members: C. Goldstein, J. McComas, M. Mundie, A. Onysko, D. Singer

Guests: R. Khan, M. Robson

Regrets: R. Fonseca, J. Jamieson, B. Johns, B. Macpherson, B. Stovel

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion(Doyle/McDonald) that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

2. Approval of the Minutes, October 16, 2010 AGM

Correction of spelling of names: H. Senyshin to H. Senyskiw and J. Doyle to M. Doyle.

Motion (Mundie/Cooper) that the minutes be approved as amended.

Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a. Distribution of AGM Material to Membership

Our constitution requires that all members be notified about the AGM meeting date at least 30 days in advance. Our practice has been to mail a notice to both Active (dues paying) and Inactive (non-dues paying) Members. The AGM mailing is one of our largest expenses. At the 2010 AGM the question was raised about whether our practice should be continued. After much discussion, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for action. Jay Goldstein reported that the Executive Committee decided to announce the time, date, and location of the 2011 AGM in the *Retirees' News*, which all Members receive. This satisfied the notice requirement in the constitution. A draft of the AGM agenda also was to be published in the newsletter, but, unfortunately, it did not appear. However, the agenda was put on our website.

Only our Active Members were mailed the material for this year's AGM. In 2010, mailing notices to all 451 Active and Inactive members cost \$875 for printing and postage. In 2011, it cost \$500 to send the notices to our 271 Active Members. This represented a 43% cost saving to our Association. The Executive Committee's decision appeared not to be problematic as we have received no criticism or comments from members on the matter.

A Member asked why we continue to send the notice by mail when we could put it on our website or send it electronically? Printed copies would be sent only upon request. Jay Goldstein said this would be an option that we can look at for future AGM's.

b. Publication of UMRA membership list

The matter of publishing our membership list was raised at last year's AGM. A review was to be conducted by the Membership Committee and the matter brought back to this year's AGM. Archie Cooper, chair of the Membership Committee, reported that Jay Goldstein had conducted a review of associations belonging to CURAC and found that most did not publish their membership list. Archie

summarized the practices of those associations that did. In order to protect the privacy of our members, Archie recommended that any list on our website only include the Member's name (without his/her title), and department/faculty/unit at the time of retirement. The Membership Committee chair would provide our webmaster with an updated membership list once or twice a year.

Motion (Cooper on behalf of the Membership Committee) that UMRA post a list on our website with the names of members (without title) and their home department/faculty/unit at the time of retirement, and that no links be provided to member contact information. **Carried**

c. Creation of UMRA Endowment Fund

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Member-Supported Scholarship/Bursary was circulated with the agenda. Doug MacEwan, chair of the ad hoc committee, provided background information on the committee's proposal to establish a UM Retirees Endowment Fund (UMREF). There is a huge need for scholarships and bursaries. The Fund would be established under the University Investment Trust with assistance provided by the Development Office. R. Kahn, President of the UW Retirees Association reported that they set up a scholarship two years ago on behalf of retirees. It was very successful and was followed by a bursary the next year.

Motion (MacEwan/Brockman) that the University of Manitoba Retirees Endowment Fund (UMREF) be established within the University Investment Trust (UIT), to be monitored and promoted by a University of Manitoba Retirees Association Endowment Fund Committee as defined by its terms of reference.

Marjorie Doyle proposed an amendment to delete the phrase "as defined by its terms of reference." **Carried(as amended)**

Jay Goldstein stated that the Executive Committee will make adoption of terms of reference for the Endowment Fund Committee a priority at its next meeting (November, 2011).

4. Reports

a. President – Jay Goldstein

The President's report was circulated with the agenda. Jay thanked Carol Goldstein and Archie Cooper for the labour-intensive work in doing the mailing of the meeting notice on a timely basis. He also thanked Ed Unrau for serving as Vice-President and answering telephone enquiries. We have had very good co-operation on extending benefits to retirees through Mr. Terry Voss, Executive Director, Human Resources. An Associate Retiree membership category has been established by the University for UMRA members. The Executive Committee has decided that lifetime membership in our association will be a prerequisite for obtaining Associate Retiree status. A notice about Associate Retiree status will be sent out to members in the near future.

b. Treasurer – Marjorie Doyle

The Treasurer's report was circulated at the meeting. A net income of \$7,940.19 and a cash balance of \$2,457.68 were reported for the year ending June 30, 2011. Annual dues pay our operating expenses, and lifetime membership dues are invested. The Executive Committee had decided that we would ladder the investments. However, because the interest rate was so low the GIC which matured was re-invested for one year only. A decision will be taken again regarding the investment on its due date in December, 2011. We will receive only \$41.38 interest on a 3 year GIC maturing on December 12, 2012.

Motion (Doyle/MacEwan) to accept the Treasurer's report. **Carried**

c. Membership – Archie Cooper

The Membership Committee report was circulated with the agenda. Over the past year there was a slight increase in the percentage of members in the Active category. Only about 10 percent of

our Active Members reside outside of Manitoba, compared to 33 percent of the Inactive Members. We have members in all provinces except PEI, in eight US states, and five other countries.

Motion (Cooper/LeBlanc) to receive the Membership Committee report. **Carried**

d. **Communications - John Mundie**

The Communication Committee report was circulated with the agenda. John Mundie pointed out that once our newsletter editor submits the draft of the newsletter to Learning and Development Services, its final content is beyond our control. Information for the In Memoriam section of our website is gathered from the Winnipeg *Free Press* and the Staff Benefits Office. Sometimes notices fall between the gaps, so if anyone is aware of deceased members please notify Janice Mann, our webmaster.

Motion (Mundie/Doyle) to receive the Communications Committee report. **Carried**

e. **Interest Groups – Jim Jamieson**

Lois Brockman reported on behalf of Jim Jamieson. The Committee's purpose is to facilitate members in forming interest groups. A photography group being run by Bob Talbot has been established. Another group is being considered and hopefully other groups will evolve.

f. **Benefits and Pensions – Betty Johns**

The Benefit and Pensions Committee report was circulated at the meeting. Jay Goldstein reported on behalf of Betty Johns. Mr. Terry Voss (Executive Director of Human Resources) is still considering two new benefits we have proposed: tuition fee remission for successfully completed undergraduate courses and access to the Employee Assistance Plan for the first two years after retirement. Members should contact Betty Johns with suggestions for other potential benefits.

g. **Ad Hoc Retiree Centre – Lois Brockman**

Lois Brockman reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Retiree Centre Committee that a meeting is to be held in a couple of weeks regarding the planning of the golf course site development. Lois invited members to submit ideas and comments to the ad hoc committee. She advised members of a Visionary Conversations meeting entitled "Livable Cities: 21st Century Perspectives" to be held on October 18, 2011. Michelle Richard, the Director of Campus Planning, is a featured speaker.

h. **United Way – Brian Macpherson**

No report.

i. **Nominating – Lois Brockman**

The Nominating Committee report was circulated with the agenda. Lois thanked Lloyd Campbell and Jim Jamieson for their service as their terms are ending.

(1) **Elections**

Motion (Brockman/Mundie) on behalf of the Nominating Committee:

1. That Jay Goldstein be re-elected as President for a further one year.
2. That Marjorie Doyle be re-elected as Treasurer for a two-year term.
3. That Dennis Cooley and Rudy Schilling be elected as Members-at-Large, each for a two-year term.

Carried

5. New Business

The report of the Sub-committee on Membership Categories was circulated with the agenda. Jay Goldstein pointed out that there are two membership categories in our constitution: Active

Members (who pay dues and have voting rights) and Inactive Members (who do not pay dues and do not have voting rights). Some people have said that they find the terms “active” and “inactive” confusing. There have been suggestions that we abolish the Inactive Member category and have a single category of dues-paying “Members.” Others have argued that it is important to continue to provide an opportunity for people to join without having to pay dues. The Executive Committee established a Sub-committee on Membership Categories. In its March, 2011, report the sub-committee recommended amending our constitution regarding our membership categories. The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation of the sub-committee.

Motion (Executive Committee) That the UMRA Constitution be amended as follows [NB. Additions are underlined, deletions are struck out]:

Article 3 - Membership

3.1 Membership ~~is~~ shall be open to all retirees of the University of Manitoba and their spouses/partners.

3.2 There shall be two categories of membership ~~status~~:

3.2.1 ~~Active~~ Members are those who have paid the authorized lifetime or annual membership fee.

3.2.2 ~~Inactive~~ Associate Members are those who have not paid the authorized lifetime or annual membership fee.

Article 4 - Executive Committee

4.3 Only ~~Active~~ Members shall be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.

Article 5 - Elections and Voting

5.2 Only ~~Active~~ Members shall be eligible to vote in elections.

Article 7 - Meetings

7.1.1 Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to all ~~m~~ Members not later than four weeks prior to the given date.

7.1.2 Quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be 10 ~~Active~~ Members.

7.2.1 Quorum for a General Meeting shall be 10 ~~Active~~ Members.

Article 10 - Amendment of the Constitution

10.2 Constitutional amendments may be recommended by the Executive Committee or by any five ~~Active~~ Members of the Association.

10.2.1 ~~Active~~ Members wishing to propose an amendment to the Constitution shall submit it in writing to the Executive Committee at least 60 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

10.3 A two-thirds majority of ~~Active~~ Members present and voting at the meeting is required for a constitutional change.

Jay Goldstein noted that a two-thirds majority of Active Members present is required to amend our Constitution. **Carried**

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 1:55 pm (non-debatable).