

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee Meeting

Arboretum Centre Board Room

Minutes November 1, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

Present: Diane Boyd, Terry Crowley, Susan Evers, Gary Frankie, Peter Landoni , Dale Lockie , Dana Paramskas , Eric Reiche, David Swayne, Ken Woodside

Regrets: Ron Downey, Robin Davidson-Arnott

Guests: Jim Atkinson, Grace Correia (United Way)

Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

Jim Atkinson and Grace Correia made a presentation on behalf of the University's United Way campaign. A brief discussion ensued: some members of UGRA executive had not received any correspondence, probably because of cross-listing (or not) with their old departments, schools or units. Earlier information would make it possible to put the info in the Fall UGRA Newsletter. It was noted that the retirees are significant contributors to the campaign, but do not get a lot of recognition from the University. Better recognition of this (and other) aspects of retiree activity for the University would help maintain high levels of contribution and help the profile of retirees.

A shortened meeting was held in anticipation of the visit by the VP of Finance and Administration, Don O'Leary

G. Frankie announced that he received a message from Ron Downey, who regrets that he must resign from UGRA executive. As Past President, D. Lockie will chair a search for a replacement

1. Approval of Agenda. M: Evans / S: Landoni. Unanimous
2. Approval of Oct 4, 2011 Minutes. M: Crowley / S: Reiche. After editorial changes, approved unanimously.
3. Business Arising from Minutes.

Business arising was assumed to be also covered in item 4. Discussion on forums. It was noted that there were one or two attendees at convocation. (A note to UGRA regarding Fall convocation had been sent out by the UGRA President). Frankie reported he met with J. Shoveller, VP Alumni Affairs and Development, who shared her vision of the new fundraising campaign. Her vision of "Four Pillars" is a likely response to move away from the traditional College-oriented approach which is uneven in its success. No specific request of retirees was made by Shoveller at this time.

4. In the discussion on forums, Frankie tabled his report on topics suggested in previous meetings. Discussion added more possibilities:
5. Evergreen (citywide organization)
 - Financial advisors (some problems with this topic)
 - The American IRS and its latest look at expatriates, which can be broadened to foreign income of Canadians
 - Condo ownership issues
 - Geriatric health
 - Someone on Wills – perhaps a lawyer to talk on the topic
 - Someone from CARP
 - Traveling for seniors
 - Different themes for the 60's,70's,90's
 - Patricia Lovett-Reid – TD Bank to present
 - Long term care issues

A suggestion of 2 topics Fall and 2 topics Spring (Financial Health x 2, Physical and Mental Health x 2) was made

The meeting was suspended prior to the VP Finance and Admin., Don O'Leary arriving at 2:30pm. A discussion ensued on what topics to bring up with the VP. Lockie agreed to bring up the issue of the pension for the small, closed non-professional pension group of retirees.

VP meeting

The VP introduced himself and struck comparisons with his old institution and Guelph retirees. He described differences between Trent and Guelph: Trent has no pension cap, Guelph has a benefits package. He assured the executive that, for now, existing pensioners are safe from changes. He also was encouraging that retirees continue to participate in University life. He agreed to attend occasional meetings to brief retirees through the executive.

Post VP meeting

The VP ended his visit at 3:10pm.

A post meeting discussion ensued. It was noted that retirees typically have a longer affiliation with the University than any other group, and should take steps to be more visible. It was questioned if the Benefits package for retirees is totally safe from change.

The regular meeting then resumed.

6. Committee reports:
 - a. Treasurer
 - A further \$110 in contributions of member dues was received
 - b. Website and Membership
 - Membership is up slightly, web link is in.
 - c. B of G Pensions: no report
 - d. Stakeholders group: no report
 - e. Benefits: ongoing discussions are taking place.

f. Newsletter: is out

g. CURAC: no report

7. New Business: Paramskas tabled her report on activities of other retiree organizations in Ontario. It was noted that Guelph is low in number of activities, as compared to the other organizations.
There was no additional new business.
8. Adjournment: The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.