

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING
OF THE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD ON
THURSDAY APRIL 29TH 2004
IN ROOM SPS-110 OF THE RICHARD J. RENAUD SCIENCE COMPLEX**

34.1 Call to Order and President's Remarks.

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The President, John Hall called the meeting to order. He welcomed new members to the Association and announced with regret the names of members who had died.

34.2 Approval of the Agenda

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On a motion by Ron Wareham seconded by Geoff Adams and unanimously carried the meeting agenda was approved.

34.3 Minutes of the meeting of October 22nd 2003

The minutes of the October 22nd 2003 meeting were distributed. Doug Hamblin moved approval of the Minutes, seconded by Geoff Adams. The motion was carried unanimously.

34.4 Business arising from the minutes

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Business arising from the Minutes appears under "Reports" or elsewhere in the Agenda.

34.5 Reports

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34.5.1 Scholarship Committee

- Geoff Adams reported on the activities of the committee. In 2003 – 2004 four undergraduate scholarships and four undergraduate bursaries of \$2,000.00 each were awarded. The recipients were Danielle Badgely (Biology) Ana Maria Busnita (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Tiffany-Lee Gioncala White (Accounting, Gary Germeil (Marketing), Nancy Lamontagne (Photography), Daniele Bruno Poliforni (Mechanical Engineering), Lois Esther Rowe (Fibres), and Anne-Marie Taravella (Translation). Recipients of the four graduate awards of \$4,000.00 each were Kinga Araya (PhD., Special Individualized Programme), Bao Zhu Liu (M. Eng., Electrical and Computer Engineering), Jean Riddle (M.F.A., Studio Arts) and Jian Ming Zhang (M.A., Public Policy and Public Administration)

34.5.2 Programme Committee

- The President reported that the activities of this Committee had been curtailed due to the death of Bob Pallen. It is expected that the survey of participants currently in progress would give a clearer indication of members' priorities.

34.5.3 Financial Report

- Due to the absence of Phil O'Doherty, Colin Waters presented the interim statement of Income and expenses for the period June 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. It showed income of \$4,286.21 and expenditure of \$4,309.05, with a closing balance of \$9,380.35. It was agreed that the current annual membership fee would remain at \$15.00.

34.5.4 Pension and Benefits Committee

- Howard Fink reported on the activities of the Pension Committee. He reported that the Pension Fund, which had a value of \$470 million in December 2001 and reduced to \$432 million in 2002, had subsequently grown to \$483 million by December 2003, which represented a 17% increase. There was a further gain of 5.2% by March 2004, when the total fund reached \$503 million. While a small surplus had accumulated, indexation was unlikely this year, as the fund has not yet recovered from previous reduced performance.

- Howard reported on the status of the class-action suit. The hearing of the appeal against the jurisdiction verdict, which had been scheduled for that very day, had been cancelled. He reminded the members present that the original motion had been refused on the grounds that it had not been addressed to the proper court. This decision had been appealed by CUFA, whose lawyers may be permitted to take the matter to the Supreme Court should that become necessary.

The President was unable to give a report on the Benefits Committee since it had not met since the fall. He did report that he and Howard Fink had succeeded in obtaining the right to have a non-voting observer on the Board of Governors. This observer will have the right to speak to items directly related to the interests of the non-active members of the pension plan at both open and closed session of all regular and special meetings of the Board, as well as meetings of the Corporation. The representative is to be nominated by the Pensioner's Association thus recognizing the Association as the voice of all non-actives (Retired and vested members). The Executive Committee had appointed John Hall to that position and he attended his first meeting a few days previously. At his suggestion, a proposal to extend the University Code of Rights and Responsibilities to non-actives will be discussed at the May meeting. In answer to a question from the floor as to why non-actives were not covered for vision and dental care, Howard Fink reminded members that the matter had been raised in the past but had been rejected on the grounds of its high cost. He did report that the federation of College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) was studying the issue. The President and Howard, thanks to outside financing, will attend that body's May meeting in Winnipeg.

34.5.5 Technical Committee

Peter Paquet reported on the activities of the Technical Committee. He informed the members that the Web site was up and running at cupa.concordia.ca. A majordomo list of e-mail addresses had been set up which could eventually reduce mailing costs. There is no cost involved but members must ask to subscribe to the list. Peter added that people could find all the information on the Web site.

34.5.6 Nominating Committee

Geoff Adams reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. For the 2004 –2005 Executive, they have recommended: President Graham Martin; Vice President Howard Fink, Secretary Treasurer Colin Waters (temporary until a Treasurer is found to replace Phil O’Doherty who has resigned for health reasons); Members at large returning: John Fiset, Barbara Harding and Peter Paquet; New members at large: Bérèngere Gaudet-Tremblay, Shirley Maynes and Stephen Kumarapeli; Member ex-officio: (CUPARUC editor) Jim Whitelaw; representatives on the Pensions and Benefits Committee: John Hall and Howard Fink (alternate).

The 2004 – 2005 Executive was proposed by Geoff Adams, seconded by Joya Sen and unanimously carried.

34.6 Guest Speaker

The President introduced Dr. Joe Schwartz, Director of the McGill Office for Science and Society, and well-known author, journalist and commentator. Dr. Schwartz addressed the gathering on the “Science of Aging”. This was a most entertaining address, covering, amongst other things the attempts of past ages to prolong life and improve its quality, accompanied by light-hearted visuals. His presentation was warmly received and much appreciated. He noted that he regularly gives courses, open to all, on Tuesday evenings through the McGill Centre for Continuing Education. Mary Baldwin thanked Dr. Schwartz for his lively presentation.

34.7 Next Meeting

The fall meeting will be held in late October on the Sir George Williams campus.

34.8 Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned on a motion by Geoff Adams, seconded by Graham Martin and unanimously carried.