MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING
OF THE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD ON
MAY 2, 1990
AT 1100 HOURS
IN THE SGW FACULTY CLUB

6.1 Call to Order

6.1.1 The meeting was called to order at 1105. Bordan commented that all of our meetings seem to involve roughly the same number of people, but it appears to be a different mix each time. He was pleased at the turnout, and thanked everyone for coming.

6.2 Approval of Agenda

6.2.1 It was moved and seconded (Bill Cozens/Peg McMurray) that the agenda be approved. Carried.

6.3 Approval of Minutes

6.3.1 It was moved and seconded (Suzanne Ouimet/Bill Shore) that the minutes be approved. Carried.

6.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

6.4.1 Bordan read excerpts of a letter from Bob and Isobel Rae in response to one from the Association congratulating them on their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

6.4.2 Bordan checked to make sure everyone had received the letter from Doug Devenne of Ancillary Services extending an invitation to all pensioners to use the dining rooms on each campus.

6.4.3 Gardham reported that there had been forty-two members and guests at the Christmas Luncheon. This seems to be a social event enjoyed by all, and should now be considered an "annual event".

6.4.4 Whitelaw reported that when the idea of a membership survey first came up Maag and Chaikelson in the Psychology Department appeared interested. The graduate student who might have done the work however has since left the University. Whitelaw felt that there were members of CUPA with experience in this sort of thing, and he felt we should do it ourselves. There are two separate operations: (a) feed-back on what the association should be doing and (b) an analysis of

the retirement experience. (a) The feed-back questionnaire was sent out with the Notice of Meeting and he had received seventeen responses so far, which showed interest in the following:

9 - social
9 - financial self-help
7 - other
8 - preretirement counselling
8 - lobbying

The question asking members to indicate areas in which they would be able to help was conspicuously blank in most cases.

More frequent meetings - 7 yes, 10 no

Regular guest speakers - 13 said yes

One interesting suggestion was the establishment of a "buddy system" - it would be nice to have someone checking on those living alone.

Follow-up: We will discuss the responses at the next meeting; in the meantime we will organize anything that is possible.

(b) Analysis of the retirement experience - in an effort to help ourselves and to provide help to future retirees in the University. We have three possibilities

1) Continue pursuing the matter with Psychology

2) Drop the whole thing

3) Do something on our own with our own resources

Whitelaw said that we had members qualified to participate in this kind of exercise , so the resources are here.

Maritzer felt it was important to continue the study, because it will broaden our lives if we find out the avenues open to us: Senior organizations such as tour travel, volunteer activities, etc.

Whitelaw agreed to work with a small CUPA group to prepare this part of the study.

The agenda order was then changed to accomodate our guest speaker, who had just joined us.

7.1 Presentation by Professor Graeme Decarie, Chairman of the Department of History

Graeme Decarie presented a humorous talk which started with a comparison of his view of retirement at seventeen and at fifty. He then evaluated his sabbatical experience as a sort of temporary retirement period. He concluded that you have to have something to do, and it must be something that demands a schedule. You must have a purpose, and human contact. When you are working you have the demands of a schedule and other things get slotted into the minor place that they deserve. Without a schedule the minor things - chores, errands, etc. take over and become central.

Also you have to find something that includes human contact and not purely on a social basis, or things will degenerate into inane conversations about the weather. You have to meet people in a setting in which you are doing things together - there has to be a point to the meeting. In short - its terribly important to engage in something that has a schedule, that involves contact with other people, and that's in a purposeful environment.

Whitelaw thanked Professor Decarie.

Maritzer pointed out that the Protestant School Board is involved in a one-on-one project to raise the literacy level. People who would like to work in this area could contact them. McDougall noted that the project is called Reclaim.

We then returned to the original agenda.

5.1 Establishment of 1990-91 fees

The executive recommended that we retain the $ 5.00 annual fee. It has been sufficient to cover the expenses for which it was introduced, i.e. the cost of printing and postage.

Bordan read a letter from George Snowball in which he suggested establishing life memberships, the membership fee to be $ 35.00, or seven times the annual fee.

It was moved and seconded (Bill Cozens/Andre LaPrade) that the fee structure remain the same for the time being, and that the suggestion of life memberships not be pursued at this time. Carried.

At this point there was a break in the meeting, and members were given the opportunity to sign the attendance register and to pay their fees.

6.5 Chairman's Report

6.5.1 Bordan reported that the raison d'etre behind the establishment of the Pensioners' Association had been to get a member or two on the Benefits Committee of the Board of Governors, and this request was put to the administration after our first meeting in May of 1988.

In the meantime the law on pension plans has changed and the University will now be obliged to include us in the management of the pension fund. However there are many new requirements and related deadlines. The deadline for including retirees in the fund management is January 1, 1991. The University's energies are going into those changes having earlier deadlines and, in particular, changes involving inclusion of part-time staff. Vice-Rector Cohen has asked us once again to be patient and assured us that the University will meet the January 1 deadline, at the latest, and that we would be represented on the Benefits Committee.

In accordance with its practice the University has once again applied its indexing formula to our pensions. The practice is to consider an ad hoc increase every second year, based on compounding the cost of living index, less two percent, over the two year period. The result, for this round, is an increase of 5.2%,* effective June 1, 1990, for pensioners who retired on or before January 1, 1988. For those who retired after that date the

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* The December 1987 CPI = 140.5; the December 1988 CPI = 146.1, for an increase of 3.99% and 3.99 - 2.00 = 1.99%. Similarly, the December 1989 CPI was 153.6, an increase of 5.13% over the 1988 figure. Thus, again, 5.13 - 2.00 = 3.13%. Finally compounding the two results: 1.0199 x 1.0313 = 1.0518 or rounding up, 1.052. This gives the 5.2% noted above.

increase will be prorated at 1/24th of 5.2% for each month of retirement.

One of our charter members, Henry Tutsch, late of the Department of Management passed away, as has Elizabeth Mouledoux, wife of Dr. J. Mouledoux, and late of the department of Psychology.

The meeting was also informed that Henry Worrell was in a coma in hospital after a fall on the street.

6.8 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Gardham read her statement of changes in cash position for the period March 31, 1989 to March 31, 1990. Our current credit balance is $ 825.

It was moved and seconded (Dorothy Clark/Dick McDonald) that the Secretary-Treasurer's Report be accepted. Carried.

6.9 Nominating Committee Report

6.9.1 Mona Osborne reported that she had chaired a meeting of the committee, consisting of John Hall, Alberta Boswall and Bill Cozens. As a result of this meeting they put forth the following:

J. H. Whitelaw - Vice-President
Dagmar McDougall - Member-at-large

both nominees have agreed to serve.

6.10 Election

There being no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded (Mona Osborne/Arsene Lauziere) that the above named candidates be accepted into the offices for which they were nominated. Carried.

6.11 Other Business

6.11.1 Arsene Lauziere asked to whom one should direct queries regarding one's pension - Montreal Trust or the University. An answer to the question will be included in the next mailing to members.

6.11.2 Vince Drolet asked how many people had retired from the University last year, and were they contacted by the University regarding membership in the association.

Bordan responded that we have received new members as a result of Human Resources handing out our form. But he added that it would be nice to have an annual list of retirees, and he will try to convince the University, once again, to supply one.

6.11.3 Andy LaPrade asked if we had ever thanked the University for sending us copies of the Thursday Report.

Bordan responded that we had, although not in writing. Several people indicated that they were not receiving Thursday Report and he volunteered to look after getting them on the mailing list.

6.11.4 Bordan said that our Constitution (Item 2 c) effectively includes helping the University as one of our objectives. Are we interested in helping with fund raising campaigns. The consensus was that members would not mind being canvassed by the Association, but did not want to be put on a University mailing list directly. Bordan will look into getting pertinent information and dates.

Bill Shore asked to whom one should send a change of address. It appeared that there was no centralized point - Dawn Johnston in Benefits - the Montreal Trust, CUPA, and the Alumni if appropriate. This question will be dealt with in the response to item 6.11.1.

Kurt Jonassohn asked if we were supposed to get a slip from Montreal Trust every month. Bordan responded that it had been his experience that he received a slip only when there was a change in the amount deposited, and at the end of the year.

6.12 Next Meeting

6.12.1 The next meeting will be held on October 24, 1990; a Notice of Meeting and Agenda will be sent out at least two weeks in advance.

6.13 Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1240 hours.

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