

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY FIFTH MEETING
OF THE
CONCORDIA PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION
HELD ON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009 – 10:00 A.M.
ROOM H-763 SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS**

45.1 Call to Order and President's Remarks

President Graham Martin sends his regrets and in his absence, Vice-President Howard Fink called the meeting to order. Shirley Robinson agreed to take the minutes in Colin Waters absence. Howard welcomed new members to the association and announced with regret the names of the members who had died.

45.2 Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was distributed and on a motion by Richard Cheng, seconded by Roger Kenner, was unanimously approved.

45.3 Minutes of the Meeting of April 30, 2009

The minutes of the April 30, 2009 meeting were distributed. Jim Whitelaw proposed adoption of the minutes, seconded by Barbara Harding and unanimously carried. In the minutes, Under Article 44.5.8 (Nominating Committee) Garry Milton commented on Graham Martin's term ending in the year 2020. It was unanimously agreed to allow the article to stand.

45.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

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

45.5 Reports

45.5.1 Financial Report

Howard reviewed the Annual Statement of Income and Expenses for the period June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009 as distributed. The statement indicated an opening balance of \$4,400.57. Income was \$10,194.66 with a closing balance of \$6,700.26. Howard reminded everyone annual membership fees were due.

45.5.2 Program Committee

Steve Kumarapeli –a tour of The Canadian Guild of Crafts – 1460 Sherbrooke (limited to 15 attendees) followed by lunch has been planned for November 18-09. The Annual Holiday Lunch is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9 in the SGW Faculty Club. Flyer to follow.

45.5.3 Scholarship Committee

In Mary Baldwin's absence, John Fiset gave a brief report on the background of the Scholarship funding and announced a meeting has been planned with the University in order to complete the list of recipients.

45.5.4 Technical Committee

In Peter Pacquet's absence, Roger Kenner announced that he will be taking over the management of the CUPA website. He noted that the paper copy of the first few pages of the Newsletter will be mailed and the balance of the newsletter will be published on the site.

At this point, Howard turned the floor over to Gwen Newsham who commented on how gloomy everyone looked and in an effort to lighten things up, Gwen presented us with the following:

“A black man being elected president would only happen when Pigs Would Fly!!
Two weeks later – Swine Flu!!!”

45.5.5 Relations with Other Associations

As past President of CURAC, Howard outlined some of the many committees associated with the group. The next conference will be held in May 18-20, 2010 at York University in Toronto. Additional information on the conference topics and committee may be found on the CURAC website.

45.6 Pension and Benefits Committee

As Senior representative on the Pension and Benefits Committee, Howard's responsibilities are shared with Eddy Ginocchi, currently a member of the Risk Assessment Sub Committee. In Eddy's absence Howard announced that the committee is working steadily on the risks of investments as concern the pension fund and also the difficult task of “green investments” while ensuring the quality of the fund.

Howard noted - We are coming out of the Economic Recession very well – we have regained half of our losses - 18% in the past 6 months and continue to rise. Everything appears to be well under control. The investment counsellors feel we are in a less worrisome position, although we are not back 100%.

Richard Cheng pointed out that on the most recent Benefit Statement, there appears to be incorrect information listed under the heading “Spouse and Beneficiary(ies) as per our Records”. Also, the paragraph following the designated beneficiary(ies) is very confusing.

Shirley Robinson noted that she called Benefits regarding the misinformation on her statement and was informed by Joanne Patton that while the correct information was on file, it had not as yet have been added to the Pension Statement due to the implementation of a new computer system.

Howard will contact Benefits and suggest that a letter of explanation be issued to all retirees.

Benefits Review Sub Committee – Howard noted that in the past, this committee reviews non-pension benefits, i.e., health insurance, however, at this time there was an attempt by the University to change completely the type of health benefits. At the moment we all share the responsibility of usage and the plan provides all users with the same benefits. The University would like to see a Flex Plan implemented where individuals would “pick and choose” their options. This would then no longer be a true insurance plan. Any changes would take up to three years to implement. In general, the majority of the University groups are opposed to the Flex Plan.

During the February 12, 2009 Executive meeting, our CUPA Executive passed the following unanimous motion – “That the representatives should vote against any flex plan of benefits should such a recommendation be submitted”.

Howard Fink (in his capacity as a member of the Benefits Committee and not as chair of this meeting) proposed the following motion: that the CUPA representatives on the committee will vote against any flex plan of benefits should such a recommendation be submitted. Seconded by John Woodrow. All in favour – one opposed - Motion carried.

Howard noted that the University cannot make any of this decision unilaterally.

45.7 – Other Business

Centraide Presentation by Garry Milton and Catherine Mulligan. Last year we raised \$182,000 and the goal for this year is \$190,000.

Howard introduced our Guest Speaker – Sheila Goldbloom, working in conjunction with committees established by Marguerite Blais, Minister Responsible for Senior Affairs. Mrs. Goldbloom addressed the Facts and Fictions about Aging and the challenges faced by the Quebec Government in dealing with the necessary resources.

45.8 - Next Meeting

Tentatively set for 10:00 a.m. April 29, 2010.

45.9 Adjournment

On a motion by Steve Kumarapeli, second by Beverly Rennick, the meeting was adjourned.

