MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING
OF THE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
HELD ON
TUESDAY,OCTOBER 27, 1992
IN ROOM H 767, THE FACULTY CLUB LOUNGE
IN THE HALL BUILDING

11.1 Call to Order

11.1.1 The President called the meeting to order.

11.2 Approval of the Agenda

11.2.1 A motion to approve the agenda as circulated proposed by Gardham, seconded by Boswell was carried.

11.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 6, 1992

11.3.1 A motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting Held on May 6, 1992 was proposed by Kurt Joanassohn and seconded by Dorothy Clarke. Carried unanimously.

11.4 Business Arising from the Minutes

11.4.1 Amendments to the Constitution.
The President reported that the changes to the constitution approved at the last meeting had now been incorporated into the constitution document. This document was mailed to all members with the last mailing.

11.5 Reports

11.5.1 Report from the Representative on the Pension and Benefits Committees

11.5.1.1 Annual General Meeting of the Concordia Pension Plan.
Bordan reminded the members that the Annual Meeting of the Pension Plan was scheduled for later in the day. This meeting is required by law and provides all members with information about the Plan's administration and status. He stated that the Plan is in good financial shape at this point.

11.5.1.2 Benefits Committee.
The Benefits Committee has now approved the increase in out-of-country coverage for retired members of the Health Insurance Plan to $100,000 from $30,000. Bordan told the group that he had tried hard to eliminate the ceiling for retired members and to assimilate us with the rest of the group but the insurance company was not prepared to go beyond $100,000 per calendar year.

In addition the Plan will cover as a normal claim the $2.00 "user" fee that Quebec Medicare has introduced for prescriptions for those over the age of 65.

With respect to the increase in premiums for the Extended Health Insurance Plan, Bordan stated that the rates increased an average of 33%. However, as a result of a study of the Plan usage performed by the consultants, it was determined that the costs for single covered members went up, while the costs for married members went down. This difference was reflected in the rate increases charged to all plan members. Bordan reassured all present that based upon the cost analysis and information reviewed by the Benefits Committee, the rate increases are justified.

Bordan also informed the meeting that he is still endeavouring to convince the Committee that an additional representative of the "non-active" members of the plan should be added to the Pension and Benefits Committees (even if with only observer status) so that there is continuity and representation when the voting member is not available for meetings.

11.5.2 Report of the Programmes Committee

11.5.2.1 Tour of the McAusland Brewery.
Dagmar McDougall advised the meeting that a tour of this micro-brewery, run by a Concordia graduate, was scheduled for Wednesday February 27, 1993.

11.5.2.2 Tour of the Calliere Museum (an Archaeological Dig just west of the Bonsecours Market).
This could be held sometime in May. McDougall offered suggestions for taking the tour (cost = $4.00 per person) in combination with lunch if the members felt so inclined.

11.5.2.3 Annual Sugaring-off Party. McDougall suggested that this would take place in late March or early April. Although the site of last year's party was for-the-most-part good she requested suggestions from the membership for other sites found satisfactory.

11.5.2.4 Monthly Luncheon Get-Togethers. McDougall stated that many organizations have monthly informal luncheons so that members may maintain contact with each other. She suggested that there would be no formal planning but a predetermined day, time and location would be announced and interested members would show up at that time. She asked the members to indicate if they would be interested

in such an arrangement and to suggest appropriate restaurants.

A sheet listing the above mentioned events was circulated and members were requested to indicate their interest in the events so that the Programs Committee may begin to make arrangements.

11.5.3 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

11.5.3.1 Financial Report
Hall mentioned that some members, having overpaid their dues, had suggested that, instead of refunding them, they be used to provide assistance in paying membership dues of those members who may have difficulty in paying their dues. He stated that one member of the group has been extremely generous in this respect and thanked all of those for this fine gesture of companionship and community spirit.

The financial situation since 1 June, 1992 is as follows:

Opening Balance on 1 June 1992		$550.30
Disbursements (including estimate of mailing costs for this meeting)	$838.15	
Receipts	$1123.43	
Balance as of October 27, 1992		$835.58
Plus a petty cash float of	$24.59	

11.5.3.2 Waiver of first year's fees for new members.
It was mentioned that the Executive Committee had been thinking of ways to welcome new members into the Association. Instead of trying to organize a "Wine and Cheese" reception for all new members, the Committee felt a much more direct and meaningful method would be to waive the first year's annual dues. This would not only encourage membership, but also be a tangible gesture welcome to new members.

Moved by Bordan, seconded by Dagmar McDougall, that the first year's annual dues be waived for all new members upon joining the Association. This waiver is not retroactive. Carried.

11.5.4 Report from the Coalition des Aînés

Petolas reminded members that the Coalition addresses the main concerns of Seniors and maintains links with other similar groups throughout Canada.

He reported that the Coalition will hold a General Meeting on December 4, 1992 at 9:00 a.m. A luncheon will be served and all members of all of the 17 Associations which form the Coalition are invited to attend. The meeting will address such issues as health and finances of Seniors, the health services available to Seniors, the erosion of universality of health care, the apparent lack of information about services provided by CLSC's, etc. Also issues concerning government pensions and housing and homes for the aged will be discussed. Michael Sheldon will lead a workshop and the Coalition is asking for others to volunteer as workshop leaders. Members interested in attending this meeting were asked to call the Secretary-Treasurer to reserve places.

11.5.5 Newsletter

Whitelaw thanked Anne Adams for typesetting this most recent issue. Its appearance is much improved. He informed the membership that the next issue would be published early in the New Year. He asked if the members felt that the newsletter was a worthwhile project and did they enjoy receiving it? The response was a resounding "yes", to which he requested that the members keep him supplied with items of their activities, achievements, experiences and other "dirt" which would be of interest to the membership at large. He stated that information about financial matters affecting Seniors might be useful to include as a regular feature. Also the "Retirement Experiences" which have appeared seem to be well received. So members who wish to submit such articles should consult with him for further details.

11.5.6 Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed two new members who were present at the meeting, Helen Hanak and Brian Smith. He stated that he had received from the Human Resources Department a list of people who had recently retired. He read from the list and asked the members to contact any of those they may know to encourage them to join the Association. He stated that the Association continues to have a good rapport with the Human resources Department and they have been cooperative in providing whatever information they can release without breaking confidentiality. He also mentioned that the Executive Committee was trying to

develop a communication chain (or telephone tree) to call members to remind them of events or urgent matters. The membership indicated that they would welcome such a system.

11.6 Appointments

The President advised the membership that in accordance with the constitution there are vacancies occurring on the Executive of the Association each year as individual's terms of office expire. This year one position (Member-at-Large) will be due for appointment. It is therefore necessary to appoint a Nominating Committee to make a recommendation to the membership at the next Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee had proposed the following membership:

J.P. Petolas as Chair
Lila Van Toch
Catherine Hughes.

He then called for alternative suggestions from the floor. Since none were forthcoming he called for a motion.

A motion proposed by Mona Osborne, seconded by Libby Gardham that J.P. Petolas, Lila Van Toch and Catherine Hughes be appointed as the Nominating Committee was carried unanimously.

11.7 Annual Luncheon

The Chair stated that there had been some questions from the membership suggesting that the location of the annual luncheon be changed. As a result two of the members of the Executive Committee (Doreen Bates and Mary Callaghan) did some research on restaurants and costs for the luncheon. They reported that they had information about four locations. They were Gibbys, LaSalle College, Antico Martini and the Loyola Faculty Club. All of the commercial establishments had similar costs but taxes and service were not included while Loyola's price was all-inclusive. The Loyola bar costs were also more reasonable. Finally parking facilities were much better at Loyola.

It was therefore moved by Ken Adams, seconded by Alberta Boswell that the Annual Luncheon be held at Loyola Faculty Club again this year. The motion was carried.

The date was set for Thursday, December 10, 1992.

11.8 Guest Speaker - Dean Gail Valaskaskis, Faculty of Arts and Science

The President welcomed Dean Valaskakis who was appointed as Acting Dean in January and as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science in June of this year.

Dean Valaskakis said that she was very pleased to come to speak of the challenges and plans she has for the Faculty.

She said that she begun her task by touring the Departments of the Faculty to provide her with a sense of the total Faculty before developing her own "Mission Statement". In addition she has had two "retreats" with Department Chairs to study and develop priorities.

Some of the priorities that she sees as important are:

- Monies for graduate students
- Support of teaching and research
- Recognition of teaching
- Research centres - to put in place the "building blocks" of research. One aspect of this is computerization. We have to computerize. 70 computers have been installed in the past few months. Also computer literacy courses have been revamped and up-dated. No student should graduate without being able to write English, speak French and be computer literate.
- New programmes:
  a PhD in Biology and a PhD in Mathematics both awaiting Quebec approval,
  an MA in Translation,
  an MA in Applied Social Science both going to Senate.
  a PhD in Art History in conjunction with other Universities has just been introduced.

Part of the mission is to respond to the needs of the community. An example has been to develop two programmes in Applied Social Science to help Natives. One was to provide training to Cree teachers in a Native Family Life Programme. The other was to train counsellors in the Native Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programme.

Another area of interest is the reinforcement of policies in dealing with the retention of students. This requires focus on admission and registration policies, policies on probationary and failed students, Grade Point Averages, etc.

Because of her background and special interests Dr. Valaskakis has started with Native Groups. With a Seagram's Grant for this year and a grant from Employment and Immigration Canada she has started a "Face and Place" programme for Native students. The face being a counsellor and the place being a community of fellow native students with common interests and goals.

Other issues are age, gender and class. On the gender issue some progress is being made. In the Faculty 21 women have been hired out of 28 positions filled this past spring.

At this point Dr. Valaskakis invited questions.

Ken Adams asked about the status of Telephone Registration. Dr. Valaskakis responded that it is still about 4 or 5 years off.

Dr. Valaskakis was asked to comment on why some departments restrict entry to their courses by students from outside their programme. She stated that this has been a problem for several years because some departments "block" their courses to protect their classes for their own programme students. Therefore these courses appear filled when places are actually available. These places are not released until very late in the registration period when it is too late for other students to gain access. She stated that hoped to rectify this problem.

The President thanked Dr. Valaskakis for a very lucid and enlightening talk which provided the members with new insights into the future of the Arts and Science Faculty and of the University as a whole.

11.9 Other Business

11.9.1 McGill Institute for Leaning in Retirement.
Michael Sheldon announced that there would be an Opening General Meeting of the McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement. This meeting is open to everyone and there will be a panel discussion entitled "Ethics and the Media - are we being manipulated?". The meeting will be held on Monday November 2, 1992 at 2:30 p.m. in the Stephen Leacock Building. There is no charge for members of the MILR and a $5.00 charge for non-members. The Panel will consist of Neil McKenty who will moderate, Irene Lambert, Gertrude Robertson (Professor of Communications at McGill), Michael Sheldon and John Thompson.

11.9.2 CDIC $60,000 Guarantee.
A member asked, since there has been concern recently expressed about the solvency of Trust Companies, if the Concordia Pension Fund is covered by the CDIC guarantee. Bordan responded that the CDIC guarantee did not apply in this case because of the nature of the fund and because the role of the Montreal Trust is primarily that of custodian of the fund's investment portfolio. Since the funds are segregated, the Trust Company has no direct control over the funds. While the question is a fair one, he stated that the Pension Committee has been assured many times that the funds are as risk free as any fund can be.

11.9.3 Availability of Laser Printers for Retirees.
One member asked if anyone was aware if access to laser printers are available to retirees on an occasional basis. Hall stated that such facilities did not seem to be available to his knowledge and that the Association has to rely on the goodness of some of our "friends" for such facilities.

11.10 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday May 5, 1993 in the SGW Faculty Lounge.

Notes: The President reminded the group that a tour of the new library building had been arranged for 4:30 p.m. following the meeting.

The President reminded the members that the Annual General Meeting of the Concordia Pension Plan would be held later (at 5:30 p.m.) in Room H 110 and that all were invited to that meeting.

11.11 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 11:50 a.m. on a motion made by Dorothy Clarke.

John L. Hall
Secretary-Treasurer
April 14, 1993