CUPA/ARUC
Concordia University Pensioners' Association
Association des Retraité(e) de L'Université Concordia

MINUTES of the Sixty-fourth Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.
Room C/D, 9th floor Conference Centre, John Molson School of Business, SGW Campus

1. Call to Order and President's Remarks

Joanne Locke (Scholarship Committee Chair) welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and announced that she would be acting as Chair because the current President, Garry Milton, was not available to attend due to a family situation. As all committees had submitted written reports available to attendees, she indicated that there would be a shortened agenda highlighting a selection of committees.

Joanne recognized and read the names of Concordia retirees who had passed away since the December 2018 Annual General Meeting and held a moment of silence in their memories. She thanked everyone for remembering them.

She welcomed new members.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION to approve agenda was made by Maria Peluso; SECONDED by Craig Buchanan. Agenda was APPROVED unanimously.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of May 15, 2018

Joanne went through the minutes page by page with all members present. As no changes were made, the minutes of the Dec. 14, 2018 meeting were APPROVED.

4. Business Arising from the December 14, 2018 Minutes

Joanne made reference to the 5.4 Scholarship Committee item in the Dec. 14, 2018 minutes and the motion that had been passed by the membership to "ask the CUPARUC Executive Committee to maintain the same level of financial support as in the past for our Retired Faculty and Staff Scholarships and Awards." She said that this would be discussed in item 5.2. Scholarship Committee of this meeting.

5. Reports

5.1 Financial Report & Membership Statistics

Bryan Campbell (Treasurer/Pension Committee Representative) reviewed the "Interim Financial Statement for the Period June 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019" that had been handed out for the meeting.

Joyce Payan (Membership Committee Chair) reviewed the handout entitled "Membership Statistics for the 2019 Annual General Meeting."

5.2 Scholarship Committee

Joanne Locke (Scholarship Committee Chair) reviewed the "Concordia University Pensioners' Association Scholarship Report for 2018-2019." She expressed the Executive Committee's concern with maintaining the same number of and monetary amounts for our annual scholarships and bursaries awarded to deserving students. In order to ensure consistent amounts in two previous years, CUPA has

topped up the awards payout by approximately $1000 each year. Joanne mentioned that the 2018 Pensioners Shuffle team had raised almost $1,300 and that a revised membership renewal form would list the endowment fund to encourage donations. Mary Baldwin recommended that our endowment fund be one of the choices for donations on the Annual Giving form that is sent out from Concordia's Advancement Office.

After further discussion, Maria Peluso recommended that the CUPARUC annual membership fees be increased by $5 up to $30/year with the $5 extra going directly to the endowment fund. Joanne asked for a show of hands for this initiative. All present were in agreement to add $5 to the yearly CUPARUC membership fee to be used to top up our Retired Faculty and Staff Scholarships and Awards Endowment Fund.

5.3 Benefits Committee

Hal Proppe (Benefits Committee Representative) directed everyone to the "Benefits Report 2019 CUPARUC Spring Newsletter" and explained that the Benefits Committee and Working Group have been meeting since Fall 2018 and looking at all of our group insurance plans. There are over 70 categories to be compared to other plans at other universities and similar organizations in Quebec. It is expected that this work with only be finished in late 2020 with a final report sent to the Board of Governors with implementation in January 2021.

Hal offered examples of some of the challenges of working through the many benefits and discussing their importance with plan members. There were numerous differing opinions regarding the importance of various benefits. The rising costs of medications, eyeglasses, hearing aids and dental work were raised as examples. Hal mentioned that members would be contacted before the working group made any decisions.

Some members expressed dissatisfaction with the customer service they had been receiving from Sun Life. It was suggested that if Concordia employees had a dedicated phone line that this service might improve.

5.4 Pension Committee

Bryan Campbell (Pension Committee Representative/Treasurer) highlighted a few points from the "Pension Report CUPA Annual Meeting May 2019" document that had been distributed. He directed members' attention to a table that showed poor performance in the 1st and 4th quarters. Concordia's plan has achieved its objective of 6% return over the last 5 years. Bryan mentioned that we are lucky to have a defined benefits plan and that our pensions are guaranteed.

6. Nominating Committee Report

6.1 Election of 2019-2020 Executive Committee

Hal Proppe represented Bill Knitter (Past President) who was not able to attend the meeting. He read Bill's 2019-2020 election report that stated that the President's position (two-year term) was the only one that was up for renewal. The current President, Garry Milton, had accepted the nomination by the Executive Committee to put his name forward for the position. As there were no other nominations, Garry Milton, was acclaimed in the President's position for the next two-year term.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in October or November with the time and location to be determined. All members will be contacted when the meeting is scheduled.

9. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn was made at 11:45 by Hal Proppe; SECONDED by Margaret Martin. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The meeting was followed by a luncheon in the same room. Sasha Lipskaia spoke during the lunch about the upcoming Concordia event "B/OLD: Aging in our City."

Minutes submitted by: Nancy Brennan Dec. 18, 2019