

MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING
OF THE
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY PENSIONNERS ASSOCIATION
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1992
AT 1030 HOURS
IN ROOM H-767, THE FACULTY CLUB LOUNGE
IN THE HALL BUILDING

10.1

10.1.1

10.2

10.2.1

10.3

10.3.1

Call to Order

Whitelaw called the meeting to order at 1035 and thanked those present for their continued support.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded (L. Bessner/J. Hall) that the Agenda be approved. Carried.

Approval of the Minutes

It was moved and seconded (J. Hall/P. MacMurray) that the Minutes of the Meeting of October 23, 1991 be approved. There being no errors or omissions the motion was carried.

10.4 from the Minutes

Business Arising

10.4.1

Ann

ual meeting of the members of the University
Pension Plan - 9.6

Whitelaw commented that our concerns about nominations from the floor at this meeting had been unfounded. He asked if everyone had

received a summary of what went on at that meeting from Human Resources, and asked if anyone had any particular concerns. There being none expressed, he reminded the group that this type of meeting is required by law, so that we can assume that there will be other similar meetings.

10.4.2

Appointment to the University Pension and Benefits Committees - 9.7.1

Whitelaw reported that Jack Bordan had been appointed to the Pension and Benefits Committees for a two-year term, and we would be hearing from him shortly.

10.4.3

Follow-

up to Members' Survey - 9.9.1, 9.9.6

Whitelaw has sent a copy of our survey results to Human Resources and has received a gracious letter back from them. A copy was also sent to the

2

Psychology Department, but, perhaps for some psychological reason we have had no acknowledgment from them.

Whitelaw had also asked members if there were other aspects of the survey results we might explore. There being no response he assumed not.

10.4.4

Involvement in the University pre-retirement programme - 9.9.3

Whitelaw reported that Dick McDonald and Guy Gervais had each attended one of these seminars, which provide financial advice, among other things, for people about to retire as well as for any others wishing to attend them. Human Resources -had asked us to provide speakers. Elaine Arsenault has said that Dick and Guy were

very helpful and she hoped we would become involved again.

Guy Gervais reported that people thought he was very enthusiastic about his own retirement, and while he hadn't had any comments from Human Resources no one left while he was speaking.

10.4.5 Buddy system - 9.9.5

We sent out a letter, but have received no responses. Whitelaw hoped that members didn't think this was some sort of Lonely Hearts Club or something. At any rate members had been given Alberta Boswall's telephone number, and they can still get in touch with her to indicate their interest, and perhaps we could look into this again at a later date.

He also asked members to think about things like the single supplement charged to people who travel alone - perhaps this group could become involved in putting people in touch with one another.

Whitelaw then explained that some people might be here today expecting the tour of the new Library Building that we had mentioned. Unfortunately guided tours are all after six o'clock in the evening as they are currently in the process of moving people into the building. The feeling was that it would be better for us to see it after everything is in place. However, we would have a representative from the Library speak to us later on today.

3

10.5 Reports

10.5.1

Representative on the Pension and Benefits Committees

Bordan reported that the term of appointment of the representative on the University Pension and Benefits Committees had been changed from one year to two because of some lobbying that was done behind the scenes, the only successful lobbying he had been able to do. He had tried to

get the Benefits Committee to change our representation to include a member and an alternate as ours is the only constituency with only one representative. This was not approved, but will more than likely come back on the agenda as he had had the support of the faculty and staff members. The limitations on the health plan have given rise to all kinds of debate, and the changes in the Provincial health plan may impact on this as well. This is the year for the cost-of-living increase on pensions, and it is in the works and will be looked at this week, on Thursday morning. The increase is likely to be small because the cost-of-living is not as big as it has been in the past. He would simply try to ensure that the formula used in the past is applied.

Bessner asked if the surplus in the fund had been confiscated, and Bordan assured him that it had not, and explained that it is the surplus that pays the ex gratia increases because the plan doesn't make allowances for them.

Bessner asked if we could approach the Insurance company to find out what the claims have been from the senior members. It might be easier to argue the case if we had some facts.

Bordan responded that the change in the health plan is retirement related, not age related, and the Vice-Rector has made it clear that that was one thing he was not going to change. Members were advised to buy additional coverage, and currently the cheapest way to do that is to get one of the gold cards. Their benefits are not all the same, so one must check around, but basically the first forty-eight days are covered, and then you buy additional coverage before you leave. Laprade commented that according to the Gazette, beyond forty-eight days All State is the cheapest.

4

10.5.2

Programmes Committee

In the absence of Dagmar Brodie-McDougall, J.-P. Petolas read her report.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Pensioners:

The fourth annual luncheon was held in December in the Faculty Club dining room on the Loyola campus. Once again it was a great success thanks to Lib Gardham, who did an excellent job organizing it.

Another event got off the ground this year. A sugaring-off lunch was held at Sucrierie la Seigneurie in Vaudreuil on Thursday, March 19th. The weather was fantastic - sunny and not too cold - which contributed to a most pleasant sleigh ride through the woods, topped off with taffy on the snow afterwards.

I would like to thank the members of the Events Committee, Mona Osborne, J.-P. Petolas and Doug Potvin, for their invaluable support these past two years.

Respectfully submitted, Dagmar Brodie-McDougall

Whitelaw expressed his gratitude to Dagmar and her Committee for their efforts on our behalf. Twenty-odd members had enjoyed the sugaring-off party. He asked if there were any suggestions for future events.

Ripstein suggested a wine and cheese for potential retirees so they don't just leave the University, take their pensions and are never heard from again.

Whitelaw responded that we had considered a mini-reception at a meeting to welcome new members. When put to the meeting the response was yes, it was a good idea.

10.5.3
Report

Secretary-Treasurer's

Gardham reported that for the first time since the establishment of the Association disbursements exceeded receipts - receipts were \$ 1,940 and disbursements were \$ 2,173. This was partly due to increased postage and printing costs, the addition of the G.S.T. to postage, as well as increased membership numbers. We had gained twenty new members in 1991-92, and have

190 members in good standing.

5

10.5.4

Coalition des ainés

Pétolas explained that the Coalition is a bilingual lobby group formed by a number of senior associations, which meets monthly in Montreal. It interestingly enough has two secretaries, a husband and wife, the wife writes the french and the husband the english. It is a powerful political group with over a half-million seniors in Quebec. Some of their accomplishments - they voted against the deindexing of the Old Age Security Pension; they fought against the proposed changes in the financing of medicare; and demonstrated against the GST the PST as well as against the claw-back of pensions. It is also interested in such things as income security, affordable housing and adequate public transportation. The Coalition feels that medical costs should be supported by every tax-payer, but that a better allocation of funds should be instituted, and preventive medicine and home care should be emphasized. This is a very active and enthusiastic group, fighting hard for the rights of seniors. If anyone has any questions they are invited to get in touch with either Michael Sheldon, or J.-P. Pétolas.

Boswall asked how the Coalition decides what to demonstrate against. She felt that fighting the claw-back could be misinterpreted, as it only affected people with an income of \$ 50,000 a year or more. She felt we could lose our credibility if we demonstrated over the wrong things.

Bordan pointed out that these are the first steps in the abolition of universality, and what is happening to medicare is another example. They have reneged on a social contract, this is an attack on universality and issues that will ultimately affect all of us.

John Hall moved a vote of thanks to J.-P. for a very enlightening report.

10.5.5

Report from the Chair

Whitelaw commented that our guest speaker had arrived, so his report would be brief.

Our relationships with Human Resources have been good - they have been very forthcoming with documentation, etc.

6

The Long Service reception is on Friday of this week from four to six in Hingston Hall on the Loyola Campus. There had been some mix-up in the list of invitees, and he urged anyone who would normally have been invited to attend, and had not been, to just go. He felt the possibility of seniors being ejected was remote.

Whitelaw then introduced Miss Lillian Reubenlicht, Assistant Librarian for Planning Services.

10.6

The new Library Building

10.6.1

Miss Rubinlicht distributed the supplement from the February 20 issue of Thursday Report, which she felt was full of interesting information. She felt the slogan "Look Where We Are Now" was very appropriate, - communicating as it does the enthusiasm and pride of all those with a stake in the University - faculty and staff, both past and present, and students, both past and present.

The road to "now" has been a long and bumpy one. There was talk of a new Library building as long ago as 1960, and over the years the hardships of the physical environment faced by the Library staff have increased, with the downtown Library a dramatic example of the University's over-all predicament.

There are many ways of looking at a University Library - as a study hall, an information distribution centre, and a work place. But above all it is a physical symbol of the University's dedication to learning. It is the "heart and soul" of the University campus - it is a place dedicated to the creation, generation and dissemination of ideas - it is a dynamic and evolving organism committed to being responsive, and responding to, its

users and their needs.

We were firmly put on the road to actualization when construction began in 1988 to expand the Vanier Library on the Loyola Campus. The downtown Library complex, which began construction in 1990, is the culmination of years of planning, and the fruit of much labour. We all have much to look forward to.

Some of the highlights -

- under one roof there will be 120,000 sq. ft. of library space, three entire floors, bright and spacious, functional and attractive;

7

- various "store-front" operations available at street level, such as the Bookstore; the Conservatory of Cinematographic Art; the Art Gallery; and a Restaurant.
- related areas will be grouped together.
- accessibility will be improved.
- lots of study space in various configurations allowing for both individual and group study.

Whitelaw asked what proportion of the building would be library as opposed to classrooms and other activity.

Rubinlicht responded that they are starting out with three floors, but there is a potential for future expansion. She wasn't sure what the ratio was - but roughly 17 of every 29 square meters - better than half of the building's area will be library.

She went on to explain that flexibility had been built into the space for both current and future technology. They will be introducing a Library Information System, and will do away with the card catalogue.

Clarke asked if the archives would be in the Library building?

Rubinlicht responded that they were taking over the space formerly occupied by the Science and Engineering Library, in the Hall Building.

Whitelaw thanked Rubinlicht for a timely and interesting presentation, this was accompanied by a round of applause.

10.7 Establishment of Fees

10.7. Whitelaw explained that the annual membership
1 fee had been \$ 5.00 since the first full year of the Association's existence, and that so far it had covered our main costs which are printing and postage. The executive felt that in light of the possibility of a deficit that we should increase the amount and suggested \$ 7.50.

It was moved and seconded (G. Gervais/H. Ripstein) that the membership be increased to

10.8 Amendment
to the Constitution and By-Laws

10.8. Whitelaw proposed that the following minor
1 amendment be made to article 10 of the
Constitution and By-Laws:

The first paragraph, which currently reads "One of the first actions of the Association will be to seek membership on the University Benefits Committee. Such representative(s) shall be chosen by a majority vote at a General meeting" be replaced by "It is the responsibility of the Association to nominate persons to sit on the Pension and Benefits Committee of the University. The Executive will ensure that such a nomination is sent forward to the University".

He explained that the reason for this amendment is that, although the Association is not represented as such on these two committees, it is now required by law that the non-active members of the Pension Plan be represented on the committees, and it is important that the Association participate in the nominating process.

10.9 It was moved and seconded (K. Jonassohn/J. Hall)
Report of the
Nominating Committee

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Bordan reported that the Committee, Alberta Boswall, Marguerite Boutilier and Ross Dolinsky had met by telephone to discuss the two positions on the executive. They were member-at-large currently held by Mona Osborne, and Secretary-Treasurer, currently held by Lib Gardham. They recommend Doreen Bates as member-at-large, and John Hall as Secretary-Treasurer, both of whom have agreed to serve.

10.10 Elections

10.10.1

I
t was moved and seconded (L. Gardham/A. LaPrade)
that Doreen Bates and John Hall be nominated to
the positions of member-at-large and secretary-
treasurer, respectively.

Whitelaw called for nominations from the floor.

There being no further nominations, the motion was carried.

Whitelaw welcomed both of the new executive on board, and thanked Mona and Lib for their contribution.

June, 1992

9

10.11 Newsletter

10.11.1 Whitelaw explained that he was responsible for the first issue of the Newsletter, which had gone out with the Notice of Meeting. It was an idea that received the support of the members, and he had assumed the responsibility for putting it together. However, he made it ultimately clear that it wouldn't ever get off the ground if people didn't contribute.

LaPrade said he would like to hear from people on financial tips. Ripstein suggested that we could advise seniors on services available to them. He also mentioned the Canadian Association of Retired People with an annual membership of \$ 7.00 per year.

Whitelaw asked about frequency of publication. It had been suggested that as we have our meetings in November and May, February and August or some point in between the two meetings might be best.

10.12 Other Business

10.12.1

She

ldon asked if fees would be collected today, and Whitelaw responded in the affirmative.

10.13 Next Meeting

10.13.1 Whitelaw reminded the meeting that the next meeting of the Pension Fund would be in October. Are our members prepared to wait until the date of that meeting is known and schedule our fall meeting in conjunction with it? It was suggested

