

**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008, 4:30 p.m., Faculty Club**

Present: Murray Scharf (President), Jim Blackburn (Vice President), Yvonne Cuttle (Secretary), Barry and Yvonne Brown, Les Coleman, Dennis and Joyce Dibski, Larry Fowke, Eileen Harvey, Gary Hanson, Doris Hasell, T.Y. Henderson, Mel Hosain, Gordon Johnson, Pat Lawson, Don McEwen, Howard Nixon, John and Jacqueline Owen, Robert Sanche, John and Nancy Senior, Duff Spafford, Kurt and Norma Tischler.

Regrets: Ken Smith, Robert Woods.

1. Call to order and approval of the agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Moved by Doris Hasell, seconded by Robert Sanche, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried

2. Minutes of the AGM meeting of September 11, 2006:

Moved by Doris Hasell, seconded by Robert Sanche, that the minutes of the AGM of September 10, 2007 be adopted as circulated. Carried

3. Business arising from the Minutes:

- Referring to 5.4, President Murray Scharf informed the membership that retired Sessional Lecturers are now eligible to become members of the USRA.
- Following on the suggestion in 9.3, attempt was made to schedule the 2008 AGM on September 15. The attempt failed due to the fact that the Faculty Club was already booked well in advance for that date.

4. President's Report:

President Scharf presented his circulated report and expressed his pleasure at having taken over the presidency of the USRA.

Summarizing his report, he mentioned that 2007-08 had been a good year for the Association.

Groups of 30 to 40 members attended the newly instituted monthly events involving presentations by excellent speakers.

The finances of the USRA continue to be healthy.

The parking situation on campus remains perennially problematic for retirees in spite of requests to the University Administration.

Moved by Murray Scharf, seconded by Gary Hanson, that the President's report be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

5. Executive Committee Reports

5.1 Treasurer – Ken Smith

In the absence of Ken Smith, President Scharf presented the Treasurer's and the Auditor's reports

Moved by Murray Scharf, seconded by Les Coleman, that the Treasurer's report be accepted as circulated. Carried

Garry Hanson suggested that expenses could be reduced if communications and Newsletters were sent to the membership by e-mail. Jim Blackburn assured Gary Hanson that every effort was made to encourage members to provide the office with their e-mail address and to agree to receive correspondence from the USRA electronically, but that some reluctance was still encountered.

5.2 Office Services – Les Coleman

Les Coleman presented his written report, outlining the move of the USRA Office to the Williams Building as requested by the University Administration. He mentioned that, unfortunately the new location renders the Office inaccessible to the general membership and that only a few members of the Executive are in possession of keys to the Office.

John Owen expressed his disappointment at the University's unwillingness to provide better facilities and parking accommodations for the USRA.

President Scharf mentioned that, in order to keep better contact with the members, he is investigating the possibility of sharing a receptionist to answer the telephone.

Moved by Les Coleman, seconded by Robert Sanche, that the report of the Office Services Committee be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

5.3 Membership – Les Coleman

Les Coleman presented his report, indicating that the number of members is fairly constant but that although recently retired staff receive a one-year free membership, few choose to join the USRA after the first year. It is hoped that the interesting new events put out by the Association will be an inducement for eligible persons to renew their membership.

Moved by Les Coleman, seconded by Nancy Senior, that the Membership Committee report be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

5.4 Communications – Jim Blackburn

Jim Blackburn presented his written report, mentioning that in addition to the four Newsletters already distributed, another one will appear at the end of the month. It will include a list of the events planned for the period from October to January.

The audience was encouraged to submit articles for the Newsletter.

He reiterated the necessity of finding a web master to replace Mohindar Sachdev and urged any member possessing the know-how to volunteer his/her service.

Moved by Jim Blackburn, seconded by Pat Lawson, that the report of the Communication Committee be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

5.5 Social, Recreation and Education – Norah Carey

In the absence of Norah Carey, Jim Blackburn presented the report of the Social, Recreational and Educational Committee.

Jim Blackburn mentioned that the Executive organized six events in 2007-08. These were well attended and well received.

The next two events will be held at Mano's restaurant. Because a guaranteed

attendance will have to be provided to the restaurant, members are urged to let the Office know in advance if they plan to attend.

At the first of these luncheons the members present will be asked to consider the request of the management that a fixed selection of only 3 or 4 items, rather than the full menu, be made available. Should this be acceptable, it is felt that the serving time would be reduced.

Moved by Jim Blackburn, seconded by Les Coleman, that the report of the Social, Recreation and Education Committee be accepted as presented and circulated.

Carried

Jim Blackburn expressed the Executive's sincere thanks to Norah Carey who serve the USRA most faithfully for many years.

5.6 Prime of Life Achievement Awards – Peter Cribb

No report.

5.7 Pictorial History – Fay Kernan

In the absence of Faye Kernan, President Murray Scharf presented the written report of the Pictorial History Committee. He urge the members to heed the call for help formulated in the last paragraph of the report, and indicated that Barry Brown has kindly agreed to act as photographer for this event.

Moved by Murray Scharf, seconded by Doris Hasell, the written report of the Pictorial History Committee be accepted as circulated.

Carried

5.8 CURAC – Duff Spafford

Duff Spafford presented his report, enlightening the membership about the purpose of CURAC and of the importance to have representation on this body and be able to send at least one member to the CURAC annual conference. Efforts will be made by the Executive to find some member willing to attend at his/her own expense but failing to find such a person, and the funds being available, the Executive is prepared to provide a travel subsidy of up to \$1,500.

John Owen suggested trying to persuade CURAC to hold its conference at the same time as that of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, formally known as the Learned Societies.

Moved by Duff Spafford, seconded by Gary Hanson, that the report of the CURAC Committee by accepted as presented and circulated.

Carried

6 / 7. Nomination Committee Report / Election of the Officers –Robert Woods

In the absence of Robert Woods, Jim Blackburn presented the report of the Nominations Committee.

The report of the Committee was published in the August 2008 Newsletter and included a call for nominations. No additional nominations were received.

Thus, the candidates for the 2008-09 Executive and the slate of Officers presented by the Nomination Committee are considered elected by acclamation.

The composition of the 2008-09 Executive is as follows:

President: Murray Scharf

Past President: Bob Woods

Vice President: Jim Blackburn

Treasurer: Ken Smith

Secretary: Yvonne Cuttle

Members: Eileen Harvey, Dale Miquelon, Bob Sanche, Nancy Senior, George Sofko,
Duff Spafford, Kurt Tischler

Thanks were extended to the new members, Eileen Harvey and Kurt Tischler, for agreeing to serve on the Executive Committee.

It was suggested that seeking three signatures in order to nominate a member to the Executive was rather difficult. Perhaps more nominations would be forthcoming if only two signatures were required. President Scharf pointed out that this change would require an amendment to the Constitution.

8. Other business

Duff Spafford promoted the use of the Retirees' Lounge in the College Building. The room is open every day during office hours and is comfortably appointed, but unless it is used on a regular basis by retirees, may be coveted by some other group on campus.

10. Adjournment:

Doris Hasell, seconded by Duff Spafford, moved adjournment of the meeting at 5:40 p.m.