

**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Faculty Club**

Present: Jim Blackburn (Vice President and Chair of the meeting), Ken Smith (Treasurer), Yvonne Cuttle (Secretary), Barry and Yvonne Brown, Les Coleman, Dennis and Joyce Dibski, Eileen and Bryan Harvey, Gary Hanson, Michael Hayden, T.Y. Henderson, Gordon Johnson, Faye Kernan, Pat Lawson, Barry McLennan, Howard Nixon, John and Jacqueline Owen, Bruce Schnell, Nancy Senior, William Sinnett, Duff Spafford, Kurt and Norma Tischler.

Regrets: Murray Scharf (President), Robert Sanche, Robert Woods.

1. Call to order and approval of the agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

Vice President Jim Blackburn announced that President Murray Scharf, being out of the country, is unable to attend the meeting and that, in his absence, he will chair the meeting.

Moved by Bryan Harvey, seconded by Barry McLennan, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried

Jim Blackburn requested that the assembly observe a minute of silence in remembrance of the 13 members deceased during this last academic year.

2. Minutes of the AGM meeting of September 8, 2008:

Moved by Kurt Tischler, seconded by Howard Nixon, that the minutes of the AGM of September 8, 2008 be adopted as circulated. Carried

3. President's Report:

In the absence of Murray Scharf, Jim Blackburn presented the President's Report circulated earlier. He expressed the Executive's gratitude to Murray Scharf for his excellent leadership and his initiative to focus the USRA's objectives on services for its members.

From the various activities that took place in 2008-09, Jim Blackburn highlighted the endorsement by the USRA of the *International Student's Emergency Loan and Bursary Fund*. He invited Kurt Tischler to address the members on the subject. Kurt Tischler encouraged the members to contribute to the fund and mentioned that a future issue of the *Green and White* will have as theme "*Internalization at the U. of S.*"

Moved by Jim Blackburn, seconded by Gary Hanson, that the President's report be accepted as circulated. Carried

4. Executive Committee Reports

4.1 Treasurer – Ken Smith

Ken Smith presented the Treasurer's report.

He indicated that the USRA is in a favorable financial position. However, one should anticipate a possible decrease in membership fees revenue in view of the small number of new retirees following the University's abolition of mandatory retirement.

Moved by Ken Smith, seconded by Duff Spafford, that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

Jim Blackburn informed the members that, due to the favorable financial position of the USRA, the Executive passed a motion at their last meeting to subsidize tonight's banquet in the amount of \$10 per ticket.

Dennis Dibski inquired whether the USRA's assets are mainly in GIC's. In fact, all the investments are in GIC's, most of them purchased three years ago at an interest rate, which today looks quite attractive.

Ken Smith clarified for Barry McLennan the reason why the *Prepaid Membership Dues* are considered a liability and not an asset, and explained that each year 5% of these are transferred to General Revenue.

John Owen inquired about the effect of the non-mandatory retirement date on the membership of the USRA and was informed that at most 6 faculty members retired this year.

4.2 Office Services – Les Coleman

Les Coleman presented his written report.

He pointed out that the telephone answering system is now fully functional and that, when he is in town, he regularly checks it for messages.

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

Jim Blackburn extended the Executive's thanks to Les Coleman for his diligent work in the office.

4.3 Membership – Les Coleman

Les Coleman presented his report, indicating that the number of members is fairly constant but expressed concern at the fact that only about 25% of the eligible retirees decide to join the USRA after their one-year free membership.

He outlined the advantages of Life Membership: in particular, the fact that upon decease of the member, the spouse still preserves the status of life member.

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

4.4 Communications – Jim Blackburn/Robert Sanche

Jim Blackburn presented his written report. He mentioned that four Newsletters were distributed this year and that only 80 members were receiving the Newsletter by e-mail.

Les Coleman clarified that although the USRA does have in its files the e-mail addresses of more than 80 members, permissions to use these addresses were not yet

received. He conjectured that the fact that at first, all recipients' e-mail addresses showed up on the message might have been a deterrent. This is no longer the case.

Regretfully, the USRA's web site had to be temporarily shut down due to the lack of a web master. Some members of the Executive have volunteered to take a course on web site managing. Soon the web site will be reinstated.

Jim Blackburn announced that Nancy Senior and Robert Sanche have gracefully agreed to take over the publication of the Newsletter.

Moved by Nancy Senior, seconded by Eileen Harvey, that the report of the Communication Committee be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

4.5 Social, Recreation and Education – Jim Blackburn/Murray Scharf

Jim Blackburn presented the report of the Social, Recreational and Educational Committee.

He outlined the USRA events that took place during the year. Except for the Birding Excursion, which had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, the events were well attended and successful,

This fall, the proposed luncheon events at Mano's will feature speakers from the University Administration.

It is hoped to be able to organize small interest groups who would meet regularly. The next Newsletter will ask for suggestions from the members.

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

Carried

Members present suggested the following possible USRA activities:

A book reading group (Gary Hansen).

A repeat, with updating, of the computer workshop (Barry McLennan).

A repeat, with updating, of the photography workshop (Jim Blackburn).

A repeat of the "55 Alive" refresher course for mature drivers (Faye Kernan).

4.6 Prime of Life Achievement Awards – Eileen Harvey

Eileen Harvey presented the written report, outlining the reason for the modification of the award nomination form. She encouraged the members to nominate worthy candidates. This year no awards will be given.

She also requested the members to help the Committee in finding the lost framed lists of previous award recipients.

Moved by Eileen Harvey, seconded by Faye Kernan, that the report of the Prime of Life Achievement Awards be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

4.7 Pictorial History – Faye Kernan

Faye Kernan presented the written report of the Pictorial History Committee.

She mentioned that one of the albums of photographs mentioned in her report is currently missing. Jim Blackburn suggested that perhaps it is presently in Murray Scharf's possession.

Faye urged the members to help the Committee in providing photographs and identifying people in the photos.

She thanked Barry Brown for agreeing to be the official photographer for this event.

Moved by Faye Kernan, seconded by Garry Hansen, that the report of the Pictorial History Committee be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

4.8 CURAC – Duff Spafford

Duff Spafford presented his report and indicated that, presently, CURAC comprises 33 institutional members made up of universities and colleges retirees associations. He stressed the importance of the USRA being involved in CURAC. Efforts will be made to find a member willing to represent the USRA at the next CURAC conference, which will be held in May at York University.

Moved by Duff Spafford, seconded by Nancy Senior, that the report of the CURAC Committee be accepted as presented and circulated. Carried

John Owen inquired whether his suggestion that the CURAC conferences be held at the same time as the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences had been addressed. Duff Spafford replied in the affirmative, and said that he was informed that already CURAC found it difficult to find a site for its Conference, and a condition such as the one proposed would make matters more difficult. Also, various disciplines, which formerly met in conjunction with the Congress, were now meeting separately.

5 / 7. Nomination Committee Report / Election of the Officers for 2009-10 –Robert Woods

In the absence of Robert Woods, Dale Miquelon, seconded by Barry McLennan, moved acceptance of the report of the Nomination Committee.

No additional nomination being received, the candidates for the 2009-10 Executive and the slate of officers presented by the Nomination Committee were elected by acclamation.

The composition of the 2009-10 Executive is as follows:

President: Jim Blackburn

Past President: Murray Scharf

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Ken Smith

Secretary: Yvonne Cuttle

Members: Yvonne Brown, Eileen Harvey, Michael Hayden, Dale Miquelon, Bob Sanche, Nancy Senior, Duff Spafford, Kurt Tischler

6. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws – Bob Woods

There was some discussion concerning the inclusion of the word “standing” in the proposed amended version of Article 7.1. Finally, it was agreed to leave the amended version as presented.

Moved by Brian Harvey, seconded by Pat Lawson, that the proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws recommended by the Executive Committee to abolish the Benefits Standing Committee be accepted as circulated to the membership. Carried

Moved by Les Coleman, seconded by Barry McLellan, that the proposed change of name of the Newsletter Committee to the Communications Committee be approved as recommended by the Executive Committee. Carried

Moved by Eileen Harvey, seconded by Faye Kernan, that that the criteria for the Prime of Life Achievement Awards be modified as recommended by the Executive Committee to Include recognition by local bodies. Carried

8. Other business

Moved by Les Coleman, seconded by Garry Hanson, that a vote of thanks be extended to Murray Scharf for his excellent work in initiating stimulating USRA social and educational events during his tenure as President of the Association. Carried

Jim Blackburn announced that Norah Carey is to be honored during the banquet following this AGM for her long and devoted service to the USRA.

9. Adjournment:

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