

**UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010, 4:30 p.m., Faculty Club**

Present: Jim Blackburn (President), Kevin Wilson (Vice President), Ken Smith (Treasurer), Yvonne Cuttle (Secretary), Barry and Yvonne Brown, Les Coleman, Dennis Dibski, Sergey Fedoroff, Fred and Norma Fulton, Eileen and Bryan Harvey, Gary Hanson, Michael Hayden, T.Y. Henderson, Mel Hosain, Faye Kernan, Don McEwen, Dale Miquelon, John Owen, Asit Sarkar, Murray and Marjorie Scharf, Nancy Senior, Duff Spafford, Michael Swan, Kurt Tischler, Gary Wobeser.

1. Call to order and approval of the agenda:

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

**Moved by Les Coleman, seconded by Bryan Harvey, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried**

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

2. Minutes of the AGM meeting of September 21, 2009:

**Moved by Bryan Harvey, seconded by Duff Spafford, that the minutes of the AGM of September 21, 2009 be adopted as circulated. Carried**

3. President's Report:

Jim Blackburn informed the assembly that nothing needed be added to his written report.

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

4. Treasurer's report – Ken Smith

Ken Smith presented the Treasurer's report.

He indicated that due to the small number of new retirees following the University's abolition of the mandatory retirement, the revenue from membership fees this year is down by nearly \$200. The main additional expenditure incurred this year was \$260 for our representation to the CURAC Conference. As a result the year ended up with a slight deficiency of revenue over expenditure, in spite of which the Auditor decreed the USRA in a healthy financial position.

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

Bryan Harvey suggested compensating for the decrease in revenue by increasing the membership fees. Jim Blackburn replied that the revision of the fee schedule would be on the agenda of the incoming Executive Committee.

## 5. Executive Committee Reports

### 5.2 Office Services – Les Coleman

Les Coleman had nothing to add to his written report, except the fact that the Office would benefit from a new computer with updated hard drive.

### 5.3 Membership – Les Coleman

Les Coleman presented his written report.

Commenting on the suggestion to increase the membership fees, he noted that an increase in fee, if agreed upon, should apply as well to the schedule of the Life Membership fees, although not retroactively. An appeal to the present life members for a donation to bring their contribution in step with the new schedule would be in order.

Jim Blackburn indicated that a review of the membership list to identify the retirees who are in arrears will be undertaken and that these retirees will be sent a reminder to pay their fees. In this way, it is hoped to increase the membership to perhaps 400.

Bryan Harvey suggested that the USRA could hire a person for a few days a month to help with the task of increasing the membership.

### 5.4 Communications - Robert Sanche

In the absence of Robert Sanche, Nancy Senior presented the Committee's report. She added that she was pleased that, thanks to the good work of Dean Jones, the USRA web site is back on track and will be updated every two months.

Jim Blackburn thanked Dean Jones for having accepted the nomination to join the Executive Committee.

### 5.5 Social, Recreation and Education – Murray Scharf

Murray Scharf outlined the USRA events that took place during the year.

He pointed out that the luncheon Speaker Series held monthly was well attended, and that the Batoche Tour was a great success, enhanced by Robert Sanche personal recollections of his youth spent in the region.

He regretted that the planned Computer Workshop had to be cancelled due to the fact that only 6 members registered for the morning session and only 2 for the afternoon session. As well, due to the inclement weather the proposed Horticultural Tour had to be cancelled twice.

Next, Murray Scharf outlined the planned programme of events for the coming fall and winter.

### 5.6 Prime of Life Achievement Awards – Eileen Harvey

Eileen Harvey presented the report of the Committee. She outlined the efforts of the Committee to advertise the award widely, using newly designed poster and brochures. She was pleased to report that, as a result, seven Prime of Life Achievement Awards will be presented during this evening banquet.

She thanked the members of the Committee, Faye Kernan and Duff Spafford, for their advice and contribution as well as Dale Miquelon for writing the citations for the seven awards.

### 5.7 Pictorial History – Faye Kernan

Faye Kernan presented the report of the Committee.

She was pleased to announce that the volume of the USRA Pictorial History, which was missing for a long time, has been found. She urged the members to ensure that that the Pictorial History of the USRA flourishes by sharing their photos of past events, assisting our photographer Barry Brown and /or volunteering to serve on the Committee.

#### 5.8 CURAC – Duff Spafford

Duff Spafford reported that he attended this year's CURAC Conference at York University, the report of which was printed in the Newsletter. He announced that the 2011 Conference will be held in Regina and that he will be the USRA designated representative on the Programme Committee.

Responding to a query from Les Coleman, Duff Spafford indicated that the attendance at this year's Conference was approximately 60 and that, of the 33 associations comprising CURAC, approximately 25 were represented.

John Owen asked whether the benefits package presently offered to retirees by the University of Saskatchewan compares favorably with that offered by other universities. Duff Spafford replied that such comparisons were hard to make because of the considerable variation between universities, but the benefits package offered by the University of Saskatchewan does not compare well with that of universities whose retirees keep all their faculty benefits on retirement, including parking privileges.

#### 5.9 Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the USRA

Michael Hayden apologized for omitting the name of Murray Scharf from the Committee membership.

In addition to summarizing the written report of the Committee, Michael Hayden elaborated on the progress, or lack thereof, made by a subcommittee on the subject of involvement of retirees in the life of the university.

Although volunteering by retirees seems to be welcome by the university administration, the issue of liability precludes volunteers from engaging in seemingly suitable activities. The report lists the allowable areas of involvement by retirees.

Another problem encountered by the subcommittee is the sparse response to a request in the Newsletter for the retirees to indicate their willingness to volunteer.

More meetings with the administration will likely take place.

**Moved by Gary Hanson, seconded by Ken Smith, that the reports of the Executive Committees be accepted as presented and circulated.**

**Carried.**

#### 6. Nomination Committee Report

Murray Scharf presented the Nomination Committee Report, noting that the position of Treasurer is vacant.

**Moved by Les Coleman, seconded by T.Y. Henderson, that the report of the Nomination Committee be accepted as circulated.**

**Carried**

Jim Blackburn extended his thanks to retiring Treasurer Ken Smith for his valuable work

on the Executive Committee.

#### 7. Election of Executive Officers for 2010-2011

No additional nominations being received from the floor, the Executive Officers for 2010-11, listed on the slate presented by the Nomination Committee, were elected by acclamation.

The composition of the 2010-11 Executive Committee is as follows:

President: Kevin Wilson

Vice President: Dale Miquelon

Treasurer: Vacant – to be appointed by the Executive

Secretary: Yvonne Cuttle

Members: Eileen Harvey, Michael Hayden, Dean Jones, Bob Sanche, Asit Sarkar, Nancy Senior, Duff Spafford, Michael Swan, Kurt Tischler

Ex Officio Members: Jim Blackburn, Les Coleman, Peter Cribb, Norma Fulton, Joel Gajadharsingh, Doris Hasell, Faye Kernan, Pat Lawson, Ian MacLean, Howard Nixon, Murray Scharf, Jack Wigham, Bob Woods.

#### 8. Other business

**Les Colman, seconded by Yvonne Cuttle, moved a vote of thanks to Jim Blackburn for his excellent leadership as President of the USRA. Carried**

#### 9. Adjournment:

**Dennis Dibski, seconded by Ken Smith, moved adjournment of the meeting at 5:30 p.m.**