

University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association
Annual General Meeting
Monday, September 23, 2019 at 4:30 P.M.
University Club, U of S Campus

Present: Thomas Wilson (Chair), Alan Anderson, Merry Beazely, Jim Blackburn, Michael Brockbank, Rick Bunt, Henry Classen, Lynn Classen, John Courtney, Mary Dykes, Bryan Harvey, Eileen Harvey, Judith Henderson, Mel Hosain, Jacqueline Huck, Dennis Johnson, Gordon Johnson, Dean Jones, Dan Pennock, Lea Pennock, Murray Scharf, Ken Smith, Brad Steeves and Jim Thornhill.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 P.M.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Bryan Harvey and seconded by Alan Anderson that the agenda be approved as circulated. Unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2018

Moved by Jim Blackburn and seconded by Judith Henderson that the minutes of October 1, 2018 be approved. Unanimous.

4. President's Report

Thomas Wilson presented a verbal report providing a few words on each of the current Board members and thanked them for their hard work over the past year.

Moved by Rick Bunt and seconded by John Courtney that the President's Report be accepted. Unanimous.

Merry Beazely thanked Tom for his wisdom and humor.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ken Smith presented his report (attached) noting a net income balance of \$831.08 for the 2018-2019 period. This is an increase of almost double over the previous year.

Moved by Ken Smith and seconded by Dean Jones that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Unanimous.

Moved by Bryan Harvey and seconded by Murray Scharf that no financial audit be conducted. Unanimous.

6. Standing Committee Reports

(a) Awards

Dean Jones presented the Awards Committee report (attached) noting that 7 awards

will be presented at the Awards Banquet following the AGM.

- Prime of Life Achievement Awards - Dennis Johnson, Gordon Johnson and Winfried Grassmann
- Continuing Contribution Awards - Vera Pezer and Ron Verrall
- Honorary Life Memberships - Asit Sarkar and Ken Smith.

(b) College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC)

Bryan Harvey presented his report on CURAC activities (attached) noting that the fall newsletter has been distributed, information regarding the 2019 AGM at the University of Guelph, the May 2020 AGM will be held in Vancouver and discussions with Vibrant Voices which speaks for seniors and seniors' issues. Three issues have been identified – pharmacare, income security and the development of a national strategy for seniors. The membership was encouraged to make their local politician aware of their concerns. More information on all of the above can be accessed on the CURAC website.

(c) Communication

Dean Jones presented the Communication Committee report (attached) noting that 3 newsletters were produced and thanked Jacqueline Huck and Judith Henderson for their service on the committee. He also thanked the Board for providing material for the newsletters, specifically the Education, Social and Recreation portfolio for their forward planning of events. An important initiative undertaken this year was the digitization of USRA documents.

Dean also requested feedback on how to communicate better with members. Approximately 200 members receive their newsletter via mail.

Lea Pennock thanked individuals involved in producing the newsletters.

(d) Education, Social and Recreation

Merry Beazely presented the committee report (attached) noting that there is an extensive list of 'on deck' speakers to contact for future presentations and welcomed suggestions from members. Merry noted two upcoming presentations on October 23 and November 20. One additional recreation event that will be added to our list is a presentation by Collette Travel.

(e) Membership

Judith Henderson presented the committee report (attached) noting an increase in membership to 445 and the loss of 17 members in 2018-2019. The Committee continues to grow our membership numbers by expanding information we record on our membership list, a new polished version of the USRA invitation letter sent to employees nearing retirement and participating in the annual Employee Appreciation Picnic in June 2018 and 2019. Judith thanked Dean Jones, Jacqueline Huck and Treasurers, Michael Brockbank and Ken Smith for their extensive help to the Chair in contacting and responding to our members.

(f) Retirees Engagement

Rick Bunt presented the committee report (attached) noting that the committee found traction with the new identified University of Saskatchewan liaison, Guy Larocque, Associate Vice-President, Alumni Relations. The committee is in the process of setting up a more formal structure between the University and USRA. Rick noted in his report that “locating the responsibility for retirees and the USRA within Alumni Relations makes sense since retirees are also alumni by definition, even though they did not graduate from the University”. All retirees are eligible for membership in the Alumni Association and, therefore, eligible for benefits under the Association.

In future, USRA will attempt to schedule the AGM and Awards Banquet in conjunction with Alumni Weekend.

(g) USRA Committee on Honorary Degrees

Tom Wilson presented the committee report (attached) noting one nomination was forwarded to the University Secretary. An advertisement will appear in the next newsletter requesting suggestions from the membership on possible nominations.

(h) Pension

Michael Brockbank reported that as a result of an arbitration ruling the defined benefit plan was changed to a new target benefit plan started for University employees. Those members already receiving their pension will not be affected by this change.

The USRA continues to have an observer on the Nonacademic Pension Committee but not sure how much longer this will continue.

Moved by Alan Anderson and seconded by Mel Hosain that the committee reports be accepted. Unanimous.

7. New Business

No items were discussed under this section

8. Report of Nominations Committee

Judith Henderson presented the Nomination Report (attached) thanking Tom Wilson and Merry Beazely for serving two years in their positions as President and Vice-President, respectively. New members nominated to the Board are Jim Thornhill, Beryl Radcliffe and Hank Classen.

9. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members for 2019-2020

President	Merry Beazely
Vice-President	Brad Steeves
Secretary	Jacqueline Huck
Treasurer	Michael Brockbank
Immediate Past President	Tom Wilson
Members-at-Large	Rick Bunt, Henry Classen, Bryan Harvey, Judith Henderson,

Dean Jones, Ioannis (Yannis) Pahatouroglou, Beryl Radcliffe and Jim Thornhill.

Moved by Judith Henderson and seconded by Tom Wilson that the slate of officers for 2019-2020 be elected. Unanimous.

10. Other Business

(a) Members No Longer with Us

Judith Henderson read out the names of members who have passed away during the past year (attached). A moment of silence was observed in their memory.

11. Adjournment

Mel Hosain moved the meeting be adjourned at 5:26 P.M.