

**Minutes of CURA Welcome Meeting**  
**October 12, 2018 – 12:00 noon**  
**Rm. 2014 Minto Centre**

**1. Provost Remarks: Jerry Tomberlin**

The Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Dr. Jerry Tomberlin gave welcoming remarks noting the great support and interest from CURA, and provided the following update on recent developments at Carleton:

- The recent purchase of Dominion Chalmers which will have a concert hall and provide space for Learning in Retirement classes
- Two new academic Deans have been appointed: Dr. Pauline Rankin, FASS and Dr. Charles MacDonald, Science
- Dwight Deugo, Asst. VP (Quality)
- Construction of new buildings impacting traffic and parking
- Much uncertainty around the new Ontario government

**2. President's Report: Susan Nesrallah**

Susan welcomed the attendees, current and new members, and introduced the 2018/19 Executive Committee, pointing out that they are listed on the CURA website. Dr. Don Wiles was acknowledged as the founder and first President of CURA, and as the longest teaching member of faculty, having taught at the University for 53 years. Mandy Hair, the Director of HR Operations was welcomed as a guest. Mandy acts as a liaison between retirees and the University and will actively assist in promoting CURA to new retirees by reserving a seat for us at the annual Service Awards and Retirees celebration in June, as well as adding the information leaflet in retiree packages.

A summary of CURA was given for new retirees describing the organization as primarily social, but also shares information on issues affecting older citizens; such as, health, aging, financing, benefits, etc. More information is available on the CURA website at: <https://carleton.ca/cura>. The web address is also part of the Carleton A-Z directory.

Susan also reported that CURA is for all retirees: staff, faculty, managers, librarians, technical staff, et al. Currently the majority is retired faculty; the goal is to increase the administrative, non-academic retiree membership, and we hope to do so through increased visibility on campus. Membership count for 2017/18 was 50. A few stats collected after this meeting:

- 41 total attendees

- 5 replied they would attend but did not
- 2 of the 5 said they will be joining
- 8 new retirees became members

### **3. Treasurer's Report: Irwin Reichstein**

Irwin reported that the current budget balance is a little more than \$8000, adding that the bulk of the revenue was a result of holding the CURAC Conference at Carleton in 2017. Membership fees typically go towards meals at the two general membership meetings as well as miscellaneous expenses such as printing, etc.

### **4. CURA Activities: Susan**

CURA activities were outlined as follows:

- 2 annual lunch meetings for general membership in the fall and spring
- 2 outings (or more if desired) – this September a tour was arranged by Bob Morrison and David Holmes to Beechwood Cemetery followed by Dominion City Brewing Co. Photos are on the website under “Activities”
- 2 (or more) dinner-with-Speaker evenings – the first one, organized by Andrew Brook and Peter Fried, will be held on Friday, November 9, touring Dominion Chalmers building followed by a dinner with guest speaker Dr. Pauline Rankin
- President (Dr. Bacon) Holiday get-together in December
- Pension Plan Update presentation by Betsy Springer, Director, Pension Fund Management in January

Suggestions for fun ideas are welcome and should be sent to anyone on the Executive Committee whose emails are on the CURA website.

### **5. CURAC 2018 Conference: Bob Morrison**

CURA is a member of the national organization CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada). Their annual conference this year was hosted by Dalhousie University in Halifax. David Holmes and Bob Morrison and their wives attended along with Don Wiles. Don was there to receive a well-deserved CURAC Tribute Award for his contributions to our retirees' association at Carleton. Bob reported that the Halifax conference was almost as good as the one we hosted at Carleton in 2017.

The 2019 CURAC Conference will be held in Guelph. Susan Nesrallah will attend. Everyone is welcome.

CURAC offers several benefits to members, especially in travel, and in insurance for travel, for homes and cars, and for extended health benefits. Further information can be found on the CURAC website [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca). On October 18 CURA sent an e-mail to its members outlining some of these benefits. The website also includes copies of recent Bulletins on topics of interest, and recent Newsletters, with detailed reports on the Halifax Conference and other recent CURAC conferences.

#### **6. Survey of Retiree Activities: Peter Watson**

A survey was developed and sent to CURA members some time ago. The intent was to obtain an overall impression of retiree activities, particularly as they relate to involvement with Carleton. However, the survey focused primarily on academic retirees, and a new one is being developed that will be more inclusive. Wendy Watkins and Steve Prashker volunteered to take on this task with help and support from Mandy Hair.

#### **7. Questions/Answers/Other Business: All**

- a) Questions and concerns were raised on how the University communicates with CURA members, specifically with regards to access to the news on the intranet
- b) Susan, Bob Morrison, and Peter Watson are meeting with the Provost this afternoon and will raise the intranet access issue, as well as other items on the Agenda which include: retaining CU email accounts, IT technical support, parking, Learning in Retirement, space on campus
- c) Susan and Peter Watson also have a meeting this afternoon initiated by Advancement to discuss how they can engage CURA members and strengthen the connection with the University
- d) A suggestion was made to have retiree benefits/changes posted on the CURA website