

**Minutes of CURA Welcome Meeting
October 6, 2022 – 2:00 pm on Zoom**

1. The meeting opened with a tribute to Don Wiles by Peter Watson – see attached.

2. Provost Remarks: Jerry Tomberlin

The Provost and VP (Academic) gave welcoming remarks and expressed the Provost Office's continuing support for CURA. In his update, Jerry said it has been a roller coaster year for Carleton and highlighted the following:

- Carleton tried returning to face to face classes last Fall but due to the Omicron outbreak, had to return to online in December until the spring.
- This Fall, the residences are full, athletics activities have resumed, courses are in person, the Nicol building is open, the Ontario Universities Fair was held for the first time in 3 years, concerts and courses are being held at the Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre and the mask mandate is on pause.
- 2022 is the 80th anniversary of Carleton's founding.
- There is a new Centre for Community Engagement and the Strategic Plan for it is being finalized. It is a key focus of the SIP (Strategic Integrated Plan).
- Carleton is also renewing the Master Space Plan and a number of construction projects are ongoing, including a new pedestrian bridge across the Rideau River which will open when the O train renovations are complete.
- In research funds, we reached \$97.4 million in the past year and Carleton is #1 in SSHRC funding.
- Carleton is also a top performer in sustainability, #1 in Ontario and #2 in Canada, and this is consistent with the wellness and sustainability direction of the SIP.
- Great progress has been made on Kinamagawin, Carleton's Indigenous strategy.

Two questions were raised: Elsie on the status of renovations to the outdoor amphitheater area outside Paterson Hall with respect to creating an indigenous area. Jerry said that work is ongoing.

The second question concerning a CURA rep on the Pension Committee was raised by Eugene Swimmer. This has been an outstanding item for quite some time. Jerry said it will be discussed with the new Director of Pension Management, Andrew Urquhart; however, he added that the process is somewhat complicated in terms of the interaction between the Committee and the Board of Governors. Mandy has been meeting regularly with Andrew and his comments on this issue were very encouraging. Eugene would be the CURA rep if this is a go.

Susan thanked the Provost and wished to point out that, compared to other Canadian universities, Carleton does an outstanding job in their support for retirees and felt that this merited sharing with members:

- The Provost Office (Jerry), provided us with a dedicated laptop; he covers the cost of printing by the Print Shop; and pays the travel, registration, and accommodation for two CURA members to attend the annual CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada) conference which is held in different cities across Canada.
- Parking Services agreed to reduce parking fees on campus for CURA-related activities. In terms of space, we can book meeting rooms at no cost, and if virtual, we signed on to the Carleton Zoom license, saving us \$200 in annual fees.
- University Advancement invites retirees to some of their events, and thanks to ITS, we have the CURA website and access to the web support staff.
- President Bacon holds an annual Holiday Celebration on campus for CURA members; and the Pension Management Office holds an annual Pension Plan update presentation for all retirees.
- Mandy Hair, Director of HR Operations and CURA liaison, has been instrumental in making us more visible to retirees. We are invited to the annual retirement celebration event where we can promote CURA.
- A CURA handout is included in retiree packages; a statement referring to CURA is added to the HR letters to retirees; and on retirement documents that are filled out, an option was added on whether they wanted to be contacted by CURA. Mandy also assists in other areas such as the Retiree Survey.

Jerry and Mandy also attend 4 CURA-related meetings a year. A big thank you for their continued support and commitment.

3. Introductions – Susan Nesrallah

The Current Executive Committee was introduced:

- President Susan Nesrallah (also Webmaster)
- Vice-President Andrew Brook
- Past President Peter Watson
- Treasurer Irwin Reichstein
- Secretary Margaret Haines
- Members At Large: Martien de Leeuw, Peter Fried, Susan Jameson, Wendy Watkins (also CURAC Rep)

4. President's Report (Update): Susan Nesrallah

- The request to have retired staff members keep their Carleton email account was rejected by the Senior Management Committee citing possible liability risks posed by the Lawyer. However, Jerry and Mandy will continue to work on it.
- The retiree on the Carleton Pension Committee is another request that has been outstanding. This was addressed in Agenda item #2. Jerry will be following up with the new Director of the Pension Management.
- A dinner-with-speaker event was held in March 2020, just before the COVID lockdown – speakers were Andrew Brook and Peter Watson and the title was “Time”. After that, all activities were on Zoom.
- The summer of 2021, we conducted a Retiree Writing Competition for all retirees – winners and their submissions are on the CURA website – good reads.
- The next two events were talks by Richard Van Loon Part 1 and 2 on “6000 years up the Ottawa River and into the West”.
- Last March 2022, Professor Maria DeRosa was invited to speak about the department's work on “Parkinson's Disease Aptamers”.
- In September, a second tour of Beechwood Cemetery was organized followed by lunch.
- Photos of events are posted on the CURA website under the “Activities” menu.
- There are two suggestions on future outings: one is a tour of the National Arts Centre and the other a tour of the Carleton campus.
- Finally, we hope that President Bacon will host the annual Holiday Celebration this December.

Please send suggestions and ideas on tours, trips, speakers or any other events that we can organize.

5. Treasurer's Report: Irwin Reichstein

Irwin reported that the current bank balance is \$7806.29. Payments this year were a donation of \$200 to Beechwood Cemetery, and \$100 for planting 10 trees in memory of Don Wiles. Current paid membership as of December 2019 is 68 and an additional 71 retirees expressed interest in CURA. Since there have been no in-person meetings with lunch, membership fees were not collected during the pandemic years. Fees were collected to cover the cost of the lunch.

6. CURAC Update: Wendy Watkins

CURA is a member of the national umbrella organization CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada). Wendy is our rep and gave an update on recent CURAC events:

- David Holmes, a member of CURA since its inception was given an outstanding contribution award at the annual Conference. This is a very prestigious award and we congratulate David.
- CURAC has some benefit programs primarily in the fields of travel where you get discounts on tours from Collette Travel and Trip Merchant, and good rates on home, car, travel, travel cancellation, and pets.
- Wendy and Susan attended this year's virtual Conference with this year's theme "Face of Wellness and Well Being". There were several speakers on various health-related topics, and a very interesting panel on "Super Seniors", those who are over 85 and have never had a serious disease nor were admitted to hospital.
- You can check out the benefits, conferences, newsletters, etc. on the CURAC website at <http://www.curac.ca/>.

7. Election of Committee Members: Margaret Haines

Margaret reminded members of our new Constitution which stipulates that every year three members of the nine-member Executive should step down, especially if they have served more than two terms, and that we should elect three new members to take over.

This year, only two members are stepping down; Peter Fried and Margaret. Susan had put out a call for nominations for the two vacant positions and received two nominations: Bruce Winer and Sheila McCallum. Margaret proposed a motion that they be accepted by acclamation. Susan polled the members in attendance and the motion was unanimously accepted.

New Executive Committee members will be assigned roles following this meeting, and typically are appointed as "members-at-large".

8. Closing Remarks: Susan

The meeting closed with thanks to Margaret Haines and Peter Fried on their commitment and hard work on the Committee. Margaret and Peter will remain as members of CURA.

Thank you for attending everyone!