

TRENT UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS

MINUTES OF THE 49TH GENERAL MEETING

May 4, 2016

A.J.M. Smith Room, Bata Library, 10.00. a.m.

PRESENT: Peter Adams, Marie Bourbonnais, John Breukelaar, Alan Brunger, Stewart Brown, Jenny Carter, Gloria Dunn, Bruce Hodgins, Wayne Holtz, Donna Jarvis, Barbara Johns, Gordon Johnston, Nancy Lewis, John Lucy, Ray March, Pauline Mills, Dorothy Mutter, Marion Norman, Dianne O'Connell, Betty O'Toole, Margaret Pearce, Doris Pereschuk, Michael Peterman, Gary Reker, Manindra Shah, Helen Sheehan, Mary Snack, Cathie Sproule, Robert Stairs, Dale Standen, Jim Struthers, Gillian Stamp, Thomas Symons, Morgan Tamplin, Wayne Wilson, Shirley Yankovich.

REGRETS: Mildred Clark, Frank Chapman, Margaret Doxey, Carole Ernest, John Fekete, Kathy Fife, Alena Heitlinger, David Kettler, David Morrison, Doug Thompson, John Wadland, Alan Wilson.

The meeting was called to order, at 10.00 a.m.

1. Co-chairs remarks: Gordon Johnston (Faculty), Wayne Wilson (Staff). Wayne Wilson the new Staff Co-chair, introduced himself as a recently-retired former Chief Technician in Biology Dept. He was employed for over forty years and enjoyed the work a lot, notably with Professor Roy Edwards and the water quality research undertaken up and down the Trent Waterway.

Gordon Johnston noted several topics of relevance to TUARP members.

He reminded members, on behalf of Kathy Fife, of the annual United Way campaign which will begin in September. Donation forms will be mailed to retirees for whom the university has a mailing address.

The CURAC Benefits Committee's recently completed review of retirement benefits (medical & non-medical) for Canadian university retirees will be posted on the TUARP website.

Susan Wurtele, co-chair of an OCUFA-COU initiative to explore the feasibility of a provincial Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan (JSPP) has written to advise us, if the project is successful, of the government-mandated approval process which would include a role for retirees. TUARP may wish to invite her to speak at our October meeting.

Joanne Sokolowski, from Alumni Affairs, spoke about Convocation 2016 and opportunities to volunteer.

2. Introduction of new members: New staff members are: Marie Bourbonnais, Christine Cordy, Huda Al-Haddad, Darlene Anderson, Kathy Fife, Patricia Fitzgerald, Stephen Gardiner, Doug Johnson, Craig Kelly, Laurie LaPlante, Catherine Leahy, Nancy Lewis, Warren Lloyd, John Lucy, Dale McKay, Nancy Melanson, Marilyn Miller, Deborah Mills, Patricia Nobels, Marion Norman, Veikko Pipponen, Linda Scott, Charlene Shipp-Fuellbeck, Ann Todd, Cindy Turnbull, Christine Withrow, James Wray.

New faculty member is: Brian Hircock.

Interest was expressed in the OTIP health insurance plan. Retirees are informed about it in the “package” they receive prior to leaving.

3. Observances: Deaths from October, 2015 to May, 2016. Staff: Pauline Moloney, John Moore, John Sullivan, Frances Coughlin, Barb Hulcoop.
Faculty: Ron Settingington.

4. Minutes: The Minutes of the 48th General Meeting of TUARP in October 2015 were provided previously and a motion for their acceptance moved by John Breukelaar and seconded by Morgan Tamplin was approved unanimously.

5. Business arising from the minutes:

The Tapirisat plaque. Dale Standen and Alan Brunger summarized the progress made in finally procuring and installing the plaque in the A.J.M. Smith Room. The cost of the plaque, \$988, will be, hopefully, covered by donations from members as well as the amount of up to \$500 set aside in TUARP’s budget. Gordon Johnston proposed using email to canvass the membership for donations. Gary Reker has already made a donation. One proposed site for the plaque is just outside the door of the Smith room. The proposed date for an unveiling ceremony and reception is mid-June this year.

The Student Affairs Association had suggested, through liaison with Eunice Lund-Lucas, that interested TUARP members might volunteer to be mentors to First Year students who have been identified as needing some guidance and support. Nona Robinson (Student Affairs) might be invited to address TUARP’s October meeting on this topic.

6. Proposal regarding Associate Membership of TUARP: Discussion followed on the idea of non-pensionable former employees of Trent University to whom we might wish to offer associate Membership in TUARP. Points raised included the following: Associate members would not have the right to vote on pension items; fees would be paid as usual. Morgan Tamplin pointed out a potential risk of this proposal owing to the “grey” area of “former employment” (e.g. adjunct status, temporary hiring, *etc.*). It was agreed to bring the issue back to the October meeting.

7. Financial Report: Gloria Dunn reported that the TUARP bank balance in April 2016 was \$3,506.75. She reported fewer “mail-in” subscriptions. The annual donation of \$300 from the university had not yet been received. Gloria urged members to donate to the plaque fund. The President’s Office has expressed a willingness to sponsor a specific annual event such as the Christmas party.

8. Pension report: Ray March reported that all TUFAs pensioners (faculty) received an increase in June, 2015. In contrast, OPSEU members advised that no raise had been received in the past nine years. John Breukelaar reported on the staff pension “side” following his attendance at a joint-university pension meeting in July 2015. He stated that pre-2007 staff (OPSEU) retirees had received an increase in pension although more recent retirees had none. The pension plans were not performing well financially and

needed additional injections from the university in order to bolster pensions to the tune of \$4.5 m. for OPSEU and even more for TUFA.

A proposal for the new universal combined provincial pension plan for university employees was discussed. Its “pro-“ aspects included the solvency issue of individual plans, and the “con-“ aspects included the concern over sustaining the quality of local existing plans owing to plan variation across the province. The next joint-university pension meeting on this matter was scheduled for July, 2017.

Ray reported the conclusion of the ongoing dispute stemming from the inequity of pre-1999 TUFA pensions. A letter had been received in 2015 from TUFA pension committee to the effect that no redress was possible.

9. Community Announcements:

Douro-Dummer Library has an art show of works by Helen and Tim Sheehan in May and June.

Morgan Tamplin announced the Peterborough Chapter of the Archeological Society on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

The musical “The Buddy Holly Story” will be performed at Showplace in mid-May.

Refreshment break

10. Guest Speaker: Michael Peterman, Emeritus Professor in English Literature, spoke about his experiences and reminiscences in writing his regular column on “*Culture & Arts*” for the Peterborough EXAMINER since 2009, one year after his retirement from Trent. Michael worked first of all with Ed Arnold as his editor, and after a one year hiatus resumed in 2012 under the guidance of Jim Hendry and later Kennedy Gordon, resulting in 135 columns so far. He thought that a better title for the column would be “Culture and Memory” because the work is almost an extension of his teaching as well as his major ongoing research interests, such as James McCarroll. Michael acknowledges the vital role of Cara Peterman in correcting details and finding an ending. He likes to hear responses from readers although he has only included his personal email in the latter part of the series.

Michael focused on a few of his favourite subjects for his columns, for example the local writer John Craig, author of *The Burning of the Noronic* and *Chappie and Me*. Another column featured stories of the singer, Jimmy Durante. Michael explained that his attraction to writing the columns derived from the opportunity to express, though a small story, his interest in a wide variety of everyday topics.

The members expressed appreciation to him for his talk, and added in some stories of their own.

11. Any other business: None.

12. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was moved by Gary Reker, seconded by Alan Brunger.

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by Alan Brunger, Volunteer Scribe.