

Saint Mary's University Retirees' Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – July 30, 2015
Boondocks Restaurant, Eastern Passage, NS

Present: J. Archibald, H. Cameron, G. Chauvin, M. Chew, R. Cospers, E. Doak, L. Falk, E. Haigh, M. Herrick, W. Katz (Acting Secretary), E. McCulloch (Treasurer), R. Marshall, G. Mitchell, A. Murphy, S. Pendse, M. Schenk, A. Seaman, V. Tarnawski, G. Thomas (President), D. Turner, K. Vaughan, G.F. Young, J. Young (Vice-President)

President G. Thomas called the meeting to order and presented the following Agenda:

1. Welcome and call to order
2. Regrets
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Appointment of Secretary
5. Minutes of the Last AGM June 15, 2014
6. Treasurer's Annual Report
7. President's Annual Report
8. Election of Officers
9. Appointment of an Auditor
10. Future Activities of SMURA
12. Other

1. Welcome and Call to Order: President Geraldine Thomas called the meeting to order while we waited for our food to arrive at Boondocks Restaurant.

2. Regrets: She offered regrets from M. Chew, B. Hartnell, M. Heukaeufer, and S. Walter.

3. Approval of Agenda: It was moved (S. Pendse) and seconded (W. Katz) that the Agenda be approved. Carried.

4. Appointment of Secretary: W. Katz was appointed Acting Secretary.

5. Minutes of the Last AGM, June 15, 2014: No minutes have been found. If they surface, we will approve them at next year's AGM.

6. Treasurer's Annual Report: E. McCulloch submitted a written report dated 15 July 2015 showing a current balance of \$ 1,262.88. There are now 41 paid up members. A. Seaman and J. Young seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

7. President's Annual Report:

Geraldine thanked members of the Board for their work.

In Memorium: G. Thomas noted the death of Fr. Dr. William Lonc, S.J. Father Lonc, who died in December 2014, was a highly-respected and well-liked member of the Astronomy and Physics Department at Saint Mary's.

By way of introducing activities of the past year, G. Thomas noted that SMURA attempts to do three things: organize special events, liaise with the university, and involve itself in action and advocacy. Thus far, she noted, the association has not succeeded in doing very much in the latter two categories. Discussion of this may be taken up in future.

What follows are brief highlights of the report delivered by G. Thomas.

- At last year's AGM, following the business of the meeting, we heard a stimulating lecture by Dr. Peter Daly, professor emeritus at McGill University on "Presence and Use of Symbolism." This get together at the Wright House on Young Avenue ended with wine, snacks and conversation.
- In August, a large group went out to Inn on the Lake in Wellington to enjoy lunch and time together.
- On September 20, which was a beautiful day, we enjoyed an end of summer party with many friends at the house of John and Nickie Young in Halifax. They were wonderful hosts and the afternoon and early evening were marked by lots of laughter, excellent food and much stimulating conversation.
- On October 5, our friend and former colleague, David Turner, of SMU's Department of Astronomy and Physics, spoke at Saint Mary's on "Astronomy and the Skies of Nova Scotia." A high point for many who attended the lecture was David's reading of the ceiling pattern of stars in St. John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg, as a copy of another church ceiling in the UK, where the intent was to reproduce the sky for the time of Jesus' birth according to Christian writings.
- On November 7, SMURA sponsored a presentation by Doug Wright, a specialist and professional on Estate Planning. Mr. Wright talked about points to watch for in making wills, choosing executors, the meaning and extent of the Personal Directive and Power of Attorney. He also does private sessions with potential clients.
- A wine and cheese reception at the Citadel Hill venue was held on November 26 together with a presentation on financial planning. As always, this was generously sponsored by TD Bank and hosted by our long-time friend Mary Ellen Hallett.
- December 17 brought us together once more for our popular holiday gathering and meal at the Henry House on Barrington Street.
- The Executive made a decision that because of concerns about winter weather, SMURA would forego activities during the worst winter months. This turned out to have been a good decision. After the winter, we resumed our get-togethers on April 17 for a lunch at Salty's Restaurant in downtown Halifax.
- On May 10, Keith Vaughan and Marion Sensen gave an illustrated talk, "A Tale of Two Rivers." This was a slide show, or "travel set," about their trip made in 2014 by road, following the path of river cruises. They started in Amsterdam and travelled along the Rhine and through Holland and Germany, along the river

Mein. They wound up on the Danube at Ravensburg and then continued as far as Vienna.

- Our final event before the AGM was an excellent lecture by a popular return speaker, Dr. Jock Murray, former head of the CMA and Dean of Dalhousie's Medical Faculty, who spoke about "Illnesses in National Leaders." A few years ago, Dr. Murray was part of a high level White House Committee directed to hammer out a new policy in this area for the United States.

Liaisons: Geraldine raised the issue of relations with SMUFU, which she maintained were cordial. This year SMUFU is negotiating a new contract, and SMURA was invited to put forward items of concern for retirees. SMURA submitted some ideas following talks among executive members. These include topics such as possible changes in the way the term Professor Emeritus is used and chosen at SMU.

Retirement of Colin Dodd: Geraldine reminded us that over the last 15 years Colin Dodds has been a very effective president for Saint Mary's. He is now retired from that role, but not retired from Saint Mary's. We join with others in applauding his term in office. She sent a card of thanks on behalf of SMURA in which she expressed hope that Colin and Carol would now have time to join with us in some of our activities. She also reminded us that his office and he personally have been of great assistance to us, funding many receptions following our lectures and when we co-hosted the Atlantic Canada University Retirees' Conference.

CURAC: For two years and now for a second two-year term, Geraldine has been a member of CURAC's Board of Directors. She has attended the national CURAC conferences, representing SMURA, most recently this May at Queen's in Kingston. She has undertaken a lot of work on our behalf at CURAC. She urged us to take a look at the CURAC website for a fuller sense of things heard and done at the recent meeting. The focus this year was largely on seniors' health.

SMURA Future and Leadership: Geraldine also spoke of the future for SMURA, principally in the area of leadership. Will the association be able to hold its own when the job of the President is now so very time-consuming? Is it possible that what we need is an "events secretary"? Should we have two presidents rather than one? These questions will have to be discussed.

6. **Election of Officers:** Fred Young and Arthur Murphy were the Nominating Committee for this year's election of officers. Nominations were as follows: Ron Cosper, President; Geraldine Thomas, Past-President; John Young, Vice-President; Susan Walter, Secretary; Elaine McCulloch, Treasurer; Wendy Katz, Rowland Marshall, George Mitchell, Arthur Murphy, and Shripad Pendse will continue as Members of the Board; new additions to the Board are Bert Hartnell, Mararethe Heukaeufer, and Keith Vaughan. Ron Cosper said that he would serve as president for only one year. F. Young moved and Arthur seconded the nominating list. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Appointment of an Auditor:** E. McCulloch moved and G. Chauvin seconded a motion to appoint Milt Chew as Auditor. Motion carried.

10. **Future Meetings and Activities of SMURA:** The President invited ideas, names, themes, etc., for possible future meetings and public presentations. The following were suggested:

- A. Seaman volunteered to deliver a talk on the significance of Chaos Theory to the Arts.
- There was talk of an end of summer party. G. Thomas offered to send an e-mail requesting volunteers for this event.
- E. Doak suggested a talk on the recent Saint Mary's report submitted by the SMU committee after the incident of the sexist chant in 2013. (The report was later identified as the one entitled "Promoting a Culture of Safety, Respect and Consent at Saint Mary's University and Beyond.")

9. **Other Business:** John Young introduced "other business" just after the President's Report because he had to leave. It is recorded here. He said that the Science Faculty was conducting a survey of space and wondered if SMURA would be interested in sharing its office space with Science Club students. There was no interest expressed. Members felt that we should keep the space to ourselves.

Hearing no further business, it was moved (A. Seaman) that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

W. Katz, Acting Secretary