

Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners  
**Approved Minutes**  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Present: Heather Schellinck (Chair), Randy Barkhouse, Stewart Cameron, Susan Holmes (Secretary), Marilyn Klein, Marek Kujath, Ed Leach (Treasurer), Oriel MacLennan, David Mercer, Grace Paterson, Nancy Pitts, David Tindall, Peter Wallace.

Absent: Phil O'Hara

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Meeting called to order by President, Heather Schellinck.

1. Agenda adopted as presented.
2. Previous Minutes (Jan 18, 2021)
  - a. Minutes approved as presented.
  - b. Matters Arising – none.
3. President's Report – Heather Schellinck
  - a. Randy drafted a letter to Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President, Finance and Administration regarding rationale for actuarial valuation before 2023. Heather, Ed and Susan helped with editing. Board members commented that the letter was well-written. Heather will sign and hand-deliver a hard copy on Feb 16, 2022.
  - b. Randy commented that Faye Woodman is an alternate observer on Pension Advisory Committee (PAC). Integration of enhanced CPP means reduced contributions to Dal pension plan, and increased contributions to CPP. There has been no further discussion of the "cessation of transfers" proposal. The DFA are opposed, and the two NSGEU locals have not agreed to discuss that proposal so it may be a dead issue, at least for a few years.
  - c. Jasmine Walsh, VP HR is leaving Dalhousie.
  - d. Heather called Research Services about contributing to a project that involved seniors and she was passed on to Advancement Office. She will follow up.
  - e. Registry of Joint Stock Companies seems to have ADRP number wrong and Ed's name misspelled.
  - f. Honorary Membership: ADRP bylaws state that Board can award for long term service. Colin Stuttard was secretary for many years and has contributed a great deal of time and expertise to ADRP.

Motion:

To award Honorary Membership for Outstanding Service to Colin Stuttard.  
Grace Paterson/David Tindall  
Passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report – Ed Leach (See report)
  - a. Member dues for January \$1,147.06; deposited Feb 9.
  - b. Next term deposit matures June 2, 2022.
  - c. There is a travel fund of \$1,200 although College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC) conference will be virtual.
  - d. CURAC dues \$300 paid.
  - e. Checking on liability insurance and getting quote.
  - f. Heather received several cheques.

Phil O'Hara is now in palliative care. He is having difficulty moving, but still has a ton of humour. Sadly, he is in the final stages. His blog posts and achievements have been inspirational for many. Ed and Grace will post on FB. Susan will drop off card.

NB: Phil passed away peacefully on February 16 at 9:30 am according to a post on his blog by daughter, Meredith.

## 5. Other Reports

### A. Benefits – Peter Wallace (See report)

- 1) We need an observer under 65 for representation on Dal Benefits Advisory Committee for early retirees under age 65. Also need a voting member on the Retirees Benefits Advisory Committee.
- 2) Health and Travel Advisory Committee Meeting for early retirees under age 65 and Regular employees of Dalhousie to be held Monday, March 7. Would be advantageous to have an observer at this meeting.
- 3) Health and Travel Advisory Committee Meeting for age 65 and over to be held Friday Feb 18.
- 4) No major issues with either plan. High intensity flu shot not covered. Could be covered in April. Blue Cross does not cover lift from bed to wheelchair. Checking with Marcie Nixon, Dal Benefits Office.
- 5) Joanne Clovis, former School of Dental Hygiene and former ADRP Board member, and Marilyn Klein, looking into dental benefit plan for retirees.

### B. Communications

Webmaster - Stewart Cameron (See report)

- 1) Communications Committee is yet to formally meet. Will come back to Board with plans for how they plan to function.
- 2) Anyone who is ADRP member could assist with webmaster role. Will recruit for Co-webmaster and Benefits Advisory Committee rep with notice on website.
- 3) Improvements were made to the website with the assistance of Phil O'Hara.
- 4) Stats provided that show 24 hits over 30 days on Learning Opportunities. We do not post everything that might be of interest to seniors; ADRP is not a clearing house.

Newsletter - Marilyn Klein

- 1) 10 visits to December Newsletter from Jan 9 to Feb 15.
- 2) Waiting for substantial content to put out next newsletter, likely April 5. Benefits news and perhaps response from VP Finance and Admin re actuarial valuation might be included.
- 3) March 29 deadline for newsletter submissions.

### C. Pension Advisory Committee (PAC) – Randy Barkhouse (See report)

- 1) PAC meets Feb 16; the agenda includes updates on assets, review of actuarial valuation decision.
- 2) Some action at Senate through David Westwood, DFA President: valuation before 2023 could mean \$2.25M savings, but Dal has a big budget so how persuasive is that?
- 3) Full 6% of indexation could be paid out to retirees. January 31, 2023 is next mandatory valuation and we hope there will still be a surplus.
- 4) Great progress has been made in our pension investments in the last few years. There will be drops of course, but there will also be recoveries.

### D. Membership – Heather Schellinck

Emailed 4 new retirees to welcome them and in future will mention that we are always looking for volunteers. 692 payroll deductions and 33 members on list for dues = 725. 4 members on our list are not on payroll. 4 mailed newsletters returned.

Marilyn will add a clause to the membership form to ask members to agree that an address change sent to HR will be shared with the ADRP.

- E. Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS) – Nancy Pitts  
Now into 3<sup>rd</sup> week with four online courses. Over 300 people who were not SCANS members participated in public lecture on February 14: Why People Hate Art. SCANS looking for several Board members. Spring semester April 18 – May 26, with astounding 12 courses (2 by Zoom).

Next lecture:

Bladder Issues: Why They Happen, Why Kegels Don't Help, and How to Get Control Back, Shelagh Meacher, March 10, 2:00 pm by Zoom.

This term's courses:

Marcos Zentilli – How Geology Rocks Everyday Life

Barbara Ross – Let's Talk About Dementia or Where Did I Put My Keys?

Norman Pereira – Six Questions

Paul Manning – How Insects Conquered the Earth

Membership is \$120 per year for as many courses as you wish, depending on classroom space.

- F. College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC) – Marilyn Klein  
May 19-20 tentative dates for virtual conference.

6. New Business  
Explore possibility of April meeting being hybrid.

7. Adjournment 3:26 pm

**Next Meeting: March 15, 2022, 2:00 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Schellinck, President  
Susan Holmes, Secretary

Attached:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Report of the Webmaster
3. Pension Advisory Committee Report

## ADRP Treasurer's Report January 18, 2022

AS OF January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**CUA Chequing Account.** Balance is \$3,741.36.

**Savings Account 7634-20-3.** Balance is \$81.52.

**Savings Account 7634-21-3.** Balance is \$1,200.57

Certificate #	Deposit	Mature	Interest	Principal	Accrued %	Closing Val.
76364-40-3	02/03/2020	08/03/2022	2.250%	10,667.54	238.27	10,915.81
76364-41-3	02/03/2020	08/03/2022	2.250%	11,852.06	264.48	12,116.54
76364-42-3	12/19/2020	12/19/2022	.800%	20,630.88	19.44	20,650.32
76364-43-3	12/02/2019	06/02/2022	1.950%	<u>10,394.34</u>	<u>33.32</u>	<u>10,427.66</u>
				<u>53,554.82</u>	<u>555.51</u>	<u>54,110.33</u>

### Dalhousie Account:

General Account \$2,999.16

Travel Fund (For CURAC) \$1,200

### NOTES:

1. CURAC dues of \$300 have been paid.
2. All 4 of the term deposits mature this year – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup>(2), and December 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. Dues for January were deposited February 9<sup>th</sup> - \$1,147.06.
4. Phil O'Hara recognition



## Report of the Webmaster

February 15, 2022

- After the purchase of the “sister” domains *theadrp.net*, *theadrp.org* and *theadrp.com*, they were activated and validated with our web host provider. Security certificates and redirects were installed. Now, if anyone types in any of those domains in a browser, they will be redirected to our own *theadrp.ca* site. In this way we are protected against impersonation by outside parties.
- There was a communication problem with our hosting provider during the validation process. Several vital emails which required action ended up being automatically moved to the trash folder and were missed for a short period. Our current arrangement has the [adrp@dal.ca](mailto:adrp@dal.ca) as our default mailbox for the website management. This is only accessible by the president. I would recommend changing the email address for management of the website to a devoted mailbox accessible by the webmaster.
- I have taken a seminar provided by WordPress on new capabilities in our authoring platform. I also intend to take a course on monetizing our site in the event we wish to explore accepting dues on our site in the future.
- We have added numerous upcoming educational opportunities from university retired faculty associations to the website.
- We still do not have a co-manager for the website. Having an additional webmaster is advisable.
- Two snapshots of visit statistics to our website follow.

**Pension Report to ADRP Board Meeting  
February 15, 2022**

- 1. A letter to Dal's V-P Finance from President Schellinck was drafted collaboratively with her and secretary Holmes, expressing confidence in the state of the RTF, and giving reasons why ADRP does not believe it necessary for the administration to wait until next January for a new actuarial valuation.**
- 2. Not having a new valuation prevents the RTF trustees from considering a discretionary award of any catch-up indexation.**
- 3. Given the large surplus in the RTF with few signs of an economic downturn, the case for paying out some of the 6% missed indexation is strong.**
- 4. PAC next meets on Feb. 16 when the sponsor will again indicate their stance.**
- 5. The outlook for further automatic indexation next year remains favorable. Returns for 2020 and 2021 were 2.2% and 19.42% respectively. Based on the 3-year average, a one year return to June 20, 2022 of 6% would qualify pensions for automatic indexation of about 4% which would provide some relief to the cost-of-living increase in the 4-5% range for the current pension year. The excess of the 3-year average over the 5.05% threshold for RTF returns, determines the amount of automatic indexation, capped at CPI for the latest Plan year.**