

Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners

Approved Minutes of Board Meeting

January 18, 2022

Present: Randy Barkhouse (Acting Chair), Marilyn Klein, Ed Leach, Oriel MacLennan, Grace Paterson, Nancy Pitts, David Tindall, Stewart Cameron, Susan Holmes (Secretary)

Regrets: Heather Schellinck, Peter Wallace

Absent: Marek Kujath, David Mercer, Phil O'Hara

Meeting called to order by Acting Chair, Randy Barkhouse.

1. Agenda adopted as presented.
2. Previous Minutes (Nov 16, 2021)
 - a. Approval

Ed asked if \$20 annual membership dues were apportioned over 12 months. Confirmed. Even though not efficient, this works with the payment system in place.

Stewart reported an error in section 5: Delete "and Canadian-based." Add: "Our servers are Canadian-based."

Motion to approve minutes with correction: Oriel/Ed. Passed.

- b. Matters arising

Randy commented on the untimely passing of Glenn Shea. David Tindall stated that an autopsy had taken place and Glenn had an undiagnosed heart condition. He had previously been perfectly healthy. Very sad.

3. President's Report

Susan passed along an update from Heather. She has not heard from President Saini re MOU. Randy and Heather will request to meet again with President Saini. The purpose of the MOU is to restate a number of agreements, such as the monthly pension deductions, between ADRP and administration. These arrangements were made several years ago with totally different people on the administration side.

The other issue was to bring up the RTF Pension Member Trustee appointment. Our request to have input got superseded in passage of time. David Cameron retired and the replacement had already taken place. Andy Cochrane was appointed by administration. ADRP does not object to the person, but to the process for appointment.

4. Treasurer's Report (See report)

Ed reported that not much had changed. Deposit of \$1138.76. Balance of \$2576.43. All four certificates mature in coming year at various dates—2 in August; 1 in June; 1 in Dec. Interest rates not likely to increase from .8%. Randy and Ed will come back with proposal for plan re surplus.

Randy asked about \$1,200 travel fund received for CURAC conference. Grace stated that CURAC 2022 will be virtual conference with no travel. This is a grant of \$1,200 that comes through HR. When we come back to physical format for ADRP meetings, the fund can be used to reimburse people travelling from Agriculture Campus.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Ed/Marilyn.

5. Other Reports

a. Benefits

Peter emailed Susan that there was nothing to report. Meeting February 18 for Retiree Benefits Advisory Committee to review experience and set new rates.

b. Communications (See report)

Webmaster Stewart reported that it's been busy with information on conferences and learning opportunities coming in for members. In response, new pages have been created on the website.

Stewart also referred to proposed Communications Committee (CC) Terms of Reference brought forward in November by Marilyn and Stewart. The Communications Committee would support ADRP to ensure messages have integrity. The ToR propose that CC should vet and make sure message is consistent across media. CC would comprise President (*ex officio*), Membership Committee Chair, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Associate Webmaster (when position filled).

Motion to adopt Communications Committee with this Terms of Reference. Stewart/Nancy

Question: Can we legally institute Communications Committee simply by approval of ADRP Board? Randy confirmed we can do this as the Board. (ADRP Constitution: Article VI, paragraph 1.a)

Motion Carried.

Stewart added that Communications Committee operating principles and procedures will follow.

c. Newsletter

Marilyn had nothing to add. Blending print and electronic media will progress. Retiree Benefits Advisory Committee meeting report expected late February so plans for newsletter a couple of weeks after. Submission will come from Peter.

Susan suggested ideas from RTOERO magazine which provides different themes for members to respond to. Magazine was forwarded to Heather.

d. Pension Advisory Committee (See report)

Randy reported on a few developments since the December meeting. There is continued appreciation of the Pension Fund; bottom hasn't fallen out as administration seems concerned might happen, although there have been fluctuations. Surplus for RTF is in order of \$50 million, which would be more with new valuation.

There has been a change in the trustees. Jonathan Shapiro (Law Professor), is DFA representative and trustee for both Pension Trust Fund and Retirees' Trust Fund.

The continuing concern is the surplus of \$50M in RTF. It's a technicality that trustees can only exercise discretion after most recent actuarial valuation. Administration is waiting until 2023 for actuarial valuation. To catch up now with indexation would cost \$24.5M which could be funded by using just half of surplus. Administration needs to know that we are not silent or neutral. Administration does not seem willing to allow trustees to even consider this issue, even though we see reasons why it is also in administration's best interests. Their position seems to be outdated and not reflective of current facts.

Randy will take this up with Heather to consider adding to agenda of MOU follow up meeting with President Saini.

Randy will communicate with David Westwood, DFA, to alert member of BAC of ADRP issues. No hint of BAC yet.

e. Membership

Susan reported for Heather. Membership remains at 720.

Question: Are paper membership forms still slowing down electronic transfer of membership dues?

f. Seniors' College (SCANS) (See report)

Nancy reported that SCANS had been planning to offer in-person classes during the Winter term but had to switch to Zoom. The following four courses will be offered.

- How Geology Rocks Everyday Life with Marcos Zentilli (very popular at Vancouver CURAC conference) (Tuesday mornings)
 - Let's Talk about Dementia with Barbara Ross (Wednesday mornings)
 - Six Questions (current events) with Norman Perira (Thursday mornings)
 - How Insects Conquered the Earth with Paul Manning, first Rhodes Scholar for Agriculture Campus. (Friday afternoons)
- First public lecture of 2022: Contemporary Art: Weird or Wonderful with Robin Metcalfe, February 14.

g. College and University Retiree Association of Canada (CURAC)

Grace had nothing to report. Randy added that the Policy Committee is meeting January 19 and that everything is proceeding well for virtual conference.

6. New business

Ed shared some news items including that the Stanford distinguishes between Centre for Aging and Centre for Longevity (improving health span not life span). We are living at a time in history when it is predicted that one person of a couple aged 60-65 will live to be 93. Our middle life is being extended.

A discussion ensued on the topic of healthy aging and factors that influence it, such as genetics, exercise (housework and more deliberate exercise), socializing, education, community of friends, etc. Say no to alcohol and smoking.

7. Adjournment 3:05 pm.

Randy Barkhouse, Acting Chair
Susan Holmes, Secretary

Next Meeting: February 15, 2022, 2:00 pm.

Attached:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Communications Report and Terms of Reference
3. Pension Advisory Committee Report
4. SCANS Report

ADRP Treasurer's Report January 18, 2022

AS OF December 31st, 2021

CUA Chequing Account. Balance is \$2,576.43.

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

Savings Account 7634-21-3. Balance is \$1,200.52

Certificate #	Deposit	Mature	Interest	Principal	Accrued %	Closing Val.
76364-40-3	02/03/2020	08/03/2022	2.250%	10,667.54	217.87	10,895.41
76364-41-3	02/03/2020	08/03/2022	2.250%	11,852.06	241.83	12,093.89
76364-42-3	12/19/2020	12/19/2022	.800%	20,630.88	5.43	20,636.31
76364-43-3	12/02/2019	06/02/2022	1.950%	<u>10,394.34</u>	<u>16.10</u>	<u>10,410.44</u>
				<u>53,554.82</u>	<u>481.23</u>	<u>54,036.05</u>

Dalhousie Account:

General Account \$2,999.16

Travel Fund (For CURAC) \$1,200

NOTES:

1. We received \$1,200 for our travel fund for the CURAC Conference
2. All 4 of the term deposits mature this year – June 2nd, August 3rd(2), and December 19th.
3. Dues for December were deposited January 12th - \$1,138.76.

[Draft Terms of Reference](#)

ADRP Communications Committee

Purpose

To support the mission of the Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners by facilitating and ensuring the integrity of messaging to members.

The committee will coordinate and maintain the consistency of all print and electronic media made available to the membership.

Membership

The president, ADRP (*ex officio*)
The membership committee chair
The newsletter editor
The webmaster
The associate webmaster

Chair

The committee will be chaired by either the Newsletter Editor or Webmaster, as chosen by the members.

Scope

Content in mass emails, newsletters and on the website must be vetted in advance by the committee.

Reporting

The Communications Committee reports to the board of the ADRP

Meeting

The committee will meet monthly or as required. It is expected much of the work can be done via email. A quorum will comprise 50% of the committee members. Decisions and recommendations will ideally be made by consensus, but where required, a 50% majority will carry the vote. Notes of decisions will be kept and submitted to the board at monthly meetings.

v 1.1 November 16, 2021

**Pension Report to ADRP Board Meeting
January 18, 2022**

- 1. The RTF Trustees Report to Pensioners was belatedly distributed by e-mail on January 13 (usually Oct/Nov)**
- 2. The most pressing issue for pensioners IMHO is the sponsor's opposition to a new actuarial valuation before the mandatory January 31, 2023 date (three years after the previous). Fear of a downturn in asset value that results in a new deficit requiring added operating budget payments is cited as the reason.**
- 3. This prevents the RTF trustees from considering a discretionary award of any catch-up indexation.**
- 4. Two new trustees have been appointed in the past 6 months, Andrew Cochrane as a pensioner rep succeeding David Cameron, and law prof Jonathan Shapiro as new DFA rep, succeeding Ron Pink. Together with Level Chan these two give me substantial confidence that fiduciary duty will trump sponsor interests in governance of the RTF. But they must be enabled to exercise their discretion**
- 5. The \$1.7 billion+ Dal Pension Plan Continues to Have a Surplus for the 1st Time in 20 years. 1/2PTF&1/2RTF**
- 6. The Retirees Trust Fund for Pensioners Has Been in Surplus For Most, if Not All That Period. Deficit Has been in the Pension Trust Fund for Current Employees.**
- 7. To Have a Surplus Since 2020 Requires Assets Exceed Liabilities by the the PfAD amount (Provision for Adverse Deviation), which is 107.7% for Dal.i.e.107.7 is the new 100.**

Report from SCANS; January 2022

Submitted by Nancy Pitts

While plans were all in place at all of the Chapters for a return to in-person classes, this has had to change. Due to the emergence of the omicron variant and resulting Public Health Directives, the Winter Semester 2022 has been changed to zoom-based learning. On quite short notice, the SCANS Curriculum Committee was able to secure four instructors willing to teach via Zoom.

The Winter 2022 courses are:

- How Geology Rocks Everyday Life with Marcos Zentilli (Tuesday mornings)
- Let's Talk About Dementia with Barbara Ross (Wednesday mornings)
- Six Questions (current events) with Norman Perira (Thursday mornings)
- How Insects Conquered the Earth with Paul Manning (Friday afternoons)

The Information Session was held on Thursday January 13th and is now available as a Youtube video at www.thescans.org. Registration is currently open. The general semester runs from the first week of February into March, but note that the first class in Norman Perira's course starts January 27th

The first Public Lecture of 2022 will be "Contemporary Art: Weird or Wonderful" with Robin Metcalfe. The date and time for this free public lecture will be announced shortly.