



OCRA™ Executive Meeting #46, December 2, 2010
College Employer Council – 16th Floor – Enterprise Room
20 Bay Street - Toronto

10:30 am
MINUTES

Present: Linda Choptiany (Centennial) - President
Peter Bartram (Seneca)
Joan Cunnington (Seneca)
Jim Martin (St. Clair) – teleconference
Jennifer Moore (Fleming) – teleconference
Lorna Plunkett (Fleming)
Stella Pulkinghorn (Fleming)
Rod Rork (Humber)
Ruth Tracy (St. Lawrence) - teleconference

Regrets: Gil Callingham (Seneca)
Derrick May (Mohawk)

1. Welcome to new directors Ruth Tracy, Rod Rork.

Linda and the Executive welcomed OCRA's two newly elected board members. Ruth and Rod spoke briefly about their background.

Chair's remarks.

. The Ontario College Application Service, the Ontario Colleges Library System, the College Employer Council, and a closed group of employees from the Northern Centre for Advanced Technology are potential new members of the CAAT Pension Plan. As CAAT Pension Plan members, these retirees could have the option to join OCRA. Further discussion will follow regarding changes to OCRA's By-law and Constitution that may be necessary to accommodate a new category of member.

Action: Peter Bartram offered to review the By-law and Constitution in this regard. Jim Martin will assist.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved and Seconded by Lorna Plunkett and Joan Cunnington
That with the addition of Item 11.1 CRGIAC Retiree Position, the Agenda is approved as presented. Carried

3. Adoption of Minutes of August 12, 2010 (OCRA Executive meeting #45)

Moved and Seconded by Joan Cunnington and Jennifer Moore
That with a minor word adjustment on page 2, the above set of Minutes is approved as presented. Carried

4. Business Arising from August 12, 2010 Minutes

4.1 Pension Indexing

OCRA's letter of September 22, 2011 to the CAAT Plan sought clarifications to certain questions. Mr. Dobson's reply directed OCRA to the Plan's website whereby it reads that retirees with pre-1992 service have had indexing on an 'ad hoc' basis. He noted that the Plan needs a substantial surplus to continue funding indexation for pre-1992 service after 2014.

5. Reports

5.1 Treasurer (Peter Bartram for Gil Callingham)

As Gil is away for the winter, Peter has agreed to hold the Treasurer's records for safekeeping. Linda Choptiany and Peter Bartram are responsible for the banking and accounting tasks for the winter.

5.1.1 CURAC annual membership fee

Following discussion and an explanation of OCRA's relationship with CURAC, it was Moved and Seconded by Ruth Tracy and Peter Bartram THAT payment of \$300 for the CURAC annual fee is approved.

Carried

5.2 Membership Coordinator - Jennifer Moore

Jennifer referred to her printed report that had been emailed to the Executive. OCRA membership numbers are stable.

In response to a question about accessing local retiree information, Jennifer replied that the CAAT Pension Plan is the only body which has the full list of College system retirees. Sun Life has lists for the one third of CAAT retirees who have purchased health benefits through this carrier.

Five college retiree associations collect OCRA membership fees and remit them to Jennifer. Their support is appreciated. Jennifer has completed the annual mailing of membership renewal requests, with supplemental correspondence to college contacts.

Action: Rod, Jennifer and Lorna offered to contact certain colleges' retiree associations or alumni departments regarding group collection and remittance of OCRA membership fees (as five colleges already do).

5.3 Communications Officer - Joan Cunningham

- . After the General Meeting, Joan received many requests for the Benefit Comparison chart she developed, and which has now been sent out electronically.
- . OCRA bookmarks are sent regularly to college human resource departments, most recently to Fanshawe. Joan will get more printed, as needed.
- . In October Joan and Peter Bartram met with Seneca's new alumni manager for an OCRA/alumni association get-acquainted opportunity.

. Relative to CURAC work, Joan sent an AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) U.S. survey to the local college retiree association presidents. Their replies are a useful voice from Canadian colleges.

6. 8th General Meeting – October 28 2010 – review, evaluations, comments

Linda thanked Derrick May for all the meeting arrangements and coordination at Mohawk College. She said it was a landmark meeting held at the college where OCRA's inaugural meeting was held, with all executive members contributing to its success.

Stella Pulkinghorn distributed and discussed two reports. G M attendance was at an all time high: 97 members from 14 colleges, and 6 others (speakers, guests, retiree partners) attended, as well as representatives of four associations: CAAT Plan, CoP, CEC, and OCASA.

The meeting evaluations indicated high satisfaction all around. Guest speakers were marked excellent. Dr. Tony Tilly (President of Fleming College and Chair of the Committee of Presidents) spoke about the changes in governance processes since the new legislation came into effect. Mr. Derek Dobson, CEO of the CAAT Plan provided a comprehensive analysis of the challenges the Plan faces and the steps being taken to manage funding. He detailed the pension indexing issues and took questions. Each brought high level power point presentations and offered extensive question and answer time. Their presentations have been posted on the OCRA website.

Ideas for 2011 General Meeting

. Continued attention to early booking of guest speakers in the areas of advocacy, benefits, community.

. Possible locations of next G.M.: GTA area colleges (Humber, George Brown); CEC.

Action: Rod, Linda and Peter will make inquiries of the colleges.

7. Pension indexing – next steps

Decisions/recommendations to improve the Plan's funding position are now expected from the Plan's Funding Task Force early in 2011.

The Plan's statement -

“Plan officials on the Board of Trustees have a legal responsibility to treat each generation of Plan members equitably, although this does not mean that everyone will be treated the same” is of great concern to OCRA.

Linda will prepare a letter seeking response from the Plan, to three points:

- lack of equitable treatment of retirees
- information about the savings to the pension plan if pre-1992 indexing is cancelled in 2014
- an offer from OCRA to prepare a white paper with suggestions from a survey of retirees

Action: Linda to write to the Plan.

8. Strategic Direction for 2011

OCRA's focus this past year has been the Pension Plan's pre-indexing issues and potential financial losses for long-service retirees. Most of the meetings, letters and communications related to this important topic as OCRA raised awareness of the issue with retirees and current employees.

2011 goals include finding ways to add value for our retirees, as we represent their concerns to the organizations relevant to CAAT retirees. We strive to actively present retiree issues firmly and positively with OPSEU, OCASA, CEC and the Plan.

9. Tracking retiree satisfaction/OCRA's role – Jim Martin & Linda Choptiany

Retirees continue to report that they receive little or no information on relevant matters from their home college. The CEC is also aware of this situation relative to health benefits information. OCRA is in early stages of talking to the Committee of Presidents and CEC for OCRA as an instrument for communication to retirees.

It was suggested that OCRA survey members, retirees, the Presidents, H.R. departments and/or the CAAT Plan about OCRA being instrumental in a supportive role.

Action: Joan offered to check with CURAC regarding a graduate student who may be able to prepare the survey.

10. OCRA Newsletter 2011

Plans are to publish a newsletter in February 2011.

11. Other Business

11.1 CRGIAC Retiree Position

CRGIAC (CAAT Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee)

OPSEU is seeking a retired academic retiree to be a member of the CRGIAC.

Joan Cunningham expressed an interest in applying and was encouraged to do so.

12. Next meeting

Over the winter months, communication is by email.

The NEXT MEETING will take place

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

10:30 a.m. at the CEC offices (14th Floor, 20 Bay St. Toronto)

13. Adjournment: 2:40 p.m.