

**LANGARA COLLEGE RETIREES
STEERING COMMITTEE
FINAL MINUTES**

May 21, 2020
Via Zoom, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Attendees:

Roy Sinn – Chair	Martin Gerson	Shannon Eeckhout (minutes)
Dave Lidstone – regrets	Diane Bradley – regrets	Moira Gookstetter
Gail Bremer	Yvonne Ohara	Ken Jillings
Jane Mason – regrets	Michael Sharzer	
Brian McGibney	Susan Weber	

The meeting was called to order at 12:36 pm.

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of minutes

- March minutes were approved with minor amendments.
- Minutes will be posted to the website.

3. Retirees' contributions to Langara initiatives

- Moira Gookstetter provided an update on the ways retirees are supporting the Foundation
- 28 retirees have donated \$12,000 during the first 4 months of the fiscal year; of these retirees, 5 are monthly donors, 3 have annual awards open
- Retirees also support SoS initiatives and Studio 58
- During the COVID appeal, \$6,700 has been donated with College matching
- This initiative has received \$294,000 in donations supporting students, the Community Cupboard and emergency bursaries.
- A few retirees are preparing legacy gifts and there are a few in place already
- Moira is interested in continuing to communicate with the retiree's community and to find other ways to engage them

4. Summary of April 29 Tri-University/CURAC Meeting

- 4 steering committee members attended the Zoom meeting with CURAC on April 29, 2020

- 12 participants from UBC, Kwantlen, SFU, UVIC and Langara

Retirees Support at Organizations

- There was discussion around how each organization deals with email access for retirees and emeriti.
- Shannon reminded the group that Langara has made a decision to end access for all retirees at date of termination, affected retirees have been notified and the change implemented on April 30.

Health Benefits

- Information was gathered from the organizations about different post-retirement extended health coverage. Some use Greenshield, some Blue Cross, some have the option of a Johnson Insurance plan.
- SFU has a plan with Blue Cross that they pay 50% of the premium for

- Susan provided some of the details of the RTO plan (included travel insurance but higher premiums) and outlined that if the retiree is not a traveler, the plan would not make sense for them.
- Further discussion is required about what information could be provided to retirees beyond the Pension Plan options.

5. Status of retiree101 listserv and membership list

Membership

- Some members did not take the opportunity to update their langara.ca address in the listserv
- Yvonne suggests trying canada411.com to track down a phone number
- Employees who have submitted a retirement date to HR receive a letter that includes encouragement and a link for them to join the listserv
- Retirement date information provided to HR is considered personal information and cannot be provided to the committee
- Facebook currently has 38 members
- CUPE and LFA could be contact with a request to encourage their retiring members to join
- The Steering Committee has representation at events but due to cancellations this year, this won't be possible
- More strategizing required for ways to contact retiring Langarans (ie. LinkedIn, Facebook, advertising, LFA, Union communications)
- Incentives to join include CS discounts, workshops, events

6. Workshops:

a. Retirement planning for pre-retirees

- Discussion took place about the possibility of offering workshops providing financial planning/advice as the counselling retirees get from the Pension Corp is specific to the pension and not a comprehensive financial plan
- Susan reported that Dennis Anderson from the Association of BC College Pension Plan Retirees has offered workshops in the past including preparing mentally, hobbies, what to expect in retirement
- Jane Mason, Vice-President, People and Culture to be consulted regarding content prior to scheduling workshops for potential retirees

7. Website and communication support for retirees

- Communication with our retirees is crucial. One of the important communication tools is the Langara retirees' website.
- Our current website is very difficult to find as it is buried under the People and Culture site; it does not allow members of the committee to subscribe to it and it is frequently outdated because it takes a long time to be updated. For these reasons Roy has designed an independent website that would be more user friendly, and easier to access.
- Roy would like to put a case forward to Jane for this independent retirees website that Langara would financially support. The committee unanimously approved the proposal.
- In going forward, Roy will draft the proposal and get a second opinion from Martin before submitting the proposal to Jane.
- Roy will also request a meeting with Jane. Results of the meeting will be shared with the committee.

8. Langara Cooks

- Michael reported that it was great to have a retirees presence at the event and that our vegetarian and meat offerings were well received.
- The committee thanked Michael for all his food preparation and he in turn thanked Ken and Roy for all their help in the transporting and serving of the food.
- Michael is more than willing to organize our entry again next year.
- Roy will post the event pictures on the retirees list serve.

9. Other

- Roy suggested that perhaps we could record our meeting for those who missed the meeting. No further action was taken on this item.

Upcoming Social Events

- Ken will ask the Langara Golf course when the club house will be opening and if we can have a retiree's social event in the near future.

Next Meeting

- No date set.

Adjournment

- The meeting concluded at 2:30 pm