

RALUT Annual General Meeting
April 25, 2013, 2:00 pm
Hart House, University of Toronto

MINUTES

Members of the RALUT Board present: Tom Alloway, Chair; Doug Creelman, Elinor Fillion, Hans de Groot, Beate Lowenberg, John Munro, David Olson, Scott Rogers, Peter Russell, Jack Stevenson, Roselyn Stone, John Valteau, F.Wilson.

The President and Committee Chairs provided written reports which were distributed together with the Agenda for 2013 and the Minutes of the 2012 AGM to all members attending this AGM.

1. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by J. Munro, and seconded by D. Creelman, that the Agenda be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

2. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by F. Wilson, and seconded by E. Fillion, that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on April 26, 2012 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

3. Report of the President

The President drew attention to his assessment of U of T's Pension Plan with respect to retirees as stated in his report. The funding for the Plan is stable but there is unlikely to be any improvement in the Plan nor any increase in benefits.

4. Report of the Treasurer

E. Fillion's expressed her thanks to C. Reed who checked the cash transactions in the annual financial report and found everything to be in order.

5. Report of the Commemorative Initiatives Committee

B. Lowenberg noted that the reports from the three students who received awards from the Endowed Fund demonstrate how worthwhile this initiative is. Once the new Boundless Memorial Fund reaches the appropriate threshold, any awards made will be matched by University funds. This support differs from the previous process of matching donations. B. Lowenberg said she was optimistic that the new fund would do as well as the first Endowed Fund.

6. Report of the Membership and Events Committee

J. Valteau spoke about the organization of study groups and selection of topics that would be of interest to members. Such topics might include practical issues such as medicare or government actions that could limit academic priorities, or online university teaching. He circulated sheets and asked attendees to complete and return them, indicating their interest in particular topics.

7. Report of the Benefits Committee

D. Creelman reported on his involvement with the Benefits Committee of CURAC. Benefits coverage at U of T ranks well compared with that of other institutions. RALUT's Benefits

Committee has been working to achieve greater recognition as part of the University community. An approach to the University Affairs Board of Governing Council to discuss the matter was unsuccessful but the Committee will continue its efforts in this regard.

8. **Report of the Pensions Committee**

J. Munro said he had taken over as chair of the Pensions Committee in the fall when the previous chair had to resign. While the Pensions Committee didn't meet this year, and UTFA's Salaries, Benefits and Workloads Committee met only twice, he has endeavoured to keep the RALUT committee informed and up to date on pension developments. He provided a commentary on the Morneau Report and said he thought it highly unlikely that its recommendations would be implemented. He allayed any concerns that the Supplemental Retirement Allowance (SRA) was not secure. Few if any newly retiring faculty will receive it, and the total SRA payments will diminish. They are now a small, really insignificant percentage of the total U of T pension payments. As mentioned earlier by the President, J. Munro said the U of T Pension Plan is in serious difficulties and he doesn't anticipate an increase in the cost of living increase which currently stands at 75 per cent of COLA. It is possible that those who are currently contributing to the Plan could be asked to contribute more or there could be a move to a defined contribution plan.

9. **Report of the Nominations Committee**

Prior to the presentation of the report of the Nominations Committee, B. Lowenberg provided an appreciation of J. Stevenson's many contributions to RALUT over the years, as follows.

Jack Stevenson: An Appreciation

Jack Stevenson is now retiring from the Board of Directors following many years of dedicated service. Jack's numerous notable contributions to RALUT started well before he became its President in April 2009. These included his invaluable creation of an 'estate checklist' to guide those confronted by the daunting responsibilities of winding up estates; and a detailed record-keeping proposal for us seniors respecting personal medications and their countless associated ramifications.

As President he was closely involved in critical stages of RALUT's transition to a not-for-profit, non-charitable corporation. This was ratified at the 2010 RALUT AGM. That demanding responsibility was later memorably summarized in Jack's own words: "The process of becoming incorporated ... was more arduous and time consuming than I ever imagined". (Recorded in the *RALUT Reporter*, Vol. 10#1).

Jack has also repeatedly served as chair of the Nominations Committee, frequently a very challenging responsibility, and has additionally organized AGMs. Achievements such as these were facilitated by Jack's meticulous attention to detail, while not losing sight of the significance of the whole entity and the desired goal.

Courteous and mindful of others' opinions and input, supportive and visionary, Jack has set extremely high standards. We have been very fortunate to have had numerous opportunities of benefitting from his thoughtful and effective service, and I am therefore proposing an enthusiastic vote of thanks for all he has done for RALUT. Thank you, Jack!

Members responded with an enthusiastic ovation for J. Stevenson. He thanked everyone and said that he had very much enjoyed the company of those he had worked with: he had begun the job hoping to meet interesting people, and that had turned out to be the case.

The report of the Nominations Committee was circulated with the Board agenda. The Committee put forward its slate for the Board with two main goals in mind: to achieve a balance of new and returning members so that the rotation policy set out in the Constitution can be restored; and to achieve a more equitable gender balance on the Board. J. Stevenson read out the slate which provides for 15 regular members and two ex officio members. There were no nominations from the floor. J. Stevenson declared that the proposed slate be acclaimed.

At the first meeting of the 2013-2014 Board the Nominations Committee will propose the following as Officers of RALUT: President, Beate Lowenberg; Vice-President (Operations), Roselyn Stone; Vice-President (Policy), John Valleau; Treasurer, Elinor Fillion; Corporate Secretary, David Olson.

10. **Other Business**

F. Wilson reminded members that the next issue of the *Reporter* was in production and asked for any contributions.

11. **Adjournment**

It was moved by J. Munro that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

President, Tom Alloway

Corporate Secretary, Beate Lowenberg