

NEXT MEETING
RALUT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
25 MARCH 2002

Victoria College, Alumni Hall, 2-4 PM

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MEMBERS MEETING OCTOBER 29th 2001
(Prepared by John Gittins, Secretary)

Fifty-six members gathered in Victoria College on October 29th. President Peter Russell welcomed members and introduced Ken Rea as a new member of the Executive Committee. He replaces John Cairns, who resigned to become the RALUT Archivist. Ken has been instrumental in getting our web site up and running

Peter outlined RALUT's activities since its inception and noted that things are moving, although slowly. One of the matters that has concerned the Executive Committee has been the Ontario Government Discussion Paper, published quietly during the summer, which proposes legislation to change the way in which surpluses in Defined Benefit Pension Plans are handled in the future. Many of the proposals would be detrimental to our retirees and we have expressed our grave concern to the Minister of Finance. Peter and Harvey Kerpneck will be meeting with the Ministry to express our concerns in person. Further concern has been with misleading statements made by University President Robert Birgeneau in the TVO program Studio Two. He implied that all pensions have been increased by 30%, which is, of course, grossly incorrect. There was considerable discussion and a motion was passed asking RALUT to take action to clarify the President's position.

The Treasurer reported that we have 581 members, revenue of \$27,000 and a current balance of about \$5,000 -- our principal expenditures to date having been for legal opinions, administration and publishing. We still have considerable growth potential. Membership renewal in future will be on the anniversary of the date a member joined.

Harvey Kerpneck reported that the Pension Committee has had an exploratory meeting with Angela Hildyard, the new University Vice-President (Human Relations) who has replaced Michael Finlayson. The purpose was purely to become acquainted and they found her to be reasonable and forthcoming -- which gives rise to cautious optimism for future negotiations. The Committee is working closely with George Luste, the UTFA Vice-President (Salary, Benefits and Pensions) and Chief Negotiator, and has reaffirmed our intention to gain access to our full share of the Pension Plan surplus.

RALUT is currently represented on the UTFA Constitutional Review Committee which is considering how the UTFA constitution ought to be amended to recognise the right of large constituencies (such as ours) to fuller representation on UTFA Council. At present we have two full representatives plus two who have a voice but no vote. At the meeting George Milbrandt was able to report that encouraging progress had been made and consensus reached on a number of points that would give retirees a stronger voice but which would also increase the annual dues of retirees. Other issues, on which consensus had not yet been reached would grant a more

meaningful role to the UTFA Salary, Benefits and Pensions Committee, and would also require UTFA to submit any agreement negotiated with the University to its members for ratification. The recommendations of the Committee have not yet been put to the UTFA Council.

The meeting amended the RALUT Constitution to allow retired administrators to become members. A number of senior academic administrators are not eligible for membership in either UTFA or the staff unions and it was felt that these people could make a significant contribution to RALUT in the future.

A Benefits Committee of RALUT has been created under the chairmanship of John Hastings. This committee has now begun to meet in order to discuss a variety of medical and non-medical matters and welcomes the input of all members to suggest items that we ought, perhaps, to be pressing for in future negotiations. The Committee will be unable to undertake an Ombudsman role to settle individual complaints, but would like to hear of all matters that affect retirees as a group.

On May 31st RALUT will be sponsoring a full day meeting of retiree associations from across Canada during the week-long Congress 2002 (formerly the annual meeting of the Learned Societies).

Charlie Meadow, RALUT Communications Director, urged all members to support the Reporter by contributing articles, book reviews, travel notes, letters to the Editor, and anything else that might be of interest to our members. The Reporter will be published four times a year.

Refreshments and a cash bar followed the meeting.