
George Brown College Retirees' Association Meeting

Tuesday, Mar. 21, 2023

Call to order: Dianne Diniz called the meeting to order

Present: Dianne Diniz, Georgia Quartaro, Bob Cox, Barb Dunlop, Joan Reynolds, Debbie Plested, Denise Pontone, Crystal Kotow-Sullivan, Julie Bulmash, Anne Mackenzie-Thompson

Regrets: Trish Robinson

Motion to approve the Agenda

Moved by D. Plested

Seconded by J. Reynolds

Carried

Motion: to approve the Feb. 21 Minutes as presented with amendment of the spelling of Crystal Kotow-Sullivan

Motion made by G. Quartaro

Seconded by C. Kotow-Sullivan

Carried

Business arising from the Minutes

Meeting with the GBC President

Suggested dates for the meeting have been requested.

Background work has been drafted for information concerning retirees retaining their email addresses but more information is needed with regards to the policy of other colleges.

Musings and Meanderings – C. Kotow-Sullivan

The first webcast has been included in the newsletter. The plan is to have a webcast with every second newsletter issue. Emma Downie, the GBCRA placement student, has organized the webcast and will also be setting it up as a podcast. Once a recording is completed, the interviewee

can choose to have it sent out as a webcast and/or a podcast, as some people prefer not to be videotaped. Further names for webcast interviews were suggested.

Book Launch

Nine members attended the book launch for “Shadow Life”, written by Michael Decter. This was organized by the Alumni Association and GBCRA members were invited. The moderator was Lloyd Robertson. An article on the event is included in the newsletter.

GBC Book Club

Krisztina Arany from GBC Advancement & Alumni Eng, is in charge of an on-line book club for GBC alumni, staff, and students. A service organizes this but it will be added to the portfolio of Alumni Affairs and retirees are welcome to join.

Student Placement

Emma Downie will present her findings from her interviews with GBCRA members at the next Board meeting.

Reports

Chairs report – D. Diniz and G. Quartaro - as in the Minutes

Membership – Debbie Plested

Sixteen more members have recently paid their fees and this makes the paid membership down by only six from this time last year. A “Welcome Back Snowbirds” membership reminder will be sent in April. D. Plested will send the Board members a list of these six members to see if the Board members know these people and if they can encourage them to pay fees.

From last month – For GBCRA events, the term ‘participation fees’ will be changed to ‘service fees’. Discussion followed as to whether the event/service fees should be \$5 or \$10 for non-member participants

Motion: The Board will make a decision for each event as to whether non-members will be charged a \$5 or \$10 service fee as deemed appropriate for each event effective May 1, 2023.

Motion made D. Plested

Seconded by Joan Reynolds

Carried

Treasurer’s Report – J. Reynolds

Current balance: \$14,399.00

J. Reynolds will contact Emily Bain to confirm when the 2023 GBC annual grant will be issued.

Communications

B. Cox - the March newsletter has been sent and another one will be sent out soon.

Emma will report on ways retirees have contributed to the College at the next Board meeting. It was suggested to plan an event where specialists could help members express via art or another medium how they have contributed to the College.

Scholarships

A. Mackenzie-Thompson will prepare a report for the next meeting. There is an award night for each division and a GBCRA Board member could present the award at that annual event. The scholarship document is on file with B. Dunlop. It is an ongoing endowed agreement and we can change it every 3 years but within the Foundation endowment constraints. A. Mackenzie-Thompson will confirm the amount of the endowment award with the Foundation. This money comes from an event that raises money for scholarship – not from membership fees. The interest from the endowment fund is used for the scholarship award.

Events J. Bulmash

March 20 – 11:00 am – private walking tour of Milan by Heygo which was a successful event. There were some issues with the administration of the event due to the different time zones and varying daylight saving hours. Of the 20 members that registered, 15 participated possibly due to the time issue.

April 5 – Daily Bread Food Bank, Etobicoke, 12:30-3:30, for sorting of items, meeting for a drink in the area afterwards. Fourteen members have registered for this event. J. Bulmash will check on whether chairs will be available for those with standing issues. There will be no service charge for this event.

There was a member's complaint re Food Bank event being scheduled on the eve of Passover. J. Bulmash responded with a commitment that GBCRA would be more mindful of appropriate dates in the future.

May or June – B. Dunlop is working to arrange a Chefs' School tour and lunch at the Chef's' House. An idea to include with this is a panel of new and old retirees. Question – will HR help us advertise this to new retirees? The day will include a 45-60 minute tour, Chef on the Run visit and lunch. Because of the long day it was decided to not have a presentation. The menu will be posted with the Minutes. The cost is \$38. The minimum number of guests will be set at 10.

Clubs

Book and Bridge Club – all is well

Movie Club – no report

Theatre Club – no report

New Business

The next meeting with GBC President Fearon needs to be scheduled and then a meeting with Leslie Quinlan, VP of HR, will be scheduled.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by B. Dunlop

Seconded by C. Kotow-Sullivan

Carried

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 11:30 am -1:30 pm