
Minutes

George Brown Retirees' Association Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Call to order: Dianne Diniz called the meeting to order

Present: Dianne Diniz, Georgia Quartaro, Bob Cox, Laura Lothian-Bryant, Trish Robinson, Barb Dunlop, Jennifer Cooke, Joan Reynolds, Debbie Plested, Anne Mackenzie-Thompson

Regrets: Denise Pontone

Motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of discussion of new Board members

Moved by Debbie Plested

Seconded by Bob Cox

Carried

Motion to approve the Minutes as amended

Moved by Georgia Quartaro

Seconded by Bob Cox

Carried

Business arising from the Minutes

The meeting with the President was postponed but has been rescheduled for June 2 at 9:00 am via Teams. The agenda will be proposed by the GBCRA executive (Dianne, Georgia, Bob, Joan and Debbie). It was requested to include a discussion about addressing student mental health issues on the rise due to COVID. Included in the agenda will be a request for an update as to what GBCRA can do for the College/students such as toy drives, clothing drives, fundraising. There was a discussion re counselling and advising students while recognizing GBCRA doesn't have the necessary qualifications or mandate to administer this. A possible alternative would be offering coaching on job interview skills and English conversation skills.

Bob Cox and John Price are organizing Minutes for publication and AGM agenda PowerPoint-files. It was suggested to call this website section “Documents”.

By-Laws

The executive will meet following this meeting to review and finalize the draft GBCRA by-laws. It was suggested that the by-laws need more detail as to the duties of the secretary and more information about the scholarship program.

Retiree Event

There are 32 new retirees in the College. Apparently the College has no contact info for 15 of them. Bob and Debbie are preparing the event invitation and agenda and have sent out a Save-the-Date notice. An idea was put forth to add a link to retirees on the main menu of the College website. Debbie will send us a list of all the new retirees as we may have their contact information.

The event will open on Zoom at 10:45 am. Registration is requested.

GBC President Fearon will speak at 11:00 am. - introduced by co-chair

Meeting will begin at 11:30 am. opened by Dianne and Georgia. A dean and/or colleague of each new retiree will pay tribute to the retirees’ contributions to the College.

Bob Cox has arranged a musical presentation to follow the formal part of the event.

An email will be distributed to determine who is interested in attending a lunch following the event.

Idea – it was suggested that the present unused GBCRA Facebook group be deleted and a new one established. A volunteer will be needed to set this up.

Scholarship sub-committee

Motion: Move to use the same criteria for the endowment scholarship and the expendable scholarship award and review this criteria in 2025.

Moved by G. Quartaro

Seconded by J. Cooke

Carried

Criteria will continue to include academic standing, giving back to the community and an openness to learning.

Any academic division can nominate a student (often done by faculty). The student applies via the Awards Office.

The amount of the endowment scholarship is the interest in the scholarship account and this will be topped up to \$500 from monies made by donors.

After discussion, it was decided to hold another silent auction to raise funds for the endowment scholarship. The auction will run just after Labor Day. There will be further discussion at the June board meeting.

Idea – at the AGM ask the membership to consider a one-time GBCRA donation of \$25 per member to the scholarship fund in light of the low expenses and solid revenue balance acquired of the COVID period.

Idea – ask members when paying their fees if they would like to donate an extra \$5-\$10 for the scholarship fund.

Spring Events

Rembrandt presentation – May 24. 15 registered

Retiree event – June 23

Reports

Co-Chairs – covered throughout the minutes

Membership – Debbie – 1 new life member for a current total of 26.

Treasurer – Joan – current balance of \$11,742.00 plus an upcoming \$4000 confirmed from the College

Secretary – no report

Communication – Bob

A thank you was given to Bob for all the work he does for GBCRA. There was a discussion re the frequency of the newsletter suggesting fewer annual newsletters supplemented by frequent short information notices.

Seniors Association –there is no report as this group has not been meeting since the pandemic. There was discussion concerning whether this group – mostly older than GBCRA members - still exists or will return to the College when the King St building is fully operational again.

Clubs

Book Club – The April meeting with Jo Sorochinsky was well received with several non-book club members attending. An Ottawa bookstore gift card was sent to Jo.

Theatre Club – Jennifer will consider organizing a trip to Stratford for fall 2022. Members may be reluctant to attend because of COVID considerations and having to take public bus transportation.

Bridge Club – one member has dropped out. The day of the week for the games will be reviewed but Zoom meetings will remain.

New Business

The following members have agreed to remain on the GBCRA Board – Bob, Jennifer, Joan, Debbie, and Barb. Laura will not remain on the board and Georgia will remain on the Board but perhaps not as a co-chair.

Idea – hold a daytime strategy management retreat to explore and update the mandate of GBCRA

Adjournment – moved by Debbie

Next meeting – Tuesday, June 7, 12-2 pm

Carried

Motion:

A board member or subcommittee of board members evaluate the need and plausibility of creating a committee to support vulnerable members of the association. The subcommittee will consider the need for and resource requirements for recommended support services (such as but not limited to) phone trees, buddy system, in-person visits, creation and distribution of hard copy newsletters etc. and make a presentation to the Board.

Moved by Debbie

Seconded: Barb

Carried

Idea – Co-chairs will ask Sheila McMillan if she would like to take this on. Board members are not available to do this. Sheila will be asked to report to the Board. An article could be written for the newsletter under the umbrella of inclusivity rather than just on the topic of vulnerable and isolated members.

Bridge – all is well

Book Club – April 29 – Jo Sorochinsky will present via Zoom.

June – hoping to meet in person.

Theatre – no report

Classical music – discussion of a half hour presentation by Bob's piano teacher. He will also be contacted re performing at the retiree event in June.

Retiree's event – Thur. June 23 at 10:45 (zoom to open)

- A Save the date will be sent to all new retirees and all members from Debbie
- Bob, Debbie and Dianne will put program together for the May Board meeting

Adjournment: Motion – moved by Debbie

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 17, 12-2 pm