
George Brown Retirees' Association Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023

Call to order: Dianne Diniz called the meeting to order

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

Motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of one item being the update of our placement student

Moved by J. Reynolds

Seconded by B. Cox

Carried

Motion to approve the November Minutes as presented with an amendment being that the “Slate of Officers” was presented by G. Quartaro and D. Diniz at the AGM but should read – presented by Bob Cox

Motion made by T. Robinson

Seconded by G. Quartaro

Carried

Business arising from the Minutes

AGM Debrief

There was discussion about the AGM which all agreed had gone smoothly. As we approach next year's AGM, we will need to decide whether we should continue to use Zoom or want to try a hybrid event in which some people can be together while others connect digitally. Some members do not want to use Zoom or do not know how and do not want to learn, while others are eager to participate virtually without having to travel to a meeting. As usual, there was not much feedback but there were some notes with/on membership renewals and feedback was positive.

Meeting with the President

We need to be clear about what we are asking for, especially with respect to email continuance. Part of the backgrounder is already drafted. We are missing information about what other colleges do, although we do know that some colleges have this. (E.g. Centennial) Bob will follow up on that piece. The chief issue is the employees retaining their email for some period (6 months, 12 months, or 2 years?) so they have time to move correspondents to a personal email and don't feel cut off. Most employees don't know that their emails are going to be cut off and wouldn't have the time to deal with transferring info they need even if they did know, given the other things that they are dealing with just before their retirement date and there are often tasks that extend beyond retirement. It is often a major source of upset and ill will towards the college, as it is symbolic and people feel disrespected. We realize that the president does not have all the details about how this happens or what can be done differently, so the more we can provide, the more likely we are to be successful.

GBC Website presence

D. Plested has continued to pursue this. She has found the right person to implement the tab on the drop down menu. However, this person needs a sign-off to do this and the person who needs to approve this is out sick.

Winter Events

This is now a committee with D. Plested, B. Dunlop, J. Bulmash, B.Cox, and J. Neilsen. We have booked a presentation with Circles of Enrichment about "Romantic Comedies" with the presenter that we had most recently, who got a good response. Heygo seems to be difficult to organize. J. Bulmash and B. Cox will follow up with them re a Dubai tour. Alumni Services has invited us to a book launch and 8 people have registered. We might arrange for a community event, such as packing boxes at the Daily Bread Food Bank. A group could do this and then go out for lunch or drinks afterwards, combining volunteering and a social event. Apparently shifts are about 3 hours long and all volunteers must wear a mask and have been vaccinated. We may want to do this in the spring. Julie will look into this and report back. Barb talked about live events or a mix of Zoom and live. She will contact the Chef School to request a tour and perhaps a lunch. Circles of Enrichment will do hybrid events. All they need is a place with internet connection. Theatre activities are on hold with the possibility of Shaw or Stratford in May or June which would be organized by J. Cooke. There are Toronto theatres so there are possibilities here and we have done this in the past. Some members expressed interest in another wine tour. T. Robinson offered to look into this as she has organized the previous wine tours. We could also investigate the schedule of the GBC Theatre School for a group activity. We will try to have a program ready for the next board meeting.

The movie event has been postponed but hopefully will be reintroduced. A virtual TIFF \$5.00 will be considered.

Scholarship Update

The endowed bursary contract has been signed and sent to the Foundation. Barb has printed a copy for the files. Tax returns will be sent out ASAP for scholarship donations.

Membership Report – D. Plested

On Jan. 13 membership fee payment reminders were sent. Life time membership are up from 26 to 28. There are 2 new senior members 85+, and 7 new members. A reminder to all conveners to remind their members to pay their fees.

Treasurer's Report – J. Reynolds

Current bank balance is \$14,580. The income is from fees. 17 have paid so far. Last year at this time 71 members had paid their fees.

Communications Report – B. Cox

Jan. 6 a newsletter was sent with a 65% open rate which was fine and good comments were received. A student and a sponsor were both spotlighted. Tips and Advice was about a Mount Sinai course. Bob is looking for feedback about this article. Musings and Meanderings will have 6-8 webcasts with retirees discussing their careers. Suggestions were given of people to invite. This will be put on a podcast-you tube. C. Kotow-Sullivan will present an overview at the next board meeting.

Club Reports

Bridge Club – all is well – meets every Monday from 1-3

Theatre Club – this is not a club and will be part of the roster of events going forward

Book Club – meets the last Friday of each month

Movie Club – this in our future plans

New Business

Student Placement – started Jan. 5. She is with NAFTA – Native Foundation of Trade – it is an aboriginal organization in participation with Ryerson (TMU) and the student (Emma) is in a social service program. She is currently dealing with copyright permission from RTO to give us permission to publish articles. ??? She is working on a project to determine member relationships due to Covid so is reaching out to our members. She is also researching issues of interest to retirees which will be put on a podcast. Another project is to research courses that may be of interest to our members. This is an independent placement and she has been described as a self-starter. Hopefully her work could be put on podcasts on our You Tube channel and/or use with social media. C. Kotow-Sullivan will chat with her about this. Basically her interests lie in

how community has changed due to the pandemic. Has the concept of community changed due to the pandemic?

Adjournment

Moved by T. Robinson

Next Board Meeting Tuesday Feb. 21 (third Tuesday of the months) 11:30-1:30 pm