

Report on 2014 CURAC Meeting, McMaster U, May 28-30

Approximately 55 delegates, from 29 college & university retiree associations. Mainly Ontario-based, but signs of broader involvement to come (UBC and SFU Board members in important roles, a first Quebec member).
All sessions very well attended, responsive.

Day 1: five 40-45-min. reports by McMaster researchers on aging-related projects:

- new digital hearing aid,
- testing older drivers [UVic a co-researcher],
- political & standard-of-living impact of our aging demographic,
- 'resilient aging' through social interaction,
- early stages of massive Canadian longitudinal study on healthy/unhealthy aging).

Comment: No parallel sessions, high quality, seems to be the new pattern of CURAC meetings (following UVRA lead of 2 years ago).

Day 2 began with a rousing, audience-participation session by a psychiatric nurse-researcher on the Power of Humour (at 8.30 a.m. Eastern Time!)

This was followed by 3 sessions of 4 ten-minute Best Practices presentations:

- the importance of University executive-level engagement (Windsor, SFU),
- departmental retiree reps (UBC),
- continuing support for research and other scholarly activities (SFU, UofT),
- communications,
- social & cultural activities of mutual (retiree/university) benefit,
- retiree Board succession planning (aka 'grooming!'),
- multi-college retiree collaborations,
- our 50th Anniversary projects.

The **AGM** took place in the middle of these brief presentations. Main concern was financial (current 50c. levy on paid-up member totals raised to 75c., to a max. total of \$300 per association {Biggest problem is definition of "paid-up": Several universities offer free automatic membership of 1-3 years to new retirees; McMaster has 2200 members, none paying any dues, etc. etc. - UVRA implications for our associate-member numbers).

2015 venue TBA, but Queen's University possible.

One final comment: I went as a skeptic, returned thinking there is much value in CURAC's ability to exchange info on retiree recognition, benefits and initiatives.

Peter Liddell