

University of Victoria Retirees Association

UVIC RETIREES ASSOCIATION – 2017 AGM

President's Annual Report

24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – May 31st, 2017

As today's Agenda illustrates, the main requirement of the new BC Societies Act is that we bring the revised **UVRA Constitution and Bylaws** for your approval before it is deposited with the BC Registry. There are no major alterations, but it was an opportunity for us to review our existing Bylaws and tighten up a few areas. Our committee, chaired by Winona Pugh, was guided by an outside consultant with legal training and experience in the transition process, Tasha Gooch. The annotations on the document that you received are hers.

The ongoing saga of the **Memorandum of Understanding** with the University is just that – ongoing. After your Board submitted a version based on a suggested model, we have been advised that the University is now working on the language (“more style than substance” seems to be the case) and expects to have it finished by the Fall. We will keep you posted.

A new item for your attention this year is our **Graduate Research Scholarship** proposal. As I reported to you last year and as our Treasurer, Dick Chappell, will outline again this year, UVRA is in a financially very sound position, such that we felt it was possible for us to support more research into our 55+ age group. This award will, we hope, further cement our excellent relations with our ‘landlord’, the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health.

One other new feature this year is the **new Extended Health Insurance** policy negotiated by our umbrella organization, CURAC, with the Retired Teachers of Ontario. Details and a brief comparison with the other policy of Johnson Inc. were printed in our last Newsletter in March. As Winona tells you in her Benefits Report, there is also news on the **counselling services** which members of UVRA may access. We are planning to bring in representatives of both Johnson and the counselling services for a single information session in October.

Also in the Fall, you will receive a **member survey** which we anticipate will help to shape our activities and guide our negotiations with the University for some time. John Anderson is working on the draft, to try to gauge how our members continue to support UVic, in research, public service, teaching, administration, or the dozens of less obvious ways that enrich the University's presence in the communities it serves. Your responses are critical to our negotiations on the details of the MoU, so we urge you to contribute your comments. In particular, we need to hear from former staff at UVic, to help us serve their needs more effectively.

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How important are surveys like this? If our retired UBC colleagues are anything to go by, they are crucial. The UBC Association of Professors Emeriti conduct regular member surveys, with good response rates to reflect how valuable those surveys are. At our most recent **Tri-Universities Retirees meeting** in April, they revealed some of the benefits: plans for a retirees research college, and a two-year trial offer from their new University President of significant support for retirees continuing their research. (Three Faculties at SFU now offer modest support of a similar kind.) Did you know that retiring faculty at UBC receive a grant to assist them in financial planning for retirement? To put it mildly, we UVRA reps at the meeting were amazed, too.

After another very successful year, we are happy to report that you and other Victorians have come out in large numbers to attend our many **social and other activities**.

- Beverly Timmons once again picked up the reins of a unique UVRA annual event, **Masterminds**. One of the original founders of the series eleven years ago, Beverly and we also owe thanks to John Anderson and Lois Holizki, for helping to coordinate this year's eclectic group of 4 well-received lectures.
- Thanks to David Docherty's tireless enthusiasm, the **Elder Academy** series of 4-part presentations is thriving, with ever more varied topics and presenters who give generously of their time and expertise.
- Daphne Donaldson and Patty Page arranged a rich array of **social events** for members and friends of UVRA, but unfortunately cannot continue. They do have a list of suggestions to help their successors ease into the role. Now's your chance – it is a very rewarding, much valued position for any UVRA member.
- Like all our outreach activities this past year, the backroom organization of registration, record-keeping, room bookings, goodies-arranging is in the excellent hands of our Office Manager, Louise Schmidt. Lou has become invaluable in the short time since she joined us.

My final thanks go to the couple of dozen fellow volunteers who keep UVRA growing: with over 600 members, we are still much the largest university retiree association in BC. Since we moved into R Hut, some of those volunteers are the ever-helpful staff of IALH. (We will be even more grateful to them when they come up with an abbreviation that is as pronounceable as COAG!). And, of course, our thanks to all of you for your continuing support of UVRA.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter Liddell

President, UVRA