

NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN

Autumn/automne 2012

Issue No. 14

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Editor's Note: There are more conference reports in this issue, as well as two special articles. The first is about one of the CURAC/ARUCC board members, and the second features the Brock University Retirees Association.

REPORT FROM THE CURAC/ARUCC SECRETARY

Ed Williams (Memorial)

Since the post conference Board meeting held in Victoria on April 20, the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs have held teleconferences on September 24 and October 18 with a third session planned for early December. The main business has been to receive reports from committees including an ad-hoc Strategic Plan Committee mandated to provide the Board with a plan of action for the next few years. There has been much consideration of a proposed discussion paper on health care in this country. We hope to forward an approved document to all member associations in due course.

As Secretary, it is important that I have on file the most recent contact information for member Associations. I have recently forwarded to all member associations the Membership Renewal Forms which request the names, postal and email addresses of association Presidents, CURAC/ARUCC delegates and alternate delegates. It would help us greatly if associations could complete the renewal forms before the end of this year. In addition, please inform us whenever there is a change in your Association's contact information so that we may continue to stay in contact.

Personally, since this will be the last Newsletter before the holiday season, I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry festive season and my best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.



CURAC/ARUCC ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2013

June 12 – 14, 2013

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
Bob Lucas, Chair 2013 LOC (Memorial)

Planning is well underway for our 2013 national conference on the campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland. We are very much looking forward to hosting delegates from June 12 – 14 and engaging you on the theme of “Staying Connected.” Our conference website (www.mun.ca/munpa/curac2013) will offer continuously updated information as the planning process proceeds. There is also a conference email address, curac2013@mun.ca should you have queries or suggestions.

We are also delighted to inform you that delegates to the CURAC conference will be joined for one day of the conference by local members of Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners' Association (MUNPA). The organizing committee thought this was an excellent opportunity to bring the two groups together so that we can enrich each other with shared knowledge on overlapping interests.

The fee structure for CURAC delegates will be similar to that of recent CURAC national conferences as will the overall structure of the program. Thus, seven sessions, two luncheons, two receptions and a banquet are proposed.

A block of 40 rooms has been booked at Quality Inns (downtown) at a guaranteed rate of \$149/night. This rate will also apply for participants seeking to arrive a few days early or to stay on a few days after the conference. The rooms will be held until 60 days before the conference. In addition to hotel rooms, 25 recently upgraded campus residence rooms have been booked at approximate rates of: Single Room: \$28.00 (no maid service); Double Room: \$50.00 (no maid service) or Single Room \$35.00 (with maid service) and Double Room: \$60.00 (with maid service*). (*maid service includes fresh towels daily and linens exchanged and beds remade when the guest indicates). Links to tourism sites will appear on the conference website in due course but in the meantime the following sites may be helpful or of interest: <http://destinationstjohns.com> and www.newfoundlandlabrador.com.

Because St. John's is currently a “hot” destination for conferences and tourism, it is strongly recommended that bookings for accommodations, as well as any car rentals that may be desired, be done as early as possible.

We are looking forward to an enthusiastic response to this CURAC invitation to celebrate our beautiful province!

(Photo below - Memorial's Ocean Sciences Centre)



CURAC/ARUCC Secretary Ed Williams is also Program Chair of the Memorial Local Organizing Committee Program and, as he explains in the article below, input from members with program ideas will be very welcome.

As the Chair of the Program Committee for the 2013 CURAC Conference and AGM, I have received several suggestions from members and would very much like to receive more ideas from members.

Former CURAC/ARUCC President Howard Fink has suggested a 10th Anniversary Session to provide delegates with an overview of how the organization was established, what it has accomplished, and what realistic future expectations are. I agree with this suggestion and ask those pioneers from CURAC's early days to consider making a contribution, either in person, in writing, or by providing any old posters, notices, photographs, or other archival type documents that could create a poster session at the meeting. Howard suggested that we form a committee and if

anyone wishes to volunteer, please let me know. I hope to receive your ideas and have something definite to report early in the new year.

Other sessions being considered for the remainder of the program include another Best Practices session where member associations present some of their success stories. This session will be chaired by Past President John Meyer (jmeyer@uwindsor.ca), and we encourage you to consider contributing to this session.

There will be a session about Regional Conferences . During the past year, there have been two Atlantic Regional Conferences (Halifax and Moncton) and one Ontario Regional Conference (Toronto). This session will offer ideas and advice for planning and conducting a successful regional conference.

A session on Retiree Benefits across Canada is another program possibility. Anyone who can help our Benefits Committee add to its data base by providing information on current local retiree benefits is asked to contact Doug Creelman (creelman@psych.utoronto.ca).

Finally, the CURAC/ARUCC Board has for some time grappled with the development of a discussion paper on health care. With the guidance of former President and our resident health care expert, Tarun Ghose, a draft document has been prepared. We hope to distribute this discussion paper to member associations but more importantly, to discuss this draft policy statement at the 2013 conference.

I have provided a summary of current plans but I am most interested in your comments, favourable or otherwise and any suggestions that you may have to enhance the conference program. Please write to me at edgarwilliams@nl.rogers.com. Thanks!!

Ed Williams, Program Chair and CURAC/ARUCC Secretary

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

David Lubell (Waterloo) and Peter Russell (Toronto), Co-chairs

In 2009, this committee's terms of reference were defined as follows: The Committee investigates and monitors how national institutions and agencies can best be encouraged to give material support for continuing professional work opportunities for university and college retirees. It shall also, through CURAC, be concerned to convince academic institutions and granting agencies, on behalf of retired but active researchers and other professionals, of the need for financial and infrastructure support for their continuing professional activities. This includes the provision of campus-based Retiree Centres.

With regard to requests for grants from retired faculty, the Committee has been active in monitoring the policy of national granting organizations, principally NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) and SSHRC (Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada). A report on this was given at the 2010 CURAC AGM. The committee has found no evidence of discrimination by SSHRC against scholars simply because they are retired. At NSERC, retirees who do not have emeritus status or who are at universities that do not permit retirees to take on new Ph.D. supervisions might have difficulty getting funding.

Thus far, the committee has not been actively engaged in the second part of its mandate – i.e. convincing universities and colleges of the need for financial and infrastructure support and retiree centres. CURAC's Benefits Committee's survey of "non-medical" benefits presented at the 2010 AGM showed that institutional support for continuing professional activities ranged from laboratory and office space and full access to computing and library services to virtually no support. The Benefits Committee did not recommend that CURAC establish a best practice policy in this area, but felt that member organizations might use the example of institutions at which retirees' continuing research and professional activities are well supported to lobby for better support at their own university or college.

No investigation of retiree centres has been undertaken, though reports on their development have been given at several CURAC AGMs and at the 2011 Atlantic Regional CURAC Conference.

As the Professional Support Committee's co-chairs, we would very much like to hear from CURAC member organizations about issues or developments which you think we should look at and report on in CURAC's Newsletter or at future AGMs. Should we be updating information the committee has reported on in the past? Should the committee be doing more to convince universities and colleges of the need to support the continuing professional activities of retirees? Should it be gathering information and reporting on the development of retiree centres? We look forward to hearing from you.

Please reply to Peter Russell at phruss@aol.com

INAUGURAL ONTARIO CURAC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

"HAVE YOUR SAY!"

Ken Rea (Toronto) and Joan Cunnington (OCRA - Seneca)

The first Ontario CURAC regional conference was held at Ryerson University on October 15, 2012. A committee led by Sandra Pyke of York University met several times during the preceding months to plan the event. A round-table discussion format was chosen to address topics of interest, three of which emanated from the Drummond Report. All Ontario CURAC and Ontario college retiree associations received conference announcements to forward to their members. Those registering chose topics in order of preference from eight possible options. Each session ran for one hour, guided by a facilitator who encouraged input from participants around each table, fulfilling the conference theme, "Have Your Say!" Some 40 registrants represented retirees from the Universities of Toronto, York, Queen's, Wilfrid Laurier, Ryerson, Lakehead, Carleton, Brock, Windsor; and Centennial, Seneca, and St. Lawrence Colleges.



Facilitators for each topic summarized the discussions during a plenary session which concluded the one-day conference.

Peter Russell reported that those discussing Topic 1 on the recommendations of the Drummond Report respecting post-secondary education faulted it for lack of attention to the possibilities of online teaching, its tendency to treat post-secondary institutions as departments of government, and the political risks inherent in the “tiering” of such institutions in terms of function. However, support was given to recommendations aimed at facilitating “laddering” to make it easier for college students to access university degrees.

Doug Creelman’s groups for Topic 2 generally supported the Drummond recommendations relating to health care although the report was seen more as a set of suggestions of things requiring attention than specific actions to be taken. The report was criticized for failing to include social and community services as part of the health-care package.

Janet Rowe’s groups discussed Topic 3, the proposal to establish a single pension fund administrator for all university and college pensions. This was interpreted to mean the consolidation of Ontario University Pension funds which would result in a total investment fund of approximately 10 billion dollars. Representation, consideration of investment strategies, and possible risk were discussed.

Al Stauffer’s Topic 4 group reviewed the concept of co-housing which involves creation of a community of some twenty individually-owned homes built around a core of shared meeting and dining facilities. The possibility of engaging CURAC in exploring the feasibility of this type of development for post-secondary retirees was also discussed.

Donald Gillies’ groups, which discussed Topic 5 relating to retiree relationships with faculty and staff unions and associations, found great diversity in the nature of these relationships, but explored a number of possible ways of improving them, such as by persistently reminding former unions and associations that retirees are still here and “this is who we are.”

Ken Rea’s session on Topic 6, “future meetings and relations with CURAC,” concluded that it would be desirable to continue convening meetings of this kind and that attention should now be given to developing a suitable organizational framework either within or outside the existing CURAC/ARUCC structure to make this happen.

Joan Cunnington reported on Topic 7, “Retiree Benefits, Privileges and Perks.” This discussion revealed great variances in coverage and cost of the plans at the various institutions represented which led to the recommendation that retirees should be treated more equitably with ‘universal’ type plans that apply to all retirees regardless of occupation when active.

An unspecified Topic 8 intended to allow participants free choice of topics was cancelled due to lack of subscribers.

Excellent meeting facilities were provided by Ryerson University at the Raymond G. Chang School of Continuing Education and financial support was provided by the Economical Select Insurance Company all of which helped make the conference a success. The organizing committee is most appreciative of the support it received and anticipates that another Ontario regional CURAC conference will happen in 2013.

OCRA CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF ADVOCACY FOR COLLEGE RETIREES

Patti Stoll (OCRA - Seneca)

The Ontario Colleges Retirees’ Association – OCRA - held its 10th general meeting at Seneca College’s Markham Campus on October 26, 2012. About 90 retirees from 13 colleges attended. To mark the 10th general meeting, founding members of OCRA received special acknowledgment of their contributions to the association and were presented with certificates of appreciation. The business of the meeting

involved receiving officer reports, voting on changes to the by-laws and electing directors of the association. Julie Cays, the Chief Investment Officer of the CAAT [Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology] Pension plan updated OCRA members on recent pension developments in Ontario and how these would affect the CAAT Pension Plan. A report was also received from College Employer Council representatives on the extended health care benefit plans. The presidents of eight local college retiree associations met during the lunch to share information on local programming for retirees and discuss local issues. After lunch Ellen Roseman, columnist with *The Star*, gave the keynote presentation on "The Economics of Retirement."

Photo below - Julie Cays, Chief Investment Officer for the CAAT plan, addresses OCRA members



CURAC/ARUCC Secretary Ed Williams has written this short biography of CURAC/ARUCC board member Jack Boan.

DR. JACK BOAN, CURAC/ARUCC Board Member

Jack Boan was named Professor Emeritus at the University of Regina in 1983 when he retired from his full time position in the Department of Economics at the age of 65. If you do the math, you will quickly realize that Jack is one of the most senior members of CURAC/ARUCC.

After serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force 1940-45, he completed undergraduate degrees at the University of Saskatchewan 1946-49, followed in 1953 by a Ph.D. at Ohio State in Agricultural Economics. However, during his academic career, his focus was Health Economics. In 1961, he was seconded to the five-person research staff of the Royal Commission on Health Services, and he later introduced Health Economics classes at the University of Regina where he lectured and did research in the area of Health Economics from 1966 onwards.

During his long career, he has served with the Canada Department of Agriculture, the Defence Research Board in Ottawa, the Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources, taught introductory courses in Economics at the University of Alberta, and from 1962 -1983 served at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, which became the University of Regina. He was Chair of the Department of Economics, 1969-1976. After retirement, Jack continued to teach part time until at least 1999.

In 1994, he was awarded the Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, by the University of Regina. The Jack Boan Medal in Economics is awarded annually to outstanding students graduating in Economics at the University of Regina.

Jack gave the Justice Emmett Hall Memorial Lecture at the 2006 Vancouver Conference of the Canadian Association of Health Service and Policy Research, and is an Honorary Life Member of this organization. In addition to his membership on the CURAC/ARUCC Board, Jack chaired the local organizing committee for the Regina Annual Conference and AGM in 2011 and currently serves on the CURAC/ARUCC Health Care Policy Committee.

We salute Jack for his long service, dedication and interest in issues of concern to our retirement community, and I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to meet and work with him, and we thank him for the report below. (Photo taken during 2011 CURAC Conference at University of Regina)

HEALTH ECONOMICS CONFERENCE IN SASKATOON

Jack Boan (Regina)



The Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and Partners, convened a Conference in Saskatoon, September 27-28, 2012, titled "Bending the Cost Curve in Health Care." This conference was awesome in terms of the expertise and reputation of the speakers to say nothing of the information imparted to the eager participants. Papers were read by Canadian scholars, of course, but there were speakers from the U.S.A., Norway, Europe (World Health Organization), as well as a speaker from the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, who described how Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore cope with the challenge of rising health care costs: they do it through health system design and health policy interventions.

Speakers identified the cost drivers of rising costs, and suggested ways, in their experience, where the rate of cost increase could be brought down. The aging of the population was commented on, but shown to be a minor element in future cost increases. One of the American scholars, German-born Uwe Reinhardt, did his undergraduate work in Saskatoon many years ago, and has spent his professional life at Princeton. He spoke twice, once during the evening before the conference got underway formally, and at the luncheon the next day. Being a gifted public speaker, he is able to engage his audience with humour as he dealt with the serious problem of rising costs. For example, at the Keynote Luncheon, he began by asking the rhetorical question: Why does the cost curve need to bend - society spends billions of dollars on amusement and nobody seems to be concerned? The audience was left with another insightful remark made later by the speaker from the Province of Quebec, who said that supply is the problem of the provinces, but demand is under the control of the Federal Government. That is, the up-stream problem is a Federal responsibility.

Did they find the magic bullet? No! But the participants were left with a great deal to think about, including ways to tame the rate of rising costs that might be worth considering in their own environment. The Proceedings will be published next year.

BROCK UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION (BURA)

Joan Preston (Brock)



Main building, Brock University, with sculpture "The Path of Possibilities."

Brock University in the Niagara Peninsula city of St. Catharines was founded in 1964. In 1997, BURA was established as an organization where members could maintain contact with each other and the university. BURA also sponsors a members' benefits plan. The retiree association is essentially independent of Brock University and holds its meetings off-campus. However, it has an affiliation with Brock that permits it to receive GST rebates and pay no banking fees. BURA pays Brock for printing and mailing its paper communications. It also receives a \$1,000 annual grant from Brock.

The BURA executive is elected at the annual general meeting each June and deals with a variety of issues relevant to Brock retirees and plans activities from September to June where members gather and socialize.

These activities include a well-attended annual general meeting, an annual dinner and film night where BURA co-sponsors a film with the Brock University Film Society, and luncheon or afternoon meetings with entertainment or speakers from the region. Topics are eclectic and a sample from the current year's events include Improving Heart and Skeletal Muscles as We Age; The Monarch Butterfly; Recent Results from Curiosity Mars Rover in Gale Crater; Training Performing Artists in China; Container Gardening; Global Warming: Are Infectious Diseases Moving North? and Pairing Wine and Food.

Membership, which totals about 200, is approved by the BURA Executive and is very inclusive. Full membership is open to all retired employees - faculty, librarians and staff, as well as their spouses or surviving spouses. Associate membership is open to former employees who left the university before retirement or worked within the university for an extended period of time but do not fulfill full membership requirements, and their current/surviving spouses. While we use e-mail for most communications, we send out our Directory, Newsletter and Executive Notes in paper form. We also telephone a small number of members who have requested this type of contact for events, and provide carpool contacts for those needing transportation to an event. The Directory lists current contact information for all new and continuing members as well as obituary notices. The Executive Notes contain policy, procedures and other more formal topics, while the Newsletter contains events, notices, travelogues and other articles from members, etc.

Grandma Knows the Ropes

A sweet grandmother telephoned the St. John's General Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?" The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?" The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302." The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurses' station for that room." After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow." The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news." The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?" The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me anything around here."

NOTICE BOARD

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE CURAC BOARD AND COMMITTEES !!

Please send your nominations to John Meyer, Chair, Nominating Committee, at jmeyer@uwindsor.ca

CURAC/ARUCC AND CARP: There is an agreement between CURAC/ARUCC and CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons) which provides a special benefit for members of CURAC/ARUCC member associations. CURAC/ARUCC members may join CARP and receive the Zoomer magazine at a membership rate that is 25% below the regular rate. To learn more about CARP and to become a member at the special CURAC/ARUCC rate, please visit the CURAC/ARUCC website at www.curac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/CARP-CURAC%20Group.pdf and under the tab BENEFITS-CARP MEMBERSHIP, click, download, complete, and mail the special CARP membership form.

ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OTHER BENEFITS OF CURAC/ARUCC MEMBERSHIP:

Where provincial laws allow, Economical Select (Waterloo Insurance) offers retirees affiliated with CURAC/ARUCC (through their membership in participating CURAC/ARUCC Member Associations) home and auto insurance at advantageous rates. Please visit the CURAC website (www.curac.ca/) and click on the Benefits button.

A SPECIAL OFFER TO CURAC/ARUCC MEMBERS FROM THE LITERARY REVIEW OF CANADA (LRC)

Published ten times a year, the LRC offers a unique perspective on national culture, politics and ideas, explored through both long-format reviews of Canadian books and original essays. Since 1991, this approach has made the LRC a lively forum for the discussion of Canadian thought – a role recognized with the Arthur Kroeger Prize for Public Discourse. The LRC was the first magazine to win this prestigious award.

In recognition of our contribution to Canadian intellectual life, the magazine is offering CURAC/ARUCC members a discounted subscription rate of \$35 – 41% less than the regular price of a year's subscription.

To learn more about the magazine, its contributors, and its content, please visit: <http://reviewcanada.ca>.

Ed. note: There will be reports on the Atlantic Regional Conference and the AROHE Conference in the next newsletter.

WHAT IS CURAC/ARUCC?

CURAC/ARUCC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada/ Associations de rétroités des universités et colléges du Canada) is a non-profit federation of retiree organizations at colleges and universities across Canada. Its primary objective is to coordinate activities that promote communication among member organizations, to share information, provide mutual assistance, and speak publicly on issues of concern to the over fifteen thousand individual college and university retirees across Canada.



CURAC/ARUCC ARUCC/CURAC

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