



NEWSLETTER Volume: No. 1
Date: Jan. - April 1998

Steering Committee:

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|-------------------------|----------|
| Doreen Badgero | 931-5641 |
| Tom Bell | |
| Marilyn Cairns | |
| Roy Carlson | |
| Harry Evans (Treasurer) | 461-0989 |
| George Suart | |
| John Walkley (Chair) | 929-6532 |

Benefits:

Marilyn Cairns
Lionel Funt
Ron Ramsay

Constitution:

Harry Evans
Marvin Stark
George Suart

Newsletter:

Doreen Badgero

Recruitment:

Tom Bell
Harry Evans
George Suart

Upcoming Calendar:

| | |
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| April 27, 1998 | Annual General Meeting |
| June, 1998 | Summer Picnic |
| October 20, 1998 | Fall Dinner |

Chair's Comments:

The support for the formation of our Retiree's Association has been overwhelming, both from yourselves and from the entire university community.

At the AGM on April 27th you are being asked to vote on the acceptance of the first Constitution of the Association and the election of its first Executive Board. This objective being accomplished, SFURA will formally exist and the Board will move to have the association registered under the BC Societies Act. The AGM is obviously an important event -- WE NEED YOU THERE!

We apologize that we have been so busy getting things off the ground that we have made very little use of those who offered to help organize social activities. The emphasis of the association will be to encourage activities that will allow us to meet up with old friends and enjoy ourselves. The other needs of retirees will not be forgotten and we are sure the association will play an active role in bringing to the attention to the various employee groups on campus the important issues affecting those retired. We do not see the Association having an active negotiating role, this is best done by the individual employee groups in their discussions with the Administration. They can count on the Association giving them both advice and support, and the occasional nudge. It is also hoped that members will find the time to use their expertise and wisdom in the consideration of the wider issues that confront present or future retirees outside of their

association with the university or, indeed, retirees nationally or even globally!

Whatever the Association does can be done only with the active support of the members -- it's time to have fun, ain't retirement great!

And you can have more fun if you join 'SFURA', we need your support. Remember, \$20.00 takes you through to end of March 1999

Report of the first Annual Dinner:

The first Annual Dinner at the Diamond University Club was a great success. The good food and companionship were appreciated by all. Carolyn Van Meenen (General Manager, DUC) and staff were thanked for a most pleasant evening. We hope to solve the problems of parking and billing by our next function.

What You Wanted to Know:

Privileges available to SFU Retirees

An identification card (with the usual photograph) must be obtained (at present annually) through the Registrar's office.

Gym Free use of gym facilities. Extra items such as lockers to be paid for. Contact: 291-3675 (general info)

Courses All SFU credit courses free to retirees and spouse and to dependents up to 25 years old. Note current Provincial legislation makes educational courses free to residents of BC 65 years and older. Contact: 291-3224 (sorry, some, educational courses free, check!)

Parking The following statement was provided by the Administration: "All retired members are eligible to purchase parking and we may modify a permit cost to suit individual needs, frequency of visits and physical access limitations. We can make other arrangements for special needs."

Contact: 291-4318

Computing At this stage, arrangements for the use of computing services appear to be available to retired faculty, after they retire and retain faculty status. These arrangements are completely manual. Computer account to be renewable annually.

Contact: 291-4741

Library Some discussions with the Librarian have taken place and further information will be forthcoming.

Contact: 291-3224 or 4345

Other Inquiries may be directed to any member of the Steering Committee (listed on page 1)

Annual General Meeting (AGM):

The Annual General Meeting of the Simon Fraser University Retiree's Association, SFURA, will be held on Monday, April 27th in the Diamond University Club. Members can gather for the meeting at 4:30 p.m., the AGM will convene at 5:30 p.m. (prompt) and a Buffet dinner will be available to all members and their partners starting at 7:00 p.m.

Remember: To vote at the AGM you MUST BE a "paid up member"; (a membership form is included with this newsletter).

Constitution:

A copy of the proposed constitution for the Association will be mailed to all "paid up" members, approximately March 25th. Suggested changes to the proposed constitution must be received, in writing, by April 17th. These suggested changes will be considered by the constitution sub-committee, some may be consolidated and incorporated into the Constitution as it will be presented for acceptance at the April 27th AGM. Other proposed changes will be sent onto the elected Executive Board and NOT placed into the constitution as presented at the AGM. We hope these two ways of dealing with your proposed changes will be found acceptable to all members. At this time the important thing about the constitution is that it is necessary to have one before we can elect the Executive Board. Furthermore, this "Steering Committee" sees as its main task the election of members to the Board. We do not wish to commit the Board (or the Association) to major policy directions. We see that as the prerogative of the first duly elected Board. So in terms of major proposed changes to the constitution as presented by our members at this time, we will leave them to the wisdom of the first elected Board. *Changes suggested by our members are welcomed by the Constitution Committee.*

Nominations:

At the AGM of April 27th, the first Executive Board will be elected, and again only paid-up members may *nominate candidates, or be candidates or vote*

A nomination form will be mailed to all paid up members by March 25th.

We would like to receive your nominations well before the AGM. They will be scrutinized by the 'Nominations committee' *before presentation at the AGM* where a ballot box election will be held. By necessity, however, nominations will be received UP TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE AGM (5:30 p.m. April 27th).

*Diamond University Club.
Special half price membership for retirees, \$25.00, 'till end of March
Phone 291-4749*

Laughter is

So far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't told a fib or said a swear word. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that.

But God, in a few minutes, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen.

An SFU retirees association takes shape

A group of Simon Fraser University builders is not quite ready to stop building — even though its members, technically at least, have put away their working tools.

More than 100 retired faculty and staff members are poised this spring to establish a Simon Fraser University Retirees Association. Their goals are varied, but include a continued contribution to the university in which they have invested so much over the years.

Professor emeritus John Walkley, who is chairing a volunteer organizing committee, says the association will “encourage members to donate their time and resources” to the university and also provide advice when and if requested.

But the association will not be entirely altruistic, he says. A fall questionnaire indicates that many retirees are simply anxious to be active with former colleagues. Says Walkley: “There’ll be a big social role. The feedback from our questionnaire indicates that a lot of retirees want to do things together. They’re interested in discussion groups, bridge clubs, going to the theatre and remaining active with their former co-workers.”

Retired registrar Harry Evans, treasurer for the organizing committee, says the association will also promote awareness of, and improvements to, the retirement benefits available to retirees. “We want to make sure that retirees are aware of the benefits and services already offered such as free use of the library and the gym, free tuition for credit courses and free subscriptions to *Simon Fraser News*.”

In addition, Evans says the association will monitor and may, at some future point, join other organizations to lobby government on policy issues which are of critical interest to retirees. Obvious topics include health benefits and pension plans.

The concept of a retirees association has been floating around campus since the early 1990s, but never quite got off the ground for a variety of reasons. Last fall, however, Walkley, Evans and several others decided it was time to bite the bullet.

They soon had a volunteer committee which included retirees Doreen Badgero (library management), Tom Bell (chemistry), Marilyn Cairns (academic advice), Roy Carlson (archaeology) and George Stuart (vice-president administration). Seed money from the president’s office, coupled with some hard work, led to a dinner meeting at the Diamond Club in late November which attracted 44 retirees, as well as a number of their partners.

“When you walked into the Diamond Club that night, the feeling in the air was really something,” recalls Evans who retired in 1985. “There was a wonderful sense of camaraderie and fellowship.”

The consensus from that dinner meeting was clear. The time had come for a formal association of retirees. The organizing committee is now well on its way to completion of a draft constitution for presentation April 27 to an inaugural annual general meeting. Meanwhile, a membership drive is about to kick into high gear.

With 50 members already paid in full (the annual membership fee is a paltry \$20), Walkley notes that another 50 retirees have indicated they will also be joining. But, aware of a potential membership pool of 375 retirees, he says: “We’re not settling for that (100 members); we want everyone to join.”

In terms of potential members, of course, time is on the association’s side. Says Evans: “In 1997 the university had 39 individuals retire. With the coming demographic bulge which we have all read about, the number of retirees will increase almost exponentially over the next few years.”

Since retiring last fall, Walkley continues to teach a course on science for SFU’s seniors program and was elected last fall to the Diamond University Club board. Chairing the retirees organizing committee is just another task which keeps him on campus. In explaining his motivation, the retired chemist implicitly provides others with good reason to join in. “I’ve been at SFU for 30 years,” he says, “and I want to go on being up here. I enjoy being active on campus.”

Evans, who in retirement has been involved with an assortment of SFU bodies ranging from the alumni association to the academic pension plan, echoes these sentiments. “I do it because I enjoy doing it and because it helps the university.”

Find out more by calling Walkley at 929-6532 or Evans at 461-0989. Or write to the SFU Retirees Association, in care of SFU’s human resources office. ♦