

Saint Mary's University Retirees Association
Annual General Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026
Pilot's Pub, Dartmouth, N.S.

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 12:50 by president David Turner. Also present were: Fred Young, John and Nicki Young, Wendy Katz, Brian Robinson, Ervin Doak and guest Louise Castel, Sandi Galloway, Colin Howell, Greg and Holly Ferguson, Marion Sensen, Jaroslav Dostal, Ann Marie Dalton, Paul Bowlby and Jeff Power. Regrets were received from several members unable to attend. The deaths of former faculty were named: Milton Chew, Ken MacKinnon and Keith Vaughan (apologies to anyone who may have been unacknowledged).

The president's Report highlighted the talks given by various members (Betty Haigh, Colleen Baker, Sherry Connors, David Turner, Dennis Gillis, Brian Robinson) over the past year, as well as a talk in March by an Estate Agent, Brian Nuyens. David said that Shannon Rhode had been invaluable in booking the rooms for the talks and Mary Jane MacNeil has also voluntarily taken on the responsibility of the website. Three well attended luncheons were also enjoyed by members during the past year. Through the efforts of Shripad Pendse and David Turner, a SMURA Exemplary Award was presented to Keith Vaughan and Marion Sensen. Also SMURA (and others) continue to fund the SMURA Bursary created in 2024. It was given this year to Sophie Van Berkel for the 2025-26 academic year.

Six members of the Executive met on May 1 to discuss the future of SMURA, outlining a possible road forward with the delegation of responsibilities. Shripad Pendse was congratulated for bringing in several new members, including some still working. Sandi Galloway volunteered to ease the President's duties by taking over the arrangement of luncheons and sending out any emails to the membership.

The Treasurer's Report up to April 30, 2026 showed a healthy balance. It was determined that the annual dues would stay at \$20. With the resignation of Nicki Young, Shripad Pendse will take over and dues can still be sent via e-transfer to smura20@yahoo.com.

The present slate of officers showed that there are several vacancies and no volunteers at this time to fill the positions. A lengthy discussion ensued on the group activities such as Luncheons and Presentations and why we need the large slate of officers outlined in the SMURA Constitution. (The original Constitution was drafted with an eye on joining RTO and CURAC). Paul Bowlby read a few sections of said documentary which everyone agreed sounded like a Parliamentary committee of the Legislature. It was mentioned by many that 4-5 volunteers to co-ordinate those activities would perhaps be more suitable at this time. It was pointed out that SMURA has pretty much been ignoring the Constitution anyway.

The final decision was that another meeting be held in June at Saint Mary's when Shripad Pendse returns and perhaps more members would be available to discuss the future of SMURA.

Meeting adjourned at 1:36

Respectfully Submitted, Sandi Galloway, Secretary.