



## LANGARA COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES (LCAR) MEETING MINUTES

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Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

|                          |                 |                |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Patricia Cia             | Carol Chrisjohn | Alan Cooper    | Kevin Craib (regrets) |
| Martin Gerson (regrets)  | Bruce Kennedy   | Gerda Krause   | Dave Lidstone         |
| Brian McGibney (regrets) | Roy Sinn        | Yusuf Varachia |                       |

Welcome our Langara Representative, Yusuf Varachia, Vice-President, External Relations and Community Engagement and Member of the Langara College Foundation Board.

### 1. Approval of the agenda

- Approved.

### 2. Approval of the minutes from March 11, 2026

- Approved as amended.

### 3. Business

#### 3.1. Finances

- No change to our current balance in VanCity account is \$96.13.

#### LCAR Bursary Update

- R038 fund balance is \$15,910 as of April 15, 2026.
- \$1600 remains in the bursary fund with \$800 to be dispersed in Fall 2026.

#### 3.2. LCAR Membership Requests

Registered as Langara retiree

- No new requests

Registered as non-retiree

- No new requests

#### 3.3. CURAC meeting of presidents' - ideas

Gerda attended the CURAC sponsored meeting of retiree association presidents. And I strongly recommend that when they do it again as they intend to, that Patricia attends. A lot of diversity across Canada from Colleges and Universities. from some of the universities who have had retiree groups for decades and decades and have over 1000 members to others like Fraser Valley, they're just starting.

Institutional support is also very diverse. U of Windsor were just given a house on campus to use as their office. Others, like us, don't have a physical office space.

Funding varies. Many get a certain amount of grant money every year. Others collect money and sometimes both happen, collect from their members and get grant money, and other combinations.

Insurance for directors and events were discussed. That is something LCAR does not seem to have and it is important. Some have insurance covered by their institution, others pay for their own directors and events for a larger institution is about \$1000/yr). The CURAC president offered to look at what everyone's got and see if there could be some savings by having the group work together.

**Action:** Check if Langara insurance situation. Are LCAR directors covered? What about our events?

MOU – most universities and colleges have agreements with their parent organizations, especially in relation to information sharing with HR. All have lots of difficulty finding info. Even in places where faculty and staff get to keep their e-mail addresses, they're having trouble communicating with retirees. because they don't always know who's retired. Only one organization sends a list of incipient retirees once a year to their retiree association so people can still be contacted while they have their work email.

Feed them and they will come. Food is a major attraction for attendance at events. Some are free, others not. The offer of reduced rates are helpful and some groups have made arrangements with a restaurants or organization.

Affiliation in some cases between the retiree and the alumni group. Often Alumni group enthusiastic connecting with their former teachers...

Affiliate membership where for example a LCAR member who moves to another province can attend another retiree groups events. The idea is that we would accept someone from a different organization that is also part of CURAC.

Successful events examples include wine tastings, lunches, annual dinners for new retirees, picnics, dining out groups, lunch with speaker series (eat, listen, discuss), lectures from faculty, walking and hiking groups, museum tours, book clubs, current events groups, tax clinic (retired accountants and other businesspeople put on clinic for faculty and students)

Much of the above was reflected in a current CURAC report to CPPR.

Comments:

- In the past, we had a Langara Lecture Series where retirees presented. CPPR is also looking at ways to reach out to the community.
  - Good idea to investigate further, maybe raise funds for doing this.
- Newsletters – one institution has HR distribute the newsletter
  - Idea to leverage Langara Post occasionally to share newsletter, LCAR information, maybe once per semester to raise awareness.

- Speaker series – LCAR asked to be part of it and the response was from organizer – just shared when the next one was.
- Alumni department is also in Yusuf’s portfolio. Recently the Foundation and raising funds for student supports have been the priority for now but connections between Alumni and LCAR is a good idea.
- Now that Gerda attended the meeting, we have two members with connections to CURAC. Lots of good things to model there.

Retiree associations are recognized as important for organizations in “Top Employer” lists. The April 6, 2025, *Academica* Top 10 summary noted that the U New Brunswick was recognized for its Retired Employees Association, it encourages retirees to stay connected through a dedicated Retired Employees Association, which assists members with health benefits and related concerns, and provides a collective voice to the university. Full report at [https://www.canadastop100.com/older\\_workers/](https://www.canadastop100.com/older_workers/)

### 3.4. Upcoming Langara Events open to LCAR members

- Convocation
- Design Formation
- Nursing Week mid-May – possible event / announcement
- Vancouver Board of Trade, Surrey Board of Trade – Langara sponsors a table and may have a seat for a LCAR member to attend
- Studio 58 end of term presentations (April 16 Singing presentation, April 23 Term Movement showcase, April 27 Solo Shows – all in the Theatre)

### 3.4. LCAR and Langara

- Information on LCAR shared with Langara employees upon retirement
  - The Retirement Acknowledgement Letter notes the following:
 

**Keep Connected**  
The Langara College Association of Retirees (LCAR) is a network of former faculty, support staff and administrators who have retired from Langara College.

The LCAR helps Langara retirees stay in touch with each other, and with the College and its students. LCAR organizes social gatherings and events, as well as workshops on topics of interest to both retirees and “pretirees.” LCAR offers many benefits including free workshops. Joining LCAR is free and there are no membership dues. Join LCAR <https://lcar.ca/register>.
  - The information on Langara employee pages is older.
- Future brainstorming session to discuss ideas to broaden our reach to members and discuss ideas arising from presidents’ meeting.

**Action:** Gerda offered to arrange in-person meeting at her place (before May 8 best for Dave) Patricia to continue pursuing avenues to update LCAR information for employees

- Free/low-cost courses or opportunities
  - Question arose re: policy about providing regular studies free/low-cost tuition.
  - The discounted CS courses (based on fee waiver given to employees) was an attraction and benefit even if underutilized. In the past availability was also based on course having

seats available and enough enrollment to run. It also didn't include high-cost programs or travel.

- Thought that maybe Studio 58 might create an incentive category

**Action:** Yusuf to check with Continuing Studies to see if a discount is feasible on some courses

- MOU between Langara and LCAR. There currently isn't one but as noted, it is common practice and it would be good to clarify our relationship. Best for a short-term view as things are evolving.
  - Sharing MOU from other Navigating Langara and getting to appropriate resources. Maybe CPPR or CURAC may host a collection or commonalities so we can look at and compare?

**Action:** Dave or Alan can ask for a few samples from CPPR or CURAC (November meeting – Connection on their website – retired professors e-collaborate)

**Action:** Small Committee for MOU discussion and to review the samples (Patricia, Carol, Gerda)

### 3.5. Workshops and Events

- Workshops & Social Events.
  - Estate Planning review – 30 attendees, 15 employees. Yusuf and Langara Foundation arranged room, treats. Great interaction with interest in follow up sessions.
  - Personal Planning Series offered through Health & Wellness section. There are about six workshops in the series - perhaps followed by social/food.
- Grand Gala (Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> doors open 7, curtain at 7:30)
  - Thank you to Carol for ensuring collaboration with Studio 58 on track and address the sequencing of the program.
  - Met with Studio 58 production to address sequencing, tech needs. Promises to be a wonderful, transitional event.
  - Acts alternate between students and retirees (Brian McGibney, Dave Lidstone, Evelyn Nodwell, Mike Allan, and Roger Holdstock).
  - Cathy Sosnowski will attend to review for newsletter and Gael Bremner working front of house. Bruce and Carol tech setup. We don't know how ticket sales are going. Paul chose Deb Williams (Bruce partner and an alumni) to be Emcee for the night. Her approach to scripting is very good.

**Action:** Roy will send another bulletin notice to advertise just the Gala.

### 3.6. LCAR Website and Forum

- KarmaNames Domain and services paid through IT and KarmaNames is now communicating via [info@lcar.ca](mailto:info@lcar.ca) so there has been no traffic on the old retirees101 email.

### 3.6. Newsletter team update

- Some print issues distributed at Estate Planning event, have about five left.
- Vol 4, Issue 3, Summer 2026 meeting planned for mid-May.
- Future articles

- How international student situation is going. How are the office is managing and how the students are coping (Gerda to follow up with Brad Van Dam, Langara Global)
- Cathy Sosnowski will write a review of the Grand Gala for the newsletter
- George Karas - Dick Reimer close friend to write an in memorial (Dave to contact)

#### **4. Liaison Updates**

##### **4.1. College Pension Plan Retirees (CPPR) – Alan**

On Tuesday Alan attended an in-person CPPR executive and affiliates meeting at the FPSE office. A major intended focus was on supporting advocacy for public post-secondary education and in particular on conveying to our employers and former unions the value that we as retirees and retiree organizations could add to their efforts and how this might be increased with more easy access to retirees (eg. by maintaining institutional email addresses post-retirement). This included some discussion of how these relations can be formulated as MOUs and it may also be of interest that CPPR has instituted a form of Associate Membership for pre-retirement employees. Much of the discussion reflected what we are doing and/or suggesting at Langara and one proposal reminded me of the Langara Lecture Series that included retiree speakers, as well as active Faculty members. The issue of directors' insurance was also raised.

Some time was also spent on discussion of Extended Health and Dental Plans Apparently SFU has a comparison of several plans, one of many such comparisons, but it includes self-insurance as an option. The information may feed into the workshop LCAR is developing.

Discussion around insurance and the difference of a subscription plan (tend to higher premiums, caps on reimbursement) than an insurance plan for extreme need (may have high deductibles but low premiums).

##### **4.2. COSCO – Kevin**

- Nothing new to report

##### **4.3. CURAC – Dave**

- Annual meeting is on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The main benefit of attending the conference is being in a room with others in a similar situation and having that kind of contact. Dave will be performing.
- Register before April 25<sup>th</sup> to get early bird discounts: <https://curac.ca/en/conference>
- CURAC requested submission for their Spring newsletter
  - Two articles we can list are:
    - Retiree Tales: The Elder Activist: Or What I'm Doing in Retirement, by felicia klingenberg (p. 4-6)
    - Langara College Operations' environmental principles, achievements, and goals, by Dwayne Doornbosch, Director of Facilities, Langara with editorial changes, by Deborah Blacklock, LCAR member (p. 7-9)

**Action:** Patricia will submit the two articles from our February newsletter to CURAC

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 1:00pm via Zoom.