

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (URAA)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
Virtual Meeting using Zoom
MINUTES

Present Virtually: Donna Ake-Farden, Holly Bardutz, Jacq Brasseur, Marc Butikofer, Barbara Byers, Lori Cameron, R. Nicholas Carleton, Scott Carson, Thomas Chase, Margaret Dagenais, Monica Deters, Robert Ellis, Sarah Fedirko, Alethea Foster, Agnel George, Srinivasa Gobal, Kathy Greenwood, Garth Herman, Steven Jackson, Gwen Keith, Richard Kies, Sandra Kitts, Holger Kreek, Godknows Kumassah, Donna Lajeunesse, Carmen Lien, Fiona Lovely, Lisette Marion, Talitha McCloskey, TonBari Menegbo, Karen Merz, Lisa Mitchell, Ted Morris, Diane Mullan, Jennifer Murray, Lucille Nawrocki, Robert Newis, Christine Niemczyk, Pommasha Noel-Bentley, Chelsey Ogunbor, Brenda Oliver, Roxanne Olynyk, Heather Renshaw, Brad Rollins, Adam Con Rosenfeld, Joyce Rosenfeld, Brennen Schmidt, Sharon Spott, Breandan Spruyt, Kerrie Strathy, Rod Stutt, Ken Sunquist, Allan Thompson, Catherine White, Bert Yakichuk, Richard Yeomans, James Young

Call to order for the 2019-2020 URAA AGM at 6:16 p.m. CST.

1. Adoption of Agenda

In advance of this meeting, email copies of the agenda and supporting documents were sent and they can also be found on our website <https://alumni.uregina.ca/uraa>. As this is a virtual AGM, show of hands will not be required. We ask that if you agree with the motions, that you remain silent. If you are in opposition, please motion via a hand wave.

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented

MOVER/SECONDER: Richard Kies/James Young

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2019 AGM

MOTION: To adopt the minutes of the 2019-2020 Annual General Meeting as presented this evening.

MOVER/SECONDER: Garth Herman/Diane Mullan

CARRIED

3. Amendment of the Bylaws as Presented

Amendments were largely made to allow for a virtual AGM due to the current restrictions on group gatherings. Amendments were also made to the name of the office at the University when it was changed from Alumni and Community Engagement (ACE) to University Advancement & Communications (UAC). Jacq Brasseur requested a copy of the bylaws with a detailed explanation of the changes. Monica Deters agreed to send after the meeting.

MOTION: To amend the Bylaws as presented in the meeting package.

MOVER/SECONDER: Donna Ake-Farden /Christine Niemczyk

CARRIED

4. URAA Annual Report 2019-20 (Monica Deters)

Supported the University Advancement and Communications Team's programs such as:

- 2019 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards which were held in October of 2019 at Evraz Place.
- The 2020 Awards have been rescheduled to Spring 2021 and will be a virtual format due to the pandemic. We have once again a selection of outstanding recipients and award winners. URAA is pleased to have two of our board members participate in the review and selection process
- Mature Alumni (3 sessions) this past spring that ended up being virtual and offered on Zoom. This included a session on Exercise and the Brain, Getting to Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Mid-Century, and The Economics of Cannabis.
- Unfortunately, there was no session this spring for Young Alumni
- The Slam Dunk Event for Cougar Basketball was also hosted in conjunction with their Alumni Groups in January. This was an Alumni and family event which preceded two basketball games against the University of Brandon. 276 people were in attendance for this event.
- An Alumni event was held in Calgary in November of 2019 in conjunction with CFL Grey Cup festivities, most other branch/chapter events were cancelled as they typically take place in the Spring. We are looking forward to the “new normal” as we realize the engagement we have by hosting virtual events and alumni programming.
- Continued support of a number of scholarships with a total number of scholarships created by the Alumni Association numbering 10.
- We also made a significant contribution to the Student Emergency Fund in light of the COVID-19 situation of \$10,000.
- We have oversight of the Alumni’s Affinity partners that include BMO MasterCard and TD Monnex home and auto insurance, Canada Life life insurance.
- We have also been engaged in the University’s search for a new President as well as in their search for a new Alumni Engagement Asst. Director.
- We would also like to wish Diane Mullen the very best as she transitions into her retirement. Diane was a wonderful asset to us at the University and will be truly missed by the URAA. We also like to welcome Marc Butikofer as he takes the Alumni portfolio under his wing from strictly development. And a couple of new additions to the alumni team at the University, Jacqueline Onagi and Lisette Marion.
- We are also thrilled to have with us today the new Associate Director of Alumni Engagement, Sarah Fiderko. Sarah is on her third day in the position and we are so excited to be able to work with her and to bring a fresh set of ideas and perspectives to the University and the URAA.
- I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as URAA President and as a Board Member. I am excited to sit on this new Board as they engage in new ideas and act on new initiatives. We are very fortunate to have had all of our current Board Members commit to returning and they bring with them a lot of great, fresh ideas and passion for the URAA. The future is in great hands. I also would like to welcome the new slate and wish them nothing but the best and am looking forward to becoming Past President and assist with the URAA on an “as needed” basis.
- Although the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed our progress slightly and put some of our plans on hold for the time being, the transition to virtual has allowed us to engage some of our alumni across the Country and world, which is very positive.
- As my movement to Past President transitions Bert Yakichuk off of the current Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bert for all he has done and the passion he

brought to the URAA. We are very fortunate to have had his involvement and we are very thankful for his dedication and commitment throughout the years. I also would like to recognize and thank three members who contributed greatly to our board during their time with us. Patricia Thomson (who left to focus on a post-graduate degree) and Scott Nicholson (who left to focus on a career change). I also would like to thank Cary Wessel for all of his assistance and involvement with the Board over the past year. He has been a wonderful asset and we will miss him.

- It has been a great experience being your President and I wish the new slate nothing but the best and I will continue as Past President and help with the ongoing business and community involvement of URAA.

5. Financial Report (Roxanne Olynyk)

5.1 Audited financial statements for year ending March 31, 2020:

- Independent auditors' report – This report states the audit opinion Virtus Group has given for the FY20 year for the URAA based on accounting standards set out for not-for-profit organizations in Canada. These standards form the basis of the work performed by the auditors. Unmodified or “clean” audit opinion was given, which is ideal and shows that the financial statements are not materially misleading.
- Key things to note:
Very healthy cash balance with an increase year over year – ideally as a not-for-profit organization you want some cushion to ensure that the Organization's objectives and initiatives are met. However, the objective of a not-for-profit is to have revenues equal to expenses (so no residual surplus remains) therefore growing cash balance is an opportunity. With COVID-19 there has been less opportunities to support initiatives however this is something the Board is continually looking into. Overall a positive situation to be in.
- The remainder of the statement of financial position is consistent to the prior year:
 - Inventory consists of frames that are sold at convocation.
 - Prepaid expenses decreased significantly from FY19 due to timing of sponsorship dollars being paid in cash early
 - Accounts payable and accrued liabilities include items that were owing/payable on March 31, 2020 for which cash had not yet been disbursed. This included the auditor's annual fees and office & admin expenses to the University of Regina (AGM catering, supplies, printing, courier).
 - Net assets is unrestricted surplus that is the residual after liabilities are removed from assets. There is a surplus for the organization due primarily to the significant cash balance and a little bit more revenue than expenses year over year accumulating.
- Statement of Operations and Change in Net Assets - overall, there was more revenue brought in than expenses paid which resulted in an excess that goes towards surplus. Again, the goal of a NFP is to break even so this is an opportunity for the URAA to continue to find initiatives to fund and ways to promote the Organization to the alumni community.
- Revenue – overall a slight increase but consistent to prior. Revenue for the URAA is derived from commission on affinity programs through the U of R with BMO, Canada Life and TD, as well as frame sales at convocations.

- Expenses – overall a slight decrease but consistent to prior. The main expenses include the cost of the frames purchased for sale at convocation, the joint initiative sponsorship commitment with the University of Regina for the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards and office support, as well as other sponsorship commitments (ACAA Awards (\$6,000), Darke Hall and Alumni Association scholarship commitments Year 2 of 5 (\$25,000 annually), Cougar Athletics (\$2,500)).
- Cash Flow Statement – a healthy cash balance for the URAA and an increase to the balance in FY20. Cash is broken down as balances at the bank for \$134k and investments held with the U of R for \$121k.
MOTION: To approve the Audited Financial Statements for 2019-20 as circulated.
MOVER/SECONDER: Richard Kies/ Talitha Smadu-Mcklosky
CARRIED

5.2 Appointment of the Auditor

MOTION: That Virtus Group LLP be appointed as auditor for the fiscal year 2020-21.
MOVER/SECONDER: Garth Herman/Barb Byers
CARRIED

6. **New Business**

No new business was discussed.

7. **Election of Officers for 2020-2021**

The following current Director was appointed to a two-year term on June 30, 2018. As a result, their terms expired on June 30, 2020.
Scott Carson

The following current Directors were appointed to a one-year term on June 30, 2019. As a result, their terms expired on June 30, 2020.

Carmen Lien
Roxanne Olynyk
Talitha Smadu-McCloskey

MOTION: To elect Scott Carson, Carmen Lien, Roxanne Olynyk, and Talitha Smadu-McCloskey for a two-year term which will expire September 30, 2022.

MOVER/SECONDER: Garth Herman/Richard Kies

CARRIED

The following current Directors were appointed to two-year terms on June 30, 2019 and will remain on the URAA for the duration of their term which will expire on June 30, 2021. No election required.

Sandra Kitts
Jennifer Murray
Christine Niemczyk

11 Reasons to Volunteer Presentation by Dr. Margaret Dagenais.

The URAA has four vacant positions on the board. These positions will be for a one-year term ending June 30, 2021.

To date the Board has received and accepted two nominations for these positions. The following individual has put their names forward:

Bob Ellis, B. Arts (1970), B.A Honours (1971), Master of Arts (1978)

These individuals will be appointed by process of acclimation.

MOTION: To elect Bob Ellis for one-year terms that will expire on June 30, 2021?

MOVER/SECONDER: James Young/Brennen Schmidt

CARRIED

Thank-you on behalf of all of us to our outgoing Board members. Bert Yakichuk, Past President and Cary Wessel. This past year two board members resigned for personal or extracurricular reasons: Patricia Thompson and Scott Nicholson. We thank them for their valued contributions during their volunteer time as URAA board members. We would also like to recognize and thank Diane Mullan from University Advancement & Communications for her outstanding support to URAA and our board for many years. Gwen Keith and Lynda Browning will serve as our U of R and U of S Senate representatives, respectively. In addition, the President of the Students' Union Gurjinder Singh Lehal will sit on the board as an ex-officio member. Sarah Fedirko will serve in ex-officio capacity as the Director of Alumni and Community Engagement.

The following individuals have agreed to let their names stand for Executive positions:

President: Christine Niemczyk

First Vice President: Scott Carson

Second Vice-President in charge of Finance: Roxanne Olynyk

Past President: Monica Deters

MOTION: To motion to elect the Executive Officers as presented.

MOVER/SECONDER: Jennifer Murray/Talitha Smadu-Mcklosky

CARRIED

Remarks from incoming President Christine Niemczyk:

I'm so very pleased to be the incoming president of URAA. As noted by Monica, we are very fortunate to work with such a dedicated and passionate volunteer board, the experience of those returning and the fresh ideas and enthusiasm of the new members elected this evening will certainly help frame the future of URAA as we work together to serve you, the alumni of the University of Regina. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Bert Yakichuk for his volunteer time and contributions. Monica, I look forward to your continuance on the board as past president. Your leadership, knowledge, and willingness to go above and beyond are certainly appreciated and have not gone unnoticed. Thank you, Monica, for your guidance, perseverance, your attention to detail, and your support of all of us on the board. Remember, URAA is your alumni association. Please continue to be involved, informed, and inspired. We need you. The University of Regina needs you.

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn the 2020 URAA Annual General Meeting.

MOVER: Kerrie Strathy

CARRIED 2019-20 URAA AGM adjourned at 7:26 p.m. CST

The minutes were recorded by Breandan Spruyt.