



UNIVERSITY OF REGINA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (URAA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Virtual Meeting using Zoom
MINUTES

Present Virtually: Donna Ake-Farden, Cheryl Bergen, Leanna Bliss, Jacq Brasseur, Marc Butikofer, Scott Carson, Rob Currie, Vivienne Dawson, Monica Deters, Jason Dittmann, Robert Ellis, Sarah Fedirko, Jennifer Gabrysh, Lyn Goldman, Adam Hicks, Virender Joshi, Jeff Keshen, Sandra Kitts, Lisette Marion, Jayda Maurer, Amy McGregor, Bernadette McIntyre, Doug McKillop, TonBari Menegbo, Karen Merz, Lisa Mitchell, Wayne Morgan, Ted Morris, Tracy Muggli, Jennifer Murray, Lucille Nawrocki, Christine Niemczyk, Iveatu Obioha, Titi Olayele, Brenda Oliver, Roxanne Olynyk, Titilayo Omolola, Verda Petry, Amanda Putz, Heather Renshaw, Joyce Rosenfeld, Curt Schroeder, Robert Bruce Shepard, Breandan Spruyt, Kerrie Strathy, Yaya Wang, Richard White, Bert Yakichuk, Richard Yeomans, Barialo Zorzor, Monica Zurowski

Call to order for the 2020-2021 Virtual URAA AGM at 6:32 p.m. CST

1. Adoption of Agenda (Christine Niemczyk)

We have worked with our dedicated team at the University Advancement and Communications to ensure accurate registration of our alumni members assembled today. We also have emailed advance copies of the agenda and supporting documents. If you are still not sure where the agenda, previous minutes and other materials are, they can be located on the website at <https://alumni.uregina.ca/pages/uraa/about>. Thank you to Lisette Marion and Sarah Fedirko for your much appreciated help with organization of today's URAA AGM. 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: TonBari Manegbo /Kerri Strathy

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2020 AGM (Christine Niemczyk)

MOTION: To adopt the minutes of the 2020-2021 Annual General Meeting as presented this evening.

MOVER/SECONDER: Curt Schroeder/Bert Yakichuk

CARRIED

3. URAA Annual Report 2020-21 (Christine Niemczyk)

Last year, we introduced succession planning which means we have an elected executive in the positions of president, and two vice presidents, a past president to assist with the day-to-day volunteer duties, while working alongside and guiding a dedicated board of directors. This

model certainly helps with history of our alumni association – where URAA has been – what we’re doing now - and what we want to do in the future.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

October 22: Fall 2021 Convocation: Monica Deters, URAA Past President will address the graduating students, and stress the pride and importance of being part of URAA and the U of R Alumni Family. URAA ordered and paid for new lapel pins with magnetic backing for the graduates for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Convocation, to be attached to a U of R Alumni and URAA Card with website and virtual yearbook information for graduates.

October 6, 2021: URAA presenting sponsor of the 2021 Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards (ACAA) plus acquiring talent of U of R alum for design of 5 awards which were also paid for by URAA. We have also committed to present and fund the 2022 ACAAs, plus fund design of 5 awards from new U of R Alum.

September 18, 2021: Breakfast meeting with Dr. Keshen and ACE staff re: brainstorming ideas and opportunities to involve and promote our valued alumni.

September 2, 2021: Informal introductory meeting with Dr. Jeff Keshen and Christine Niemczyk in the President’s Office. Dr. Keshen invited to attend future URAA Board Meetings as our guest and to share U of R highlights.

September 2021: Welcome week/weekend sponsorship with U of R and with URSU.

Spring 2021 Convocation: Christine Niemczyk provided a congratulatory video for the virtual ceremony. URAA provided congratulatory decals to be part of the convocation package.

May 2021: Sponsored the U of R Cougar Women’s Alumni Golf Tournament which is annual fundraiser.

March 3, 2021: URAA supported the virtual edition of the Inspiring Leadership Forum.

March 2021: New! URAA is sponsor of an annual \$25,000 CCE grant exclusively for U of R alumni to continue their lifelong learning with the Centre for Continuing Education.

March 2021: URAA was recognized as a Green Level sponsor for the 2021 President’s Breakfast for Athletics.

February 2021: The 2020 ACAAs Awards were rescheduled to Feb. 2021 due to the pandemic as a Virtual event, co-hosted by Dr. Tom Chase, Interim President and Christine Niemczyk, President, URAA. We acknowledged our five outstanding recipients and award winners. URAA was pleased to have two of our board members participate in the review and selection process and that the awards are created, designed, and produced by a U of R Alum.

Winter 2021: U of R Career Fair. A URAA Board Member with Human Resources experience presented virtually on Linked In to share her U of R student experiences.

Fall 2020 Convocation: Video by URAA president Christine Niemczyk included as part of convocation ceremony. URAA provided congratulatory decals for grad packages sent by of R alumni relations team.

Fall 2020: Welcome Week. Provided virtual U of R Bookstore gift cards to current U of R Students as part of “Welcome Week 2020.”

Fall 2020: URAA Logo Rebrand: We rebranded the URAA logo to make it more visually identifiable, unique, and distinctive as a University of Regina member-based, alumni organization.

ONGOING SUPPORT

- Continued support of 15 Scholarships by URAA
- We have oversight of the Alumni’s Affinity partners that include BMO MasterCard and TD Home and Auto Insurance
- URAA currently in the 3rd year as part of a total financial commitment of \$100 K for the Darke Hall/College Avenue Campus Renewal
- Frame sales – URAA sponsored graduates with a shipping discount for the past few convocations, as frames required to be shipped, and not available for pick up due to COVID-19

In closing, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as URAA President and as a contributing Board Member. I am prepared to be elected for my second year and work with existing board and new board directors as we collaboratively engage in new ideas and projects. 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.

4. Financial Report (Roxanne Olynyk)

5.1 Audited financial statements for year ending March 31, 2021:

- Independent auditors’ report – This report states the audit opinion Virtus Group has given us a “clean” audit both in the financial information and the processes that are put in place to put together these statements.
- Key things to note:
 - In cash and cash equivalents there is a significant increase year over year from 2020 to 2021, meaning we have a very strong financial position.
 - Revenues have increased quite significantly year over year primarily because of our affinity partners, including frame sales
 - Our investment portfolio had a successful year
 - We do have a lot of initiatives, subsequent to the dates of these financial statements, that we have committed to (Note 5, page 5)
 - Note 5: we are still committed to Darke Hall (\$100,000 over 4 more years remaining), the Alumni Association Scholarship (\$25,000 over 2 more years), \$25,000 to the Centre for Continuing Education to be paid in 2022, and \$50,000 to the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards to be paid in 2022 and 2023.
 - Jacq Brasseur: Why are the commitments not listed as liabilities or restricted funds on the balance sheet anywhere and I’m wondering just like how we’re tracking that?

- Roxanne: There are 2 ways Not-for-Profit accounting can list those items and we've chosen this way. We can review and have a discussion if we think it would be of value to have it changed.
- Wayne Morgan: What is a frame?
- Roxanne: A frame to put your university degree in to display it. We sell them online all year-round.

MOTION: To approve the Audited Financial Statements for 2020-2021 as circulated.

MOVER/SECONDER: Tonbari Manego/Tracy Muggli

CARRIED

5.2 Appointment of the Auditor

MOTION: That Virtus Group LLP be appointed as auditor for the fiscal year 2021-22.

MOVER/SECONDER: Monica Deters/Kerri Strathy

CARRIED

5. New Business (Scott Carson)

No new business was brought forward.

6. Election of Officers

The following Directors were appointed to a two-year term on June 30, 2019. As a result, their terms expired on June 30, 2021.

Jennifer Murray

Christine Niemczyk

The following current Directors were appointed to a one-year term on September 16, 2020. As a result, their terms expired on September 16, 2021.

Robert (Bob) Ellis

TonBari Manegbo

MOTION: To appoint Robert (Bob) Ellis, TonBari Marengbo, Jennifer Murray and Christine Niemczyk for a two-year term which will expire October 13, 2023.

MOVER/SECONDER: Curt Schroeder/Bruce Shepard

CARRIED

The following current Directors were appointed to two-year terms on September 16, 2020 and will remain on the URAA for the duration of their term which will expire on September 16, 2022.

Scott Carson

Roxanne Olynyk

The URAA has six vacant positions on the board. These positions will be for a one-year term ending October 13, 2022.

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

Cheryl Bergen

Jacq Brasseur

Bob Friedrich

Jayda Maurer

Bert Yakichuk

Scott Carson nominated Jennifer Gabrysh from the floor and she accepted.

Discussion:

Wayne Morgan: if you have 6 new people for one year, how is corporate memory to be executed with any level of excellence?

Monica: We only have 6 board members currently so we don't really have an option. It's not ideal or typical however that's partly what the Past President's role is. Bert Yakichuk and Robert Friedrich have been members of this board before. Bert was President and his Past President term ended only last year.

Wayne: Isn't it normal for a board to change 2-3 people a year so that there's a corporate memory? How big is the board?

Scott Carson: It would be 12

Monica: Our bylaws allow between 9-12 directors, and we didn't ever have 12 in recent years. We've typically had 10.

Wayne: I think there should be a review of how the board is replaced and its constitution. Thank you. 12 seems like a lot for this organization. You can reduce it to 8 certainly.

Monica: We can definitely look into that.

Curt Schroeder: I concur with what Wayne is saying. I was on the board several years ago and there was maybe 6 of us at once. It would be helpful if we look at staggering these elections or nominations in some way or even reducing the number.

Kerrie Strathy: From the last few face to face alumni association AGMs that I participated in, there were elections for board members because there were more nominees than positions available. But I also sense that some board members may not complete their terms which would contribute to the lack of continuity.

Jacq Brasseur: I just want us to be thoughtful that there was an opportunity for new business for members to put forward a mandate, such as I think we should review bylaws or to review board terms, etc, and nobody put that forward. So I just want to remind folks that if that's something that are they're interested in the board doing, we could potentially do that, but I think I would just like us to stay on track about the motion that's currently on the floor.

Kerrie: I think that boards normally reviews their bylaws as a standing item every couple of years just to make sure that everything is in order. I'm not sure the members need to propose that unless it's not happening, in which case I would certainly propose that as a good organizational practice.

Monica: I went through the bylaws at nauseum last year, and we had a lawyer on our board at the time who helped me with them because I was concerned about us not meeting our deadlines for having an agm, because of the pandemic. I would suggest it is something will do this year again.

The meeting turned back to Monica and the Election of Officers.

These individuals will be appointed by process of acclimation.

MOTION: These individuals will be appointed by process of acclimation. Motion to elect for one-year terms that will expire on October 13, 2022.

MOVER/SECONDER: Tracy Muggli/Bob Ellis

CARRIED

Gwen Keith and Tracy Muggli will continue to serve as our U of R and U of S Senate representatives, respectively. In addition, the President of the Students' Union Hannah Tait will

sit on the board as an ex-officio member. Sarah Fedirko will serve in ex-officio capacity as the Associate Director of Alumni and Community Engagement.

The following Directors 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: Bert Yakichuk/Jacq Brasseur

CARRIED

7. Closing Remarks (Scott Carson)

Our practice has been to offer a reception and door prizes at the close of our AGM. However, this year, it's just not possible. We thank you for your understanding and your attendance.

Following the AGM, I would ask all URAA Board Members to remain on the call for a virtual 'photo.' Thank you. And before we adjourn, thank you to everyone for your participation and attendance for the URAA 2021 AGM. Take care. Stay connected and stay safe.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the 2021 URAA Annual General Meeting.

MOVER: Kerrie Strathy

CARRIED

2020-21 URAA AGM adjourned at 7:13 p.m. CST

The minutes were recorded by Brendan Spruyt.