

Associated Alumni of Acadia University

Minutes of

May 13, 2017

Annual General Meeting

Wu Welcome Center at Alumni Hall, Acadia University

9:40 AM

Call to Order

Alumni Association President Geoff Irvine ('87) called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM upon confirmation of a quorum for the Annual General Meeting. Geoff opened the meeting by reflecting on the fact that this is the 152nd Annual General Meeting of the Association and 30 years since his personal convocation at the University. Geoff noted several guests in attendance including President Ray Ivany, members of the Office of Advancement, Vice President Rod Morrison, Executive Director for Alumni Affairs Ian Murray, Executive Director for Philanthropy Nancy Handrigan, Manager of Systems & Stewardship Cassie Tremaine, Senior Alumni Officer Oonagh Proudfoot as well as Past President of the Alumni Association Doug Jackson ('99).

Adoption of Agenda

The adoption of the Agenda was **moved by Malcolm Smith, seconded by Maxine McCuaig, approved unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the May 14, 2016 Annual General Meeting were **on Motion from Doug Jackson, seconded by David Davidson, approved unanimously.**

Greetings from President Ray Ivany

Geoff Irvine invited President Ray Ivany to address the meeting stating it has been a pleasure to work with President Ivany and acknowledging his great appreciation for all that President Ivany has done for the Association and the University. Under his leadership and team great things have been accomplished. He will be missed but we hope we'll be seeing him around.

President Ivany noted that this weekend will be tough and he has added empathy with this graduating class of students feeling sad to be leaving this place.

"It hasn't felt like a last year, it has felt like a regular year, very busy and kicked off with a 25% bump in our class enrolment. Finances are a big issue for this institution and at the time of his arrival there was a sense of loss in the fundamentals of the institution. Fortunately, the core, the bones of the institution, was there which we could work with. Our aggregate numbers are now up by 25%, the largest in Atlantic Canada in that eight year period. Every institution has a natural resting place and our objective was to get Acadia back to that place, 3500-3600 is our range and we were less than 2900 students and the campus

felt empty. Once Cutten reopened and enrolment bounced back up, we found ourselves in a good place. Acadia is drawing students from every province and territory and from over 60 countries around the world. Our entering students have a high grade point average and the percentage of top scholarship students is up.

When I asked incoming students this year what tipped the balance in favour of Acadia the students spoke of the magic of Acadia, the sense of community which is extraordinary for a 17 year old to recognize. I hope this continues. We need to attract good students for our success. When you build a community for the right reasons the magic happens.

Enrollment bounce back was crucial but Acadia also lead Atlantic Canada in the last eight years in containing our costs which will continue to be a challenge to all schools. We've promised our stakeholders and Alumni that we will make every dollar count and we need to be able to deliver on that promise.

We've picked away at our long term debt. We couldn't finance projects, even to open Cutten house so we had to self-finance and take on deferred maintenance which no one will fund. Acadia Alumni stepped up and took on those projects, including the McCain Arena and Patterson Hall. The Elliott and Huggins science complex project was a must do. I proposed the project in my first three months at Acadia but we couldn't do it on our own or even find the critical amount to start the project. This project is transformative. It was our biggest problem and will become our biggest asset. One morning shortly after the newly elected federal Liberal Government took the reins I heard the Minister of Finance talking about using infrastructure money to take on some of the infrastructure problems at post-secondary institutions and I called Scott Bryson and we were off and the project ultimately came into being within months. Rod Morrison and Nancy Handrigan and their team raised our 25% in contributions from our Alumni and friends in record time to help us close the deal with 50% in Federal funds and 25% in Provincial funds.

My first year at Acadia anchored me in a set of values. This institution stands for something and we need to care and feed that and it allowed us to pull the family back together. We the staff are the custodians of your University, this institution. As we move into the 179th year of this institution, for it to be as good as it is does not happen by accident. The University needs the Alumni support. Without it we wouldn't have this great University. We ask for your support, and your greatest gift is the wellspring of support from our Alumni.

As President Ricketts' term begins, the University enters a very important planning stage. It's a great opportunity to get engaged and for a stronger Alumni voice in that process which will make for a better outcome."

2016-2017 Annual Report

Alumni Association President, Geoff Irvine, refers those in attendance to the written submission which starts at page 8 of the Annual Report distributed at the Annual General Meeting. He notes that we have a fantastic Board of Directors and very active committees who work independently and report in to the Board. In highlighting key Alumni Association accomplishments this year Geoff notes:

- Work on the memorandum of Agreement/Partnership Protocol now close to completion, that provides guidance for the University/Alumni Association relationship and will replace the 2003 Memorandum of Agreement which has expired;

- Continuing work on re-establishing the full slate of Alumni Association awards including the Alumni Volunteer of the year and the Faculty Award for Excellence;
- Re-establishing a faculty scholarship for a student in Professional Studies and continuing work on scholarships to be established in Arts and Science;
- Completion of a branding exercise to define the Acadia Alumni brand, what we are and what we stand for and creating a new graphic image;
- On-going governance work updating and creating by-laws to provide for stronger and consistent governance;
- Establishing a presence on campus through our Young Alumni Committee work including Grad Fair and working with the grad class executive;
- Working with our affinity partners to provide important services to alumni and grow our revenue;
- Collaborating with the University on communications platforms for alumni including the “Alumni Bulletin”, monthly e-newsletters and other social media; and
- Providing financial support for key initiatives in student recruitment, athletics, the Alumni Office, alumni programming and student clubs and groups.

Geoff acknowledges that without the support of Executive Director Ian Murray and his team of alumni professionals, we would not be able to provide the alumni programming and services that we do. In closing, Geoff again thanks President Ivany for his wonderful support of our Alumni during his time at Acadia and for making alumni relations a key priority.

Executive Director’s Report

Ian Murray ('88) opens his remarks by acknowledging the contributions of the University administration including Rod Morrison, Vice President Advancement, Nancy Handrigan, Executive Director-Philanthropy; and Cassie Tremaine, Manager Systems and Stewardship and the dedicated and professional staff in the Office of Alumni Affairs including Oonagh Proudfoot, Melanie Jackson and Sandra Symonds and their colleagues in Marketing and Communications. Ian notes his belief that the Association has a really strong Board, particularly in governance, based upon discussions with his peers from other institutions.

The Alumni Office measures our engagement level through our Alumni events and we see fantastic engagement with our events across the country. We continue to build on the list of those events which are noted on pages 11 and 12 of the Annual Report. The Office supported the launch of the Maple League which is a great collaboration of likeminded institutions and he looks forward to improving the strength of that relationship. The Office added back in visits to Barbados, Boston, Bridgewater and Yarmouth and is hosting fun and informal social events like the recent axe throwing contest in Halifax.

When the Office plans the events, strategic interdependencies are an important consideration. Events are designed to benefit Acadia and our Alumni. We think about who we want in the room and what institutional goals we want to achieve. We have gatherings with a purpose and engagement is growing. Over the past year, we’ve had a 25% increase in the number of events offered and a 24.5% increase in attendance. Our challenge is to put together a program that attracts people of all ages and interests while providing value and intellectual stimulation. Since 2013 when we got serious about events again we have seen an 84.2% increase in the number of events and a 70% increase in attendance.

Ian is very happy with the quality of the Alumni Bulletin and feels that the forthcoming 2017 Spring issue is the best edition to date.

The Association continues to be diligent in managing the work with our affinity partners and their reports are included on page 14 of the Annual Report. Our alumni are seeing value and participation continues to grow.

The Alumni Association Awards program is rich and we thank you for supporting that program, for seeing the value in the program and what it does for the University and our alumni community.

Treasurer's Report

Geoff invites David Davidson ('81) a member of the Finance Committee, to provide the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Paul MacIsaac ('88), Treasurer of the Alumni Association who was unable to attend the AGM. David directs the Meeting to the written report and statements starting on page 16 of the Annual Report.

He thanks Cassie Tremaine and Oonagh Proudfoot for their contributions on behalf of the Association with respect to the ongoing administration of the Association's Budget, finances and financial reporting. The Association continues to exercise discipline in our management of the AAAU funds ensuring that total expenditures align with the operating revenue of the AAAU. David notes that operating revenues exceeded disbursements by \$26,177 and, that contributions to the Alumni Fund and interest earned on invested funds totaled \$54,475 generating a positive disbursement position of \$80,652 as of March 31, 2017. As a result of this disciplined approach the AAAU for a third consecutive year has grown our total assets which as of March 31, 2017 stand at \$1,202,501.

There being no questions on the Treasurer's Report, **David Davidson calls for a Motion to approve the 2016-2017 Financial Statements as presented in the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Malcolm Smith. Motion carries unanimously.**

Nominating Committee Report

Doug Jackson, Chair of the Nominating Committee opens his remarks by thanking the Nominating Committee members for their hard work on behalf of the Association which starts anew each fall. In addition to Doug the Committee members include Past Presidents Hugh Bray and Charles Coll. He directs members to page 20 of the Annual Report which outlines the proposed slate of Nominees for the Alumni Association Board for 2017-2018. He also directs members to pages 21 through 24 of the Annual Report which provides a brief biography of each new nominee.

In our search, the Committee looks for grad year and gender balance and professional and skill sets. Our current slate of new proposed directors comes from a number of geographic areas and from 1977 through 2013.

Doug Jackson asks for nominations from the floor three times. Seeing and hearing no further nominations, **Doug declares nominations closed and makes a Motion that the roster of nominees for the proposed 2017-2018 AAAU Board and Officers as outlined on page 20 of the Annual Report be approved as presented. Fred Gilbert seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

Closing Remarks

Geoff thanks the retiring Board Directors for their hard work on behalf of the Association and asks Ian MacIsaac to step forward and receive a framed certificate of appreciation for his endeavours on the Association's behalf while a member of the Board. Certificates of Acknowledgment will be sent to the other retiring Board members.

Looking ahead, Geoff notes the upcoming Alumni Association Presidential Gala recognizing the remarkable achievements of Ray Ivany during his tenure as President of Acadia University. It will be held in Halifax on May 26th at the World Trade & Convention Center. We have 850+ Alumni & friends attending and it will be a wonderful evening. He thanks the Gala team that worked tirelessly to make this event a success, a great collaborative experience.

There being no further business **Rebecca Carr makes a Motion to adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Charles Coll. Motion carries unanimously. The Meeting is adjourned at 10:34 AM.**

Minutes recorded by Donalda MacBeath