

# UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH RETIREES ASSOCIATION

## Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Thursday June 14, 2018

Arboretum Centre

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

UGRA President Peter Kevan called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved: Jim Shute, seconded Doug Badger:

That the Agenda be approved as previously circulated. CARRIED

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2017

Moved: Frances Sharom, seconded Cathy Ralston:

That the minutes of the June 2017 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated.  
CARRIED

### BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2017 AGM.

### 4. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### 4.a. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Peter Kevan outlined some of the highlights for UGRA in the past year. In particular, he noted the UGRA adventure trip to Churchill, Manitoba in August 2017; the agreement that we will host the 2019 CURAC conference at the University of Guelph next May; and the achievement of UGRA members in fully funding the annual UGRA Scholarship.

He noted with pleasure support for UGRA from the University Administration and also support for the CURAC conference plans, which was expressed in a match for UGRA travel funds for representatives to attend the 2018 conference in Halifax. Jan Kauffman, a former UGRA President and a Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2019 meeting, was honoured with a CURAC award in Halifax.

Peter had given a short presentation to Senate about UGRA, and President Vaccarino, Alumni Affairs and Development V-P Daniel Atlin have made presentations to UGRA, with Provost Charlotte Yates on the agenda for today's meeting.

He noted sadly that the Newsletter Editor, Jamie Snell, had resigned due to ill health and died shortly after. He thanked Charlotte McCallum, who stepped in quickly and effectively as the new Editor. UGRA organized a Fall Forum and a Spring Forum at the Arboretum, both of which were well-attended and enjoyed. He reported that things in general were moving ahead well and concluded with a pitch for more financially-

contributing members, to help pay for activities, and for “goodies” (refreshments!) at events.

#### 4.b. CURAC - HOSTING THE 2019 CONFERENCE AT GUELPH

Janet Kaufman reported for the Local Arrangements Committee, which has been meeting since March. The dates of the conference are May 22-24, 2019, and ideas for program topics have been discussed, and an invitation to submit ideas was given. The focus will be on issues important to retirees, both local and national, with opportunities to showcase unique University of Guelph contributions. More information about this event will be coming in the Newsletter and on the UGRA website.

#### 4.c. UGRA SCHOLARSHIP

Frances Sharom provided an update on the UGRA Scholarship. Last June, the account balance was \$37,000, which met the minimum amount (\$30,000) needed to endow the award. As the award is \$1,500 per year, \$45,000 is needed to allow the endowment to pay out this amount. As of yesterday, the fund had reached \$52,979 (\$51,725 plus a \$1,254 payout towards this year). The fund is still soliciting donations, as the aim would be to increase the size of the award in future.

Peter Kevan thanked Frances for her enthusiasm and help for the success of this award, and noted that a profile of the 2018 winner, Mariel Burnside, is featured in the Spring newsletter.

#### 4.d. NEWSLETTER

Editor Charlotte McCallum reported that 3 newsletters of 8 pages each had been produced since the last AGM, for Fall, Winter and Spring. The latest one is in the mail and posted on the website. The University pays for postage for all who have not requested the electronic version only, while UGRA pays for set-up and printing. Some 2050 copies are printed and mailed, with 30-40 going overseas. UGRA doesn't have full access to the list of people eligible to get the newsletter, so if someone is missing it, please let us know!

#### 4.e. UGRA ADVENTURES

Vikki Tremblay – “your friendly local UGRA travel agent” – reported on UGRA's recent efforts to get us up and moving around in good company. The next Great Adventure is planned for October 2019, and it is a 17 day trip to visit China. Information and a video about the travel were presented so we can start making plans! Watch the Newsletter and the website if this sounds intriguing! Vikki mentioned other plans for shorter adventures a lot closer to home, so keep in touch!

*[To accommodate the expected arrival of the Provost to address the meeting at 11 am, the business reports were suspended at this point and resumed after items 5 and 6.]*

### 7. GROWING THE SYNERGY OF UGRA AND U of G ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT

Jason Moreton, from Alumni Affairs and Development, spoke about relationships between the AAD Office and retirees of the University. He noted that retirees were regarded as alumni –

and that many were in fact once students here. While AAD is interested in fund-raising for the university, the approach is through building relationships. He commented on some of the benefits and services offered to retirees and the UGRA and indicated that Maureen Brooker and Jayne Whitfield were contacts to talk to with questions and ideas. This year, AAD provided some travel funds for Janet Kaufman to travel to Halifax to receive and award from CURAC, and Jason noted that he was pleased they were involved in planning for next year's CURAC Conference in Guelph.

## ADDRESS BY CHARLOTTE YATES

Charlotte Yates, Provost and Vice-President Academic, came to the Arboretum between Convocation ceremonies to update retirees on changes to her role as Provost, on conversations about budget planning, and on the University's strategic priorities and innovation. Areas of interest include experiential education opportunities, internationalizing the University of Guelph campus, equity and diversity, academic freedom, and general communication. She then fielded several questions from the engaged audience.

Peter Kevan thanked the Provost for her remarks and for making time in a very busy day to come and address the UGRA AGM.

*[The business meeting continued.]*

## 4.f. PENSION AND BENEFITS

Doug Badger, who has served for three years on the Board of Governors Pension and Benefits Committee, noted that he had provided a detailed update at the Spring Forum, as reported in the Spring Newsletter.

He reported five key points about pensions:

- Combined pension funds at the end of March hit \$1.5 billion.
- The 10 year interest rate averaged 6.9%
- The University administration has ~\$ 5M budgeted for special payments (\$ 34 M has been contributed besides the normal actuarial amounts)
- Current employees are paying much more in contributions: for example, faculty will 9.4% vs 6.5% **?? on above YMPE ?? Doug, please check wording ?**
- The former Ontario government had loosened the solvency deficit calculations but tightened the going-concern deficit requirements. The UG going concern deficit is small but now needs to be addressed in a shorter time.

The University has been involved in discussions on moving to a Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan (JSPP) as a multi-employer group, as Doug reported in the January newsletter article "Bumpy Road". It has been difficult to work out how to blend the plans of different universities and currently only 3 (including Guelph) are going forward. Support of employee groups is required (unions speaking for their members) and this has caused more slippage in the timeline for starting the new plan, which is now anticipated in January 2020. Communication about the JSPP is now taking place through a pension page on the University website.

**Retirees** are not part of the groups that need to consent to the JSPP, though they can, as individuals, object to the change. Retirees have been told unequivocally that their pensions **are not affected**; what is changing is the governance structure. The new structure may not

have retiree representation, and if it did, chances are it would come from the very large University of Toronto group.

Peter Kevan thanked Doug for representing retirees and for providing a clear encapsulation of the information.

#### 4.g. TREASURER'S REPORT

Cathy Ralston presented the Treasurer's Report (shown on screen). The deficit for the year was \$850, which was better than the \$1200 deficit that had been projected.

Moved: Cathy Ralston, seconded Doug Badger:

That the Treasurer's report be accepted for information. CARRIED

The proposed Budget for 2018-19 was presented, with a forecast deficit of \$700. Cathy noted that UGRA does have GICs of \$5000 in savings and \$2500 in the chequing account. The positive impact that endowment of the scholarship will have, as it is now paid out of operating monies, is not yet apparent in this budget. Overall, membership contributions are still essential to permit operations.

Moved: Cathy Ralston, seconded Frances Sharom:

That the 2018-19 Budget be approved. CARRIED

Moved: Cathy Ralston, seconded Vikki Tremblay:

That Ken Stefler be appointed to carry out the Financial Review. CARRIED

Peter Kevan noted that Cathy Ralston would be stepping down as Treasurer, having put in her "term limit" of 6 years of continuous service on the UGRA Executive, and thanked her for her work as Treasurer. He also emphasized the need for membership contributions – and UGRA's thanks to those supporters.

#### 5. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF THE 2018-19 EXECUTIVE

Past-President Kent Percival, Chair of the Nominations Committee, noted that 4 members of the Executive were in the second year of their two-year term: Charlotte McCallum, Vikki Tremblay, Glenn White, and Sue Wi-Afedzi.

The Nominations committee brought forward the names of seven people who had agreed to stand for another 2-year term: Doug Badger, Peter Kevan, Dana Paramskas, Kent Percival, Janis Randall Simpson, Frances Sharom, Roz Stevenson.

Nominations from the floor were solicited; none were forthcoming.

Moved: Kent Percival, seconded Doug Badger:

That nominations be closed. CARRIED

One position on Executive remains open to be filled.

Moved: Kent Percival, seconded Janet Kaufman:

That the Officers of UGRA for 2018-19 be:

President – Roz Stevenson

Vice-President – Vikki Tremblay

Secretary – Janis Randall Simpson

Treasurer – Glenn White

Past President – Peter Kevan

CARRIED

## 6. UNITED WAY

Peter Kevan noted that people volunteer to take on particular roles with UGRA, and introduced retiree Julie Hutchins, who is the UGRA representative on the United Way Campaign. Julie reported that she had been working with the UG United Way Steering Committee, which had been meeting monthly – and soon would be meeting bi-weekly. Last year, \$ 650,000 was raised by UG, with \$63,400 of that contributed by retirees. She also let us know about a “Fill-the-Bus” (with people) event coming up and invited people to visit with Isabella Barretto, United Way campaign Manager, at the table set up with other information.

## 8. NEW PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Roz Stevenson was mercifully brief. She thanked Peter Kevan for his leadership in the past year, and Cathy Ralston for her six years on Executive and services as Treasurer. The efforts of all the continuing members of Executive were appreciated, and UGRA looks forward to an exciting year of Fall Forum, CURAC Conference, travel and other events.

9. The meeting adjourned at 12:15

*Meeting notes taken by Roz Stevenson*

*This draft is dated September 3, 2018 (Happy Labour Day) ....*

*PLEASE READ AND CORRECT AS NEEDED! ☺*