

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting-Thursday June 17, 2021

Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome and Call to Order: 10:01 am.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lisa Porth, Dean of the University's Lang School of Business and Economics. Dr. Porth introduced herself and outlined the Business School's structure and aspirations. In particular, she addressed the role of the school as they develop a five-year Strategic Plan, in a post-Covid world, and the future, worldwide, for agricultural business security.

2. Approval of Agenda: Moved: Jan MacInnes Seconded: Eva Nagy Carried
All voting was by anonymous poll (Zoom) (29 members)

3. Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2020 AGM (as posted)
Moved: Jan MacInnes Seconded: Vikki Tremblay Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes: see Reports below

5. Reports from Executive Committee

President's Remarks (J. MacInnes)

This was an exceptional year with executive and member meetings all held by Zoom, and communication to members by website, email and with newsletters. Jan expressed her appreciation for the service of retiring directors, those continuing and those who have let their names stand. She also thanked the University and UGRA members for their continued support.

Governance Report, changes to bylaws (P. Krell)

The governance committee proposed a change to the constitution, to align the fiscal year with the dates for membership renewal and to facilitate financial reporting.

Motion: To change Article VII, Section 4 of the constitution from "The fiscal year shall be from April 1 to March 31 of the succeeding year" to "*The fiscal year will be the **calendar year January 1 to December 31.***"

Moved: Peter Krell Seconded: Vikki Tremblay Carried

UGRA Scholarship (P. Krell)

Given the rise in educational costs, the executive agreed to increase the limitation on other individual scholarships held in conjunction with the \$1500 UGRA Scholarship from \$1500 to \$2500.

The opening balance for the fund as of May 1, 2019 was \$57,994, the closing balance at April 30, 2020 was \$55,226. Contributions of \$4,073 were offset by a negative

investment return (-\$5,291) and disbursement of the Scholarship (\$1500). The report from AA&D for 2021/2022 year will not be available until Nov. 2021.

Treasurer's Report and Nomination of Auditor (C Ralston)

For 2020-21 total receipts were \$7,060, lower than budgeted (\$9,600) due primarily to reduced member contributions during the pandemic. Expenditures of \$6,528 were also lower than budgeted (\$9,020), savings realized because all meetings of directors and members were virtual. The year-end surplus was \$531.

Given the change in fiscal year, Cathy presented a 9-month budget to the end of 2021. Expected receipts are \$5,750, including member contributions, interest and advertising revenue. Projected expenditures are \$ 5,670, including costs for the newsletter, website, Zoom account, office supplies and an in-person Fall Forum. There was some discussion regarding the merits and costs of continuing to publish a hardcopy newsletter. This was referred to the directors for further discussion.

2020-21 financial statements were reviewed by L. Shuh, CGA, CPA (retired) who indicated that *"The statements and the detailed reconciliations, bank statements and supporting documents are in agreement and support the final results as presented. Based on the statements as presented including the conference net results shared with UGRA, the Association is in a good financial position with total cash revenues of \$16,888 as of March 2021. This reserve would carry the equivalent of 2.5 years of the 2020/2021 expenses (\$6,528)."* He also noted that revenue from member contributions has declined yearly since 2016-17.

Motion: To approve the Operating Statement as presented:

Moved: Cathy Ralston Seconded: Doug Badger Carried

Motion: To approve the Budget for the fiscal period April-Dec. 2021.

Moved: Cathy Ralston Seconded: Valerie Allen Carried

Given that Larry Shuh will be standing for the UGRA Board of Directors, and if elected would not be eligible to act as reviewer, the treasurer proposed that the Board be given authority to appoint a reviewer for the coming year.

Motion: To permit the Board to appoint a reviewer of the financial records of the 2021 fiscal year.

Moved: Cathy Ralston Seconded: Joe Tindale Carried

Pension and Benefits Update (D. Badger)

Conversion of the Guelph pension plan to the UPP will take effect July 1, 2021. The final Guelph payment will be June 30, the first UPP payment is July 1, with payments thereafter falling on the 1st of every month. Updates: www.universitypension.ca
An interactive website www.myupp.ca will be available soon, with information sessions scheduled for the fall.

Member services for Guelph retirees will continue to be managed by Guelph's HR Dept for the foreseeable future. Indexation is based on the previous May-April CPI;

therefore, no adjustment is expected for this year. Maybe next year, if CPI continues to rise. Check Guelph's HR website.

The University's Pension Committee will be disbanded; thus, Doug will no longer represent UGRA. The members present and the executive expressed thanks for his 6 years of conscientious service.

United Way (Daniel Gillis, 2020 co-chair)
UGRA members were thanked for their sustained strong support of the United Way. Retirees had both the highest dollar amount and number of contributors in the University's United Way campaign.

Unfortunately, the new UPP does not permit payroll deduction of donations. The United Way committee is investigating ways to have recurring on-line donations credited to a donor group, such as UGRA.

UGRA Adventures (V. Tremblay)
There was no travel in 2021. Planning for 2022 is underway. Members are encouraged to complete the on-line survey to assist planning:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26VM8T2>

6. Nominations and Election of the 2020/21 Executive Committee (V. Tremblay)
UGRA has 12 directors, serving 2-year terms, for a maximum of 3 terms.

Retiring Board Members

Julie Hutchins
Toni Pellizzari
Frances Sharom

Candidates continuing for 2nd year of two-year term:

Peter Krell
Pat Shewen

Board Members standing as candidates for an additional two-year term:

Jan MacInnes - 2nd two-year term
Cathy Ralston - 2nd two-year term
Vikki Tremblay - 3rd two-year term
Sue Wi-Afeds - 3rd two-year term

Candidates for 1st year of two-year term:

Valerie Allen - retired 2015 from Hospitality and Tourism
Gerrit Bos - retired 2020 from Information Security
Alan Filewod - retired 2018 from English and Theatre Studies
Tracey Jandrisits - retired 2019 from Provost and VP Academic
Grant Maxie - retired 2019 from LSD Animal Health
Larry Shuh - retired 2020 from the Budget office

No nominations from the floor.

Motion: to Approve the Slate of Directors (above) for 2021-22

Moved: V. Tremblay

Seconded: Eva Nagy

Carried

Officers for 2020-2021

President	Peter Krell
Vice-President	TBD
Secretary	Pat Shewen
Treasurer	Cathy Ralston
Past President	Janet MacInnes

7. Questions and Comment from Members: none

8. Transfer of the Virtual Cowbell to the 2021-2022 President and
New President's Remarks (P. Krell)

Peter thanked Jan for her service as President for the past year, which has required unprecedented adaptation due to the pandemic. UGRA has been an active voice for retirees for more than 30 years and he is pleased and humbled to be taking on this role. He looks forward to working with the impressive slate of new directors and appreciates their willingness to serve. Hopefully, we will be able to hold an in-person Fall Forum and return to more active participation as a group. Personally, he hopes to increase donations to the Scholarship Fund, to enable more meaningful support for recipients, and plans to reach out to retirees who are not currently members to encourage participation in UGRA.

7. Other Business: None

8. Motion to Adjourn: Moved: Peter Krell

Note: Breakout Rooms were available for members to mingle before and after the meeting and some took advantage of the possibility.