

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH RETIREES ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 16, 2022**  
**Zoom Meeting**

1. Welcome and Call to Order: 10:04 am (*Peter Krell*)

Keynote Speaker: Paul Kelly, Apiary Manager, Honey Bee Research Centre. Paul introduced himself and gave an overview of what the Centre does and talked about the problems honey bees are currently experiencing.

2. Costa Rica Trip video and information (*Vikki Tremblay*)

A video from Collette vacations about Costa Rica was shown and Vikki indicated that the reduced early bird rate (\$100 less) for the trip would end on July 19, 2022 and the trip would be open to the entire U of Guelph community.

3. UGRA Scholarship Donation Draw (*Ayshia Degia and Pat Shewen*)

A random number draw was conducted for the 4 prizes for UGRA members who donated to the \$30,000 scholarship campaign. The results were as follows:

- Jar of U of G summer honey – Grant Maxie
- Johnston Hall tote bag – Edward Dickson
- U of G sweatshirt – Clifford Lougheed
- Grand Prize – home-cooked Hungarian dinner for 6 guests – Brenda Coomber

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*A 10 minute break occurred before the formal portion of the AGM started.*

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4. Motion to Approve the Agenda:

Moved by Peter Krell                      Seconded by Kent Percival      Carried

*All voting during the AGM was by anonymous Zoom poll (38 members).*

5. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the June 17, 2021 AGM (as posted on the UGRA website [www.ugra.ca](http://www.ugra.ca) )

Moved by Valerie Allen                      Seconded by Rich Moccia      Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes: See reports below.

## 7. Reports from the Executive

### ***a. President's Report (Peter Krell)***

Due to Covid-19, executive meetings, the Fall and Spring Fora and this AGM have been held by Zoom. A campaign was held to raise \$30,000 to increase the endowment of the UGRA scholarship and double the scholarship to \$3,000. During the past year communication with UGRA members was through Fall, Winter and Spring Newsletters, e-blasts and the UGRA website. E-transfer was added as a method of making a contributing membership payment. UGRA members have lost privileges during the past year (reduced parking fees, remote access to library e-resources and the ability to download copies of the Microsoft Office 365 suite of programs). The executive recently conducted a survey to determine how the loss of these privileges affects members. Peter thanked the 2021-22 executive and those members who are retiring, those continuing and those who have let their names stand for the 2022-23 executive. He also thanked AA&D and in particular Ayshia Degia and Human Resources especially Margaret McLeod for their assistance.

### ***b. Treasurer's Report and Financial Reviewer's Report (Larry Shuh on behalf of Cathy Ralston)***

Larry reminded members that at the 2021 AGM the fiscal year end was changed to December 31<sup>st</sup> and therefore this report is for a shorter 9-month period. He reviewed the Operating Statement and indicated that member contributions were strong and showed an increase over last year. Revenue from ads in the newsletters and on the website is increasing due to executive efforts. Voluntary member contributions of \$25/year increased slightly in 2021 over 2020, but contributions are still needed as activities return to normal. During the past year the major expense was publishing the newsletters. UGRA reported a net surplus of \$2,390 for the 9 months ending December 31, 2021 because the executive budgeted for live meetings, but all executive meetings, the Fall and Spring fora and the AGM were held by Zoom due to Covid-19. The Executive has committed to making \$500 contributions to the Scholarship fund for the next 3 years until earnings from the increasing Endowment stabilize. This contribution allows UGRA to immediately offer a \$3000 scholarship. Overall, UGRA is in a good financial position with total assets of \$19, 205 (\$7,559 in cash and \$11,646 in GICs).

John Mah, Retired Director of Finance (Lab Services Division) and the External Reviewer, indicated that the Operating Statement for the 9-month period ending December 31, 2021 and the detailed reconciliations, bank statements and supporting documents are in agreement and support the final results presented. All documentation is well organized.

MOTION to Approve the Treasurer's Report for the 2021 fiscal year.

Moved by Larry Shuh.                      Seconded by Jan MacInnes                      Carried.

### ***c. Motion to Approve the 2022 UGRA Budget (Larry Shuh)***

Moved by Larry Shuh                      Seconded by Peter Kevan                      Carried

**d. Appointment of the Financial Reviewer for the 2002 Fiscal year (Larry Shuh)**

MOTION: To permit the board to appoint John Mah as reviewer of the financial records for the 2022 fiscal year. Moved by Larry Shuh Seconded by Rich Moccia Carried

**e. Update on UPP pension inflation increase (Larry Shuh)**

Human Resources at the University confirmed that the UPP pension will increase by 2.78% beginning with the September 1, 2022 payment. U of G Pension Plan inflation adjustments are made when inflation is above 2.0%, calculated on the CPI increase for the 12-month period May 1 to April 30.

**f. Activities and Newsletter Report (Vikki Tremblay)**

UGRA hosted a Fall Forum on November 18, 2021 and Samantha Brenna spoke about the “Arts Research Centre”. The Spring Forum (April 21, 2021) featured 3 speakers. Maya Goldenberg and Peter Krell spoke about “Covid-19 and Challenges” and Elaine Fenner described “Experiential Learning at the University”. Executive members published Spring and Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 Newsletters. Although travel was light in 2021-22 a trip to Costa Rica is planned for February 19 to March 2, 2023 and plans have begun for a visit to Churchill in August 2023. Vikki reminded members to keep their vaccines updated to improve travel safety for everyone.

**g. Membership and Communications Report (Sue Wi-Afedzi)**

UGRA currently has 2,473 members, of which, on average 150 make a voluntary contribution each year. Sales of ad space on the website have helped with revenue generation. Sue told members that the UGRA website provides links to Later Life Learning sessions offered by CURAC and other Canadian university retiree groups. UGRA posts summaries of the talks at the Spring and Fall Fora and the AGM on the website ([www.ugra.ca](http://www.ugra.ca)).

**8. Other Reports**

**a. UGRA Scholarship Report (Peter Krell)**

The balance in the UGRA Scholarship Endowment Fund as of April 30, 2021 was \$71,441 with \$4,877 in new contributions during the year. The report for the 2021/22 year will be available in November 2022. The executive launched a \$30,000 (reflecting our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary) campaign to double the scholarship to \$3,000. As of May 30, 2022, 112 donors raised \$17,900. The first \$3,000 scholarship will be given in 2022.

**b. Survey on Loss of Privileges (Alan Filewood)**

Alan said the members have lost preferred parking fees on campus, remote access to Library e-resources, the downloadable Microsoft 365 suite of programs (web versions are still available) and e-mail storage has been limited to 50 GB. A survey was recently conducted and approximately 100 members responded. 27% said that loss of preferred parking fees created a problem, 31% said that loss of remote access to Library e-resources was a problem for them, 29% indicated that an upper limit of 50 GB for e-mail storage was problematic and 73% reported that loss of downloadable Microsoft programs creates a problem. Alan noted that these downgrades do not affect Professors Emerita/us because they are a “defined user group”. He said that the Executive has not discussed the survey results yet, but that it will be an important topic in Executive meetings next year. The survey provides data for future discussions with the University about the loss of privileges.

A member asked what the cost savings are for the University with the removal of these privileges and Rich Moccia said that parking savings would be minimal. Kent Percival, CURAC President, said that similar issues regarding loss of privileges are arising at universities across Canada as service provider fees increase. Kent said that CURAC will be conducting a survey of retiree benefits in the coming year.

**c. United Way Report** (*Julie Hutchins*)

Julie thanked the retirees for their magnificent work in raising close to \$100,000 for the United Way in 2021. She said that there are still people in Guelph in need, particularly as a result of the pandemic and asked retirees to once again give generously during the 2022 campaign.

9. Election of 2022-23 UGRA executive (*Janet MacInnes*)

The UGRA has 12 directors who are elected for terms of 2 years. A person may serve for 3 consecutive terms of 2 years each, after which they must take a minimum 1 year ‘sabbatical’.

Retiring board member: Valerie Allen

Board members who are continuing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their first two-year term:

Gerrit Bos  
Alan Filewood  
Grant Maxie  
Larry Shuh

Board members who are continuing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their 2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term:

Janet MacInnes  
Cathy Ralston

Board members who are continuing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their 3<sup>rd</sup> two-year term:

Vikki Tremblay  
Sue Wi-Afedzi

Candidates who are running for their 2<sup>nd</sup> term:

Peter Krell  
Pat Shewen

Candidate running for their 1<sup>st</sup> term two-year term: Joseph Tindale

Peter Krell nominated Rich Moccia, but he declined due to other on-going commitments.

MOTION: To approve the slate of Directors for 2022-23.

Moved by Jan MacInnes      Seconded by Eva Nagy      Carried

Officers for 2022-23:

President	Pat Shewen
Vice President	Alan Filewood
Treasurer	Larry Shuh
Secretary	Joe Tindale
Pat President	Peter Krell

#### 10. Any Other Business, Questions, Comments

Peter Kevan commented on a recent article in the Canadian Association of University Professors bulletin warning about possible faculty strikes at 6 Canadian universities.

#### 11. New President's Remarks (*Pat Shewen*)

Peter Krell did a virtual transfer of the gavel to the new UGRA President Pat Shewen. Pat welcomed new and returning members to the executive and said that she is looking forward to working with them and hopefully meetings will be in person. She is also hoping that the Fall Forum will take place in person. One of the first issues for the next year will be the loss of privileges for UGRA members. Pat also wants to continue to grow the scholarship fund so that the \$3,000 scholarship will be fully endowed. She asked members to let her know about any other issues.

#### 12. Adjournment at 12:00 pm (*Pat Shewen*)