



**Draft Minutes of the 72nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
June 3, 2021, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mark Brown called the Annual General Meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. Mr. Brown noted the meeting is an opportunity to formally record and celebrate the achievements of the past year and to thank Alumni Association volunteers.

Laura Spero presented the Land Acknowledgement statement.

Laura Spero advised that Western's flags would be at half-mast for 215 hours to recognize the tragic loss of 215 children whose remains were found on the site of the former Indian Residential School in Kamloops, BC. A moment of silence was initiated to reflect and honour their memories.

Mark Brown introduced Western's President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Alan Shepard to bring greetings and updates from the University.

Mark Brown introduced Western's new Vice-President, University Advancement, Jeff O'Hagan (BA'93) to bring greetings.

Mark Brown introduced Board of Director, Ashley Rowe, to present her conversation with Simu Liu.

Ashley Rowe introduced Simu Liu, HBA'11: actor, writer, filmmaker and stuntman. And noted that Simu will be the first Asian actor to lead a Marvel Studios film as superhero, Shang-Chi, in the film *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* (2021) opening in September. Ashley advised that due to unforeseen circumstances Simu was unable to join the meeting in person, however, he was able to meet earlier in the day to record an interview. *The 15 minute interview was presented.*

Mark Brown acknowledged Associate Vice-President of Alumni Relations & Development Susana Gajic-Bruyea, as well as former presidents and members of the Alumni Association who were on the call.

Mark Brown welcomed representatives from Western's Alumni Affinity Partners, TD Insurance (home and auto insurance), and Manulife (life, health and dental insurance and recently added banking products).

Mark announced that notice of the meeting was published 45 days prior to the meeting date and Donna Swanson, Administrative Assistant in Alumni Relations, was asked to serve as Secretary of the meeting.

Mark gave an overview of housekeeping items and how to vote on motions.

Mark introduced the Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Secretary to the Alumni Association Board, Tyler Forkes. Tyler confirmed there was quorum for the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members received the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held May 22, 2020. The President asked for a motion for approval of the minutes as there were no amendments or changes.

Moved: Trisha Beusaert

Seconded: Victoria Volk

Carried

3. APPROVAL OF THE ACTS OF THE DIRECTORS

Mark advised that approval of all the decisions made and actions taken by the Board of Directors of the Association since the last Annual Meeting is sought and that a list of these motions was circulated with the meeting materials. The President asked for a motion to approve the Acts of the Directors.

Moved: Yvette Laforêt Fliesser

Seconded: Anne Vair

Carried

4. GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Mark reported that from time to time the Board activates a Governance Review Committee to examine the Association's Constitution and By-Laws to ensure they are up-to-date and in alignment with our practices. A number of revisions have been suggested and endorsed by the Board, and were posted on the AGM website and circulated with the meeting materials. In general, the nature of the revisions reflect the following:

- Revising the previous default use of male pronouns to gender neutral;
- Revising outdated references to the division of "External Relations" and replacing them with "University Advancement;"
- Expanding definitions that encourage diversity of Board make-up from just faculty to include: gender, ethnicity and era of graduation;
- Replacement of the former "Council of Presidents" with a more inclusive and streamlined "Western Alumni Summit;" and
- Housekeeping corrections of punctuation, etc.

The President asked for a motion to accept the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws as communicated on the Alumni Association website:

Moved: Warren Bongard

Seconded: Huiwen Chen

Carried

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mark reflected on his first year as president of the Alumni Association. Mark added that members of the board serve as ambassadors and advocates in support of advancing the university.

Mark presented highlights from the, "Year in Review," report that was distributed with the meeting materials:

- 328,000 graduates living in 161 countries around the world;
- And while the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from getting together in person last year, we pivoted quickly to online offerings, and had nearly 29,000 alumni registrations for some 75 virtual events and programs;
- To recognize the newest members of the alumni family, 9,000 boxes which contained a letter from the Alumni Association, convocation pins, and some other great swag was sent to new graduates;
- Last year, for the first time in our 71 year history, we did not invite people back to campus for Homecoming. But that didn't stop us from celebrating. In collaboration with faculties, programs and affiliated colleges, we offered 53 events which were viewed by over 7,000 screens and devices from 38 countries around the world. We also had over 800,000 social media impressions. All together, we believe it was "Virtually Canada's Best Homecoming;"
- Thank you to the nearly 9,000 alumni who made gifts last year in support of students, research, and other priorities;
- The Alumni Legacy Committee is proud to have supported a number of campus initiatives this past year, totaling \$960,000;
- Affinity partners offering preferred rates, and top-quality services for our alumni: TD Insurance for home and auto insurance, and Manulife for life, health and travel insurance, as well as select banking products. This past year over 54,000 alumni took advantage of these offers; and
- Purple Perks App launched in January, making it easy to access exclusive offers, discounts, contests and stories. It also includes a digital version of your alumni card. In the first four months over 1,500 alumni downloaded the App.

Mark noted that despite being a very unusual year, we were successful in adapting to the circumstances and maintaining great engagement with our alumni and friends and thanked everyone who contributed to or participated in our programming this year.

Mark introduced Homecoming Chair, David Simmonds, who is also a past president of the Association, to say a few words about Homecoming 2021.

David reported that Homecoming 2021 will take place September 23rd to 26th, a few weeks earlier than in recent years. The move allows our students, our future alumni, to take part in this important tradition noting that as plans start to take shape, our top priority is the health

and safety of our campus and the local community.

David advised that while the Alumni Awards of Merit event, Golden Anniversary reception, Nursing 100th Anniversary gala and “Western Stories & Songs” will be held virtually this year, we are hopeful conditions in September will allow for some in-person, campus events and activities, in accordance with local and provincial health guidelines. And added to watch alumni.westernu.ca and @westernuAlumni on Twitter and Instagram for more details in the coming weeks.

6. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mark Brown introduced the draft Slate of Officers of The Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2021-2022:

Returning Directors:

Amy Bi, BA'07	Shannon MacDonald, BA'90
Trisha Beausaert, BA'11	Danny Matthews, BSc'09, JD'14
Warren Bongard, LLB'91	Melanie Peacock, MBA'90, <i>President-Elect</i>
Mark Brown, MBA'95, <i>President</i>	Farah Perelmuter, BA'91
Kant Chong, BA'03	Lisa Richards, BA'06
Sandra Datars Bere, BA'87, MPA'06	Patrick Searle, BA'11
Matt Helfand, BA'13, MA'14, JD'18	David Simmonds, BA'07
Susy Martins, BA'01, BA'03, MBA'08	Laura Spero, BA'95

Newest Directors:

George McAuley, MEd'10, BEd'98, BSc'96
Chantel Smith, BA'10

Representatives to Other Governance Boards and Committees:

University Board of Governors

Greg Dick, BSc'93
Keith Gibbons, BA'76
Sarah Shortreed, BEd'89
David Simmonds, BA'07

University Senate

Anne Baxter, BA'91
Sandra Datars Bere, BA'87, MPA'06
Gary West, HBA'68 (*President's Designate*)

Honorary Degrees Committee

Susy Martins, HBA'01, BA'03, MBA'08
Christine Tabbert, LLB'98

The President called for a motion to elect the slate in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution:

MOTION: To move the acceptance of the Slate of Officers for 2021-2022.

Moved: Elena Murgoci

Seconded: Chris Makuch

Carried

Mark also recognized the volunteers on:

Campus Council: Robert Collins, BA'77 and Jim Etherington, BA'61

Strategic Planning Steering Committee: David Simmonds, BA'07 and Mark Brown, MBA'95

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECOGNITION

Mark Brown acknowledged retiring Board members:

Promod Sharma, BSc'84: Promod participated on two of our Standing Committees, Alumni Legacy and Alumni Engagement. And has also been a valued member on the 2017 & 2018 Alumni Awards of Merit Selection Committee. His thoughtfulness and calming demeanor have always been a trusted voice in our decision-making processes.

Ashley Rowe, BA'11: Ashley has been Chair of the Programs Committee since 2018, Chair of the Alumni Awards of Merit Committee since 2016 and is also Co-chair of the Association's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Working Group. Ashley has emceed numerous events such as The Alumni Awards of Merit Dinner and in 2020 she hosted the first ever virtual Golden Anniversary celebration event engaging our alumni who were celebrating their 50 - 75 year reunions.

Mark thanked Promod and Ashley for their time and commitment in advancing the work of the association and noted that in honour of their service, a gift of a personalized glass recognition piece was commissioned by artist and alumna Marie Bohm, BA'85.

8. SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD

Incoming President, Melanie Peacock, presented the The Spirit of Western Award which recognizes a Western alumnus/alumna or group of alumni who embody the Spirit of Western through their volunteer commitment to the University, and exceptional efforts to enrich the university community and the lives of its students and alumni. Melanie announced that this year's recipients are the members of the Nursing Alumni Chapter.

One of Western Alumni's most distinguished volunteer recognition tools, the primary goal is to recognize outstanding "grassroots" volunteer-initiated contributions to Western and/or the Alumni Association, and the Nursing Chapter are very deserving recipients.

Each year the group hosts an annual program of events that includes an Annual Nursing Alumni Brunch, held at Homecoming, as well as a Golf Clinic. The volunteers also coordinate The Nursing Alumni of Distinction Awards to recognize significant contributions by an alumnus to the university community, the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing and the nursing profession.

In February 2020, the Chapter hosted the 100th Anniversary Exhibit and Reception, where

alumni, faculty, students and friends gathered at a reception to celebrate the opening of an exhibition at Museum London that explored 100 Years of Nursing Education in London.

The Nursing Chapter has facilitated a 100 Years of Alumni Stories campaign to record and share the stories of Nursing Alumni, and is planning a 100th Anniversary Virtual Gala to take place at Homecoming on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

Melanie congratulated co-chairs Yvette Laforêt Fliesser and Barbara Watson, and members of the Nursing Chapter. Melanie invited Yvette to say a few words on behalf of the Nursing Chapter.

Melanie noted that in recognition of this award chapter volunteers will receive a boxed Spirit of Western pin.

9. CLOSING REMARKS

Mark Brown thanked Tyler Forkes, Executive Director, and his team in the Department of Alumni Relations for all that they do in support of the activities of the Alumni Association.

Mark thanked members for attending the AGM and noted this completed the formal business of the meeting.

MOTION: That The Annual Meeting of The University of Western Ontario Alumni Association be concluded.

Moved: Promod Sharma

Seconded: Ashley Rowe

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mark invited members to stay online and enjoy a performance by Rick McGhie.