



**Draft Minutes of the 70th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of  
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
June 7, 2019, 5:15 p.m. – 5:32 p.m.  
Western University Campus, University College, Conron Hall**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Trista Walker presented the Land Acknowledgement statement and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Walker introduced Alumni Association President, Warren Bongard.

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Warren Bongard called the Annual General Meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Mr. Bongard noted the meeting is an opportunity to formally record and celebrate the achievements of the past year and to thank Alumni Association volunteers.

Warren announced that notice of the meeting was published 45 days prior to the meeting date and that a quorum was present allowing business to be undertaken. Donna Swanson, Administrative Assistant in Alumni Relations, was asked to serve as Secretary of the meeting.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Members received the minutes of the last Annual Meeting of members, dated June 8, 2018. The President asked for a motion for approval of the minutes as there were no amendments or changes to the minutes.

**Moved:** Sandra Datars Bere  
**Seconded:** Lisa Richards

**Carried**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ACTS OF THE DIRECTORS**

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

**Moved:** Jim Etherington  
**Seconded:** Bruce Curtis

**Carried**

**4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Warren reported that today marked the half way mark of his two year term as President of the Alumni Association and noted that the Board of Directors and staff team have been executing each tactic as found in the current Strategic Plan and are excited to continue the journey of alumni engagement.

Warren directed members to review the 2019 Annual Progress Report and noted many accomplishments from this year:

- In March of 2019 we launched our re-designed alumni website and we encourage you to visit the site and see what we have to offer;
- We continue to add new 'perks' and partnerships for alumni to enjoy including discounts at Via Rail and Budweiser Gardens;
- Our Western Alumni followers on Instagram increased by 79% and on Twitter by 24%;
- Last year, alumni wrote 1,805 pieces of Kind Mail and purchased 1,616 vouchers for student breakfasts as part of the It's On Me Campaign. Alumni favour these programs because they offer a tangible and meaning way to support our current students;
- Over 400 alumni participated in career coaching appointments in 2018 and over 2,000 alumni around the world participated in our Alumni Webinars.

Warren thanked all of the Association members for their purple passion and commitment to the Alumni Association and its programs.

## **5. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Warren reported that the Nominating Committee met several times over the course of the last year to discuss candidates for The Alumni Association Board of Directors, which includes Alumni Association representatives on the Board of Governors and appointments to other University bodies, including the University Senate and its Honorary Degrees Committee.

Warren introduced the draft Slate of Officers of The Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2019-2020:

President, Warren Bongard, LLB'91  
Trisha Beausaert, BA'11  
President Elect, Mark Brown, MBA'95  
Kant Chong, BA'03  
Fiona Cuddy, BA'99  
Sandra Datars Bere, BA'87, MPA'06  
Matt Helfand, BA'13, MA'14, JD'18  
Susy Martins, BA'01, BA'03, MBA'08  
John Moore, BA'92

Melanie Peacock, MBA'90  
Farah Perelmuter, BA'91  
Lisa Richards, BA'06  
Ashley Rowe, BA'11  
Promod Sharma, BSc'84  
David Simmonds, BA'07  
Gina Uppal, BHSc'14  
Sunny Uppal, BSc'08

Warren also acknowledged the newest Director:

Amy Bi, BA'07 from Portland, Oregon

Warren introduced the representatives to other governance Boards and Committees:

### **The University Board of Governors**

Greg Dick, BSc'93  
Keith Gibbons, BA'76  
Paul Jenkins, BA'71(Chair) (*To December 31, 2019*)  
Sarah Shortreed, BESC'89  
David Simmonds, BA'07 (*January 1, 2020*)

### **The University Senate**

Anne Baxter, BA'91  
Sandra Datars Bere, BA'87, MPA'06  
Gary West, HBA'68 (*President's Designate 1 – year term*)

### **The Honorary Degrees Committee**

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

Warren Bongard 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 2019-2020.

**Moved:** Robert Collins  
**Seconded:** Chris Smith

**Carried**

## **6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECOGNITION**

Warren thanked retiring board member Sharon Cowin and Senate Appointee Robert Collins for contributing to the growth and the success of the Association. Warren acknowledged their service to the Association and for the countless hours of their personal time that they gave freely to advance Western's Alumni Association. Warren noted that later in the evening the Alumni Awards of Merit and Volunteer Recognition Dinner at The Great Hall will recognize our distinguished Alumni Award of Merit recipients, board retirees and thank our most dedicated volunteers.

## **7. SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD**

Warren advised that The Spirit of Western Award recognizes a Western alumnus 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.

Warren announced that this year's recipients are the Ottawa Branch of Western Alumni. The Ottawa Branch volunteers are a dedicated and engaged group of alumni that host a diverse array of alumni events each year.

Warren reported that the Ottawa Branch volunteers were not able to attend to receive their award, however, Western Alumni will present their Spirit of Western Award pins to the volunteers at a future event in Ottawa.

#### **8. PAST PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

Warren advised that the Presidency of David Simmonds (2016-2018) was celebrated at the 2018 Alumni Awards of Merit and Recognition Dinner. Warren noted that David's term as President of Western Alumni Association was truly transformative and his vision and passion for Western are unmatched.

Warren reported that today marked David's last day as The Association's Past President and thanked him personally for the support, wisdom and guidance that he has passed on to him through the year. Warren noted that David will continue to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Executive Committee for the 2019 – 2020 cycle.

Warren advised that to mark the end of David's term as Past President, David will now have the opportunity to work with the team in Alumni Relations & Development to make a donation to a student-supporting award at Western. David is passionate about giving back to First Generation students, those saving for residence fees as well as students who are members of our LGBTQ community. David is tireless in his dedicated commitment to students who are finding their way in the world. Warren congratulated David for all that he's done to advance the Alumni Association.

#### **9. CLOSING REMARKS**

Warren thanked Trista Walker, Executive Director, and her team in the Department of Alumni Relations for all that they do in support of the activities of the Alumni Association. Warren asked that staff stand and be recognized. Warren 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:** Nicole Devos  
**Seconded:** Sarah Shortreed

**Carried**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.**

Mr. Bongard invited members to stay and enjoy refreshments and connect with their fellow alumni and friends of Western.