



**Draft Minutes of the 74th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
June 1, 2023, 7:02 p.m. – 7:47 p.m. ET
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Melanie Peacock, Alumni Association President, called the Annual General Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Melanie Peacock noted the meeting is an opportunity to formally record and celebrate the achievements of the past year, thank Alumni Association volunteers and bestow the Spirit of Western Award.

A video of the Land Acknowledgement was presented.

An alumni spotlight video highlighting Western graduates, Uche Pedro, HBA'06 and Justin Wu, HBA'09 was presented.

Melanie Peacock welcomed Western's Vice-President, University Advancement, Jeff O'Hagan, former and current directors of the Alumni Association including past presidents of the Alumni Board, our chapter volunteers and Alumni Ambassadors from around the world.

Melanie Peacock acknowledged representatives from Western's Alumni Affinity Partners, TD Insurance who bring us home and auto insurance, and Manulife, providers of life, health, dental and travel insurance, as well as a suite of banking products. And thanked them for their ongoing partnerships and generous support of University programming.

Melanie Peacock 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.

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

Melanie Peacock confirmed with Temi Akin-Aina, Associate Vice-President and Secretary to the Alumni Association Board, that there was quorum for the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members received the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held June 2, 2022. The President asked for a motion for approval of the minutes as there were no amendments or changes.

Moved: Yvette Laforet-Fliesser

Seconded: Dave Ferri

Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE ACTS OF THE DIRECTORS

Melanie Peacock 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 provided with the meeting materials. The President asked for a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Acts of the Directors.

Moved: Anne Vair

Seconded: Patricia Kitchen

Carried

3. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Melanie Peacock reflected on her first year as President of the Alumni Association. And presented a few highlights from the work of the Alumni Association Board:

- In the fall of 2022, The Alumni Association contributed 300,000 dollars for the naming of the multipurpose gathering space on the foundational floor of the new Indigenous Learning Centre to be named in honour of Western's Indigenous alumni. This project demonstrates Western Alumni's commitment to institutional priorities of Indigenization and recognition of our Indigenous alumni;
- Hosted the Western Alumni Summit in Toronto, an opportunity designed to bring together our network of volunteer groups and strengthen bonds and communication; and
- Over the past year, we have reviewed our Board Committees and in the upcoming year will be doing a trial run of a new structure to better meet the needs of our alumni base.

Year in Review 2022-2023

Temi Akin-Aina presented the Year in Review for 2022-2023. A copy of the report was included with the meeting materials.

Constitution and By-Laws Updates

Melanie Peacock gave an overview of the Governance Review Committee and acknowledged the committee members.

Melanie reported that a number of revisions were suggested and endorsed by the Alumni Association Board and were distributed with the meeting materials. The nature of the revisions included: changes to reflect current nomenclature, procedures and processes and best practices; and housekeeping corrections of punctuation, etc.

The President presented a motion to accept the Constitution and By-Laws updates.

Moved: Danny Matthews

Seconded: George McAuley

Carried

4. **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Melanie Peacock introduced the Slate of Directors and Appointees of The Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2023-2024:

Returning Directors

Amy Bi, BA'07

Kant Chong, BA'03

Hsiu-Yan Chan, BSc'03, BESC'03, MBA'12

Avis Favaro, BA'81, MA'82

Matthew Helfand, BA'13, MA'14, JD'18
Nathan Ho, BA'08, MBA'16
Shannon MacDonald, BA'90
Daniel Matthews, BSc'09, JD'14
George McAuley, BSc'96, BEd'98, MEd'10
Melanie Peacock, MBA'90
Michael Salvatori, BEd'90, MEd'94
Patrick Searle, BA'11
Chantel Smith, BA'10
Laura Spero, BA'95

Newest Directors

Sarah Chapman, BSc'10
Burns Cheadle, PhD'86
Victoria Volk, BMOS'14

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

Dave Ferri, BA'76, BEd'78, MEd'86
Melanie Peacock, MBA'90 (President)

Honorary Degrees Committee

Sarah Chapman, BSc'10
Laura Spero, BA'95

Melanie Peacock introduced President-Elect, Matthew Helfand. Matthew is a 3-time Western graduate who lives in Toronto where he is an associate lawyer at Aird Berlis. He joined the Alumni Association Board in 2018 and has been Chair of the Alumni Engagement Committee since 2020 as well as a member of the Alumni Legacy Committee. Matthew has chaired a number of committees and contributed immensely to relevant board work. Matthew was President of Western's USC in 2014.

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 Directors and Appointees for 2023-2024.

Moved: Mark Brown

Seconded: Sandra Datars Bere

Carried

Melanie Peacock also recognized Robert Collins, BA'77 as our Campus Council Representative.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECOGNITION

Melanie Peacock acknowledged retiring Board members: Mark Brown, Sandra Datars Bere, Farah Perelmuter and Lisa Richards. And retiring Senate members: Anne Baxter and Yvette Laforêt-Fliesser.

6. SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD

Mark Brown presented 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. Mark Brown announced that this year’s recipients are the volunteers with the Ivey Alumni Network and gave an overview of their accomplishments.

Ivey Alumni Network volunteers, Pamela Schott and Kaleigh Sainthill, were invited to give remarks.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

Melanie Peacock thanked the partners in University Advancement for all that they do in support of the activities of the Alumni Association.

Temi Akin-Aina gave an update on programming for the year ahead and noted that Homecoming will take place September 22 – 24, 2023.

8. Adjournment

Melanie Peacock thanked members for attending the AGM and presented the following:

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

Moved: Lisa Richards

Seconded: Farah Perelmuter

Carried

The meeting closed at 7:47 p.m.