



**Draft Minutes of the 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
May 30, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – 8:06 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 7:00 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.

Dr. Gordon Osinski, professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, Director of the Canadian Lunar Research Network, and co-founder and Chief Scientist of the Earth and Planetary Institute of Canada, delivered a presentation titled "The Return to the Moon – with Robots and Humans." Following the presentation, members had the chance to participate in a question and answer session.

Melanie Peacock welcomed former and current directors of the Alumni Association including past presidents of the Alumni Board, our chapter and network volunteers and Alumni Ambassadors from around the world.

Melanie Peacock acknowledged representatives from Western's Alumni Affinity Partners, TD Insurance who bring us home, auto and small business insurance, and Manulife who are providers of life, health, dental and travel insurance, as well as a suite of banking products. Melanie 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 1, 2023. The President asked for a motion for approval of the minutes as there were no amendments or changes.

Moved: Nathan Ho

Seconded: Victoria Volk

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 2023-2024 Acts of the Directors.

Moved: Danny Chang

Seconded: Michael Hatten

Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Melanie Peacock reflected on her time as President of the Alumni Association and presented a few highlights from the work of the Alumni Association Board:

- Funding to campus projects that demonstrate Western Alumni's commitment to institutional priorities particularly community-engaged learning opportunities and student leadership such as:
 - Western B.L.U.E. (Black Leadership University Experience) Program
 - Summer After 1L Program for first year Law Students
- Implemented a new Board Committees structure to better meet the needs of our alumni base; and
- Hosted three Volunteer Summits (two Virtual and one in person) allowing for over 50 highly engaged alumni volunteers to meet, discuss their connections to each other and the university, and highlighted opportunities for them to further participate in recruiting, student/alumni engagement and contributing to Western.

Year in Review 2023-2024

Temi Akin-Aina reported that we have welcomed over 8,000 Brescia Alumnae into the Western Alumni Association framework as a Chapter. She added that we look forward to collaborating with Brescia volunteers to maintain their cherished traditions and to welcome their alumnae at key events such as Convocation and Homecoming. This integration offers promising opportunities to continue Brescia's legacy within this new chapter.

Temi Akin-Aina presented the Year in Review for 2023-2024. 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 the Alumni Association Board suggested and endorsed several revisions, which were distributed with the meeting materials. These revisions included updates to reflect current terminology, procedures, and best practices, as well as housekeeping corrections such as punctuation adjustments.

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

Moved: Matt Helfand

Seconded: Hsiu-Yan Chan

Carried

4. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Melanie Peacock introduced the Slate of Directors and Appointees of The Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2024-2025:

President & Past-President

Matthew Helfand BA'13, MA'14, JD'18, President

Melanie Peacock MBA'90, Past-President

Returning Directors

Amy Bi, BA'07

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

Sarah Chapman BSc'10

Burns Cheadle PhD'86

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

Melanie Peacock, MBA'90

Patrick Searle, BA'11

Michael Salvatori, BEd'90, MEd'94

Victoria Volk, BMOS'14

Renewals

George McAuley BSc'96, BEd'98, MEd'10

Chantel Smith, BA'10

New

Danny Chang BSc'20

Lirim Hajrullahu BA'13, MA'15

Melissa Kargiannakis

Representatives to Other Governance Boards and Committees:

University Board of Governors

Existing Appointments

Sarah Shortreed, BEd'89

Greg Dick BSc'93

David Simmonds BA'07

New

George McAuley BSc'96, BEd'98, MEd'10

University Senate

Existing Appointment

Burns Cheadle PhD'86

Renewal

Dave Ferri BA'76, BEd'78, MEd'86

New

Julie Campbell, BHSc'02, BScN'14, MN'16 (President's Designate, 1 year term)

**Honorary Degrees Committee
Renewal**

Sarah Chapman, BSc'10

New

Lawrence Loh, BSc'02, MD'06

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 2024-2025.

Moved: Yvette R. Laforêt-Fliesser

Seconded: Anne Vair

Carried

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

Melanie Peacock introduced Matthew Helfand as our new Alumni Association President.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECOGNITION

Matthew Helfand acknowledged retiring members: Kant Chong, Keith Gibbons and Laura Spero who retired earlier this year.

Matthew thanked Melanie Peacock for her tenure as President of the Alumni Association and noted that as the first president to reside outside of Ontario, Melanie has shown that distance is no barrier to dedication and leadership. Her passion and energy have been a driving force in bringing our alumni community closer together, both physically and virtually.

Matthew gave a brief overview of her time as president:

- The Alumni Association made generous contributions to campus initiatives totaling \$750,000;
- Demonstrating her global vision and commitment to our international alumni community, Melanie introduced initiatives such as the Global Ambassador Virtual Summit and focused on creating more opportunities for connection and communication between volunteers and the University. These successful initiatives will continue to be a part of our work as we progress; and
- Melanie also chaired the subcommittee to review and present recommendations on the Alumni Association Board committee structure, ensuring our organization remains effective and forward-thinking.

6. SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD

Matthew Helfand 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. Matthew announced that this year's recipient is Kant Chong, BA'03.

Kant Chong was invited to give remarks.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

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

Temi Akin-Aina announced that Karen Bertrand will become the new Vice-President of University Advancement, effective August 12, 2024.

Temi gave an update on programming for the year ahead and noted that Homecoming will take place September 27 – 29, 2024. Temi added that in addition to our signature Homecoming events we will also be hosting a grand opening of the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. It will be our first net-zero energy building that will provide entrepreneurial programs and training for all. We expect that this building will be the site of transformative experiences for students for years to come.

8. Adjournment

Matthew Helfand 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: Melanie Peacock

Seconded: Burns Cheadle

Carried

The meeting closed at 8:06 p.m.