



**Draft Minutes of the 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
May 22, 2020, 8:32 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Warren Bongard called the Annual General Meeting to order at 8:32 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 advised this is the first virtual meeting of the Alumni Association and provided details about the voting procedure.

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.

Warren Bongard presented the Land Acknowledgement statement.

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

Warren Bongard introduced Tyler Forkes, the new Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Secretary to the Alumni Association Board. Warren reported that Tyler commenced his role on April 20, 2020 and brings more than 20 years' experience as an educational advancement leader, including 11 years as Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations at Ryerson University. Warren noted that Tyler was President of the Queen's University Alumni Association.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members received the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held June 7, 2019. The President asked for a motion for approval of the minutes as there were no amendments or changes to the minutes.

Moved: Melanie Peacock

Seconded: Trisha Beusaert

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: Victoria Volk

Seconded: Chris Makuch

Carried

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Warren reported that today marked the conclusion of his two-year term as President of the Alumni Association. He noted that it has been a year filled with listening, learning and leaning into some of the opportunities facing our Association.

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

Webcasts and Digital Learning

- Hosted 12 webinars that attracted more than 11,000 participants from 52 countries.
- The sessions were interactive and covered a broad range of topics under the umbrella of professional and personal development.
- When the COVID-19 health crisis forced the unprecedented shut down of the University, we continued to engage the Western community, locally and beyond our borders, through webinars. With a quick pivot, we accelerated our goal to expand our offerings and took the opportunity to explore all facets of the pandemic. Drawing on the research expertise on campus, we developed sessions that covered many aspects and shared diverse perspectives regarding COVID-19 and continue to offer webcasts featuring Western researchers.

President's Alumni Tour

- Alumni and friends were invited to meet Western's new President and Vice-Chancellor, Alan Shepard as he travelled to some of our key regions during his first year in office. Alan's mission was to share university news and learn more about the Western story first-hand from our 'purple and proud' graduates – the University's greatest ambassadors.
- From October 2019 to March 2020, Alan met more than 1,400 alumni and friends during his 11-city tour which included stops in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, San Francisco, London, UK, Shanghai and Sydney, Australia. Due to COVID-19, the last three events in New York, Boston and Ottawa were postponed.

Digital Engagement

- For the 2019-2020 year, 5,350 alumni participated in digital campaigns such as:
 - **Kind Mail** – Alumni write notes of encouragement to students living in their old residence rooms during stressful exam seasons. This campaign continues to demonstrate the power of kindness. In April 2020, more than 600 digital messages were sent in support of students writing final exams during the global pandemic. In December 2019, the campaign saw Kind Mail cards submitted to 1,462 students.
 - **Western Day** – Through a combined email and social media campaign, more than 2,000 alumni requested their free Western Day gift and more than 90 alumni submitted a photo to win an exclusive Western Alumni hoodie.
 - **Valentine's Day** – Social media posts encouraged grads to share the story and photo of meeting their significant other or best friend while at Western. This organic campaign resulted in more than 200 additional stories shared on posts that

generated more than 546,500 impressions, 3,000 likes and 300 comments on all platforms combined.

- **VIA Rail sweepstakes** – More than 550 alumni entered to win a travel voucher from perks partner VIA Rail.

Warren reported that in the best interests of the health and safety of the Western community, Homecoming 2020, scheduled for October 16-18, will take place virtually. Homecoming 2021 will be held September 24-26.

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 Honourary Degrees Committee.

Warren introduced the draft Slate of Officers of The Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2020-2021:

Amy Bi, BA'07	Melanie Peacock, MBA'90
Trisha Beausaert, BA'11	Farah Perelmuter, BA'91
Warren Bongard, LLB'91, <i>Past President</i>	Lisa Richards, BA'06
Mark Brown, MBA'95, <i>President</i>	Ashley Rowe, BA'11
Kant Chong, BA'03	Promod Sharma, BSc'84
Sandra Datars Bere, BA'87, MPA'06	David Simmonds, BA'07
Matt Helfand, BA'13, MA'14, JD'18	
Susy Martins, BA'01, BA'03, MBA'08	

Warren also acknowledged the newest Directors:

Shannon MacDonald, BA'90, New York, NY	Patrick Searle, BA'11, Toronto, ON
Danny Matthews, BSc'09, JD'14, Vancouver, BC	Laura Spero, BA'95, London, ON

Warren introduced the representatives to other governance Boards and Committees:

The University Board of Governors

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

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 Honourary Degrees Committee

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

Warren introduced Mark Brown, the new Alumni Association President for 2020 – 2022. Warren advised that Mark lives in London, Ontario and earned his MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business in 1995. Mark served as a member of the Hong Kong Ivey Alumni Chapter; founded and was President of the Ivey Shanghai Alumni Chapter; was President of the Ivey London Alumni Chapter; and spent eight years on the Ivey Alumni Board.

For the last 7 years, Mark has been a member of the Western Alumni Association Board of Directors, most of that time as Chair of the Legacy Committee.

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 2020-2021.

Moved: Yvette Laforêt-Fliesser

Seconded: Bruce Curtis

Carried

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECOGNITION

Mark Brown acknowledged retiring Board members:

Fiona Cuddy, BA'99: Member of the Programs Committee. Since 2014, Fiona has participated on the Alumni Awards of Merit Selection Committee. Fiona also served as the 2019 – 2020 designate on Western's Fundraising and Donor Relations Committee.

John Moore, BA'92: Chair of the Alumni Engagement Committee. As part of a small group of volunteers, John was instrumental in reviewing, editing and updating The Alumni Association's Constitution and Bylaws. John's wise counsel on our Governance Committee will be missed.

Gina Uppal, BHSc'14: Member of the Alumni Engagement Committee. Gina contributed and supported the creation of our Alumni Ambassador Program.

Sunny Uppal, BSc'08: Member of the Alumni Engagement Committee. Sunny has been very active with our International engagement strategy and has spent many hours volunteering his time speaking with students on campus.

Mark thanked the Directors for their service to the Association and for the countless hours of their time to advance Western's Alumni Association. Mark noted, that acknowledgement of their contribution will be done in person with a token of recognition at a later date.

Mark thanked Warren Bongard for his outstanding service to Western as president of the Alumni Association from 2018 – 2020. Mark noted some highlights under Warren's leadership:

- Supported Western's Be Extraordinary Campaign, by surpassing the alumni engagement

target with a 110% increase in engagement (represents 116,000 engaged alumni).

- Continued implementation of the Alumni Association's Strategic Plan, including establishment of the Data Analytics Task Force, a redesigned Alumni website, and launch of the Ambassador Program.
- Supported leadership transitions of Western's Chancellor and President.
- The Alumni Association provided financial support to numerous university projects, including the recent allocation of \$100,000 to support the Student Relief Fund in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On behalf of all alumni, Mark thanked Warren, for his service to the Alumni Association and to Western.

7. SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD

Mark Brown advised that The Spirit of Western Award recognizes a Western volunteer who embodies 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 announced that the recipient of the 2020 Spirit of Western Award is Western's very own Legendary Music Man – Rick McGhie. For five decades, Rick has embodied the Spirit of Western through his commitment to the University and his exceptional efforts to enrich the lives of Western students and alumni. 2020 marks Rick's 50th year playing on campus. Rick's appearances on Wednesdays at The Spoke, and Thursdays at The Grad Club, have been called 'legendary,' a 'tradition,' and a 'rite of passage' for Western students.

In 2008 and 2009, Western Alumni took Rick on the road - a coast to coast alumni tour with stops stretching from Halifax to Vancouver.

Rick has played annual alumni events in Toronto for more than 20 years, often attracting audiences of 500 plus alumni and students.

Mark noted that Rick was presented with his Spirit of Western pin and a Western hoodie earlier today.

8. 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 asked that staff wave and be recognized. 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: Warren Bongard

Seconded: David Simmonds

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

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