



**Minutes of the 68th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of  
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
June 16, 2017, 12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Western University Campus, New FIMS/Nursing Building**

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Alumni Association President, David Simmonds, called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. and welcomed everyone to The Alumni Association's Annual Meeting, noting that the meeting is an opportunity to formally record and celebrate the achievements of the past year and to thank Alumni Association volunteers.

Mr. Simmonds 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.

Mr. Simmonds informed the attendees, that following the business portion of the meeting, guests were invited to have lunch and participate in tours of the building. Mr. Simmonds acknowledged the past Presidents who were present in the room.

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

Members received the minutes of the last Annual Meeting of members, dated June 16, 2016. As there were no amendments or changes to the minutes, the President asked for a motion for approval of the minutes.

**Moved:** John Eberhard  
**Seconded:** Sunny Uppal

**Carried**

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

Mr. Simmonds 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:** Robert Collins  
**Seconded:** Jim Etherington

**Carried**

**4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Simmonds presented the Alumni Association's Strategic Plan. David noted the plan was created over 18 months which involved a great deal of listening and prioritizing. David reported that five pillars were carefully crafted to give us a clear line of sight to the core priorities that will see us leading and advancing for several years to come and are aligned with our structure as a board. David noted key messages from alumni that helped to shape the Plan:

- Alumni told us that they wanted to support the Association and they are willing ambassadors of this institution,
- Alumni advised they needed a clear signal from us as to how they can lend a hand, and
- Alumni let us know that we needed clarity in our messages and direct calls to action.

David reviewed the five pillars: Extraordinary Stories. Extraordinary Benefits. Extraordinary Leadership. Extraordinary Experiences and Extraordinary Network.

David advised that the board of directors and staff team are well positioned to execute each tactic and are excited to begin the next phase of alumni engagement and welcomed any feedback.

Mr. Simmonds directed members to review the 2017 Western Alumni Progress Report that was circulated at the meeting. Notable accomplishments from this year:

- Metrics from our successful ‘doubling alumni engagement campaign’ where we have surpassed our goal of engaging 100,000 alumni;
- Results of our nation-leading programs: Discover the World Travel, Senior Alumni Program, the Career Management Portfolio;
- Showcase of our new digital engagement campaigns – namely our ‘Kind Mail’ and ‘It’s on Me’ initiatives that assisted students during stressful exam periods and gave alumni the opportunity to reach out and give back;
- Through our Legacy Committee we allocated \$566,000 dollars back to some of Western’s highest priority needs. We supported the faculties of Music, Education and Arts & Humanities with capital projects and we contributed to ground-breaking concussion research;
- Goal to meet gender parity on the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors for 2017 – 2018 was met and exceeded: 11 female and 7 male directors; and
- Western Alumni hosted its first LGBT reception on June 14 in Toronto.

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

Mr. Simmonds 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 Degree Committee.

Mr. Simmonds introduced the draft Slate of Officers of The Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2017-2018:

Trisha Beusaert, Warren Bongard, Mark Brown, Sharon Cowin, Fiona Cuddy, Susy Martins, John Moore, Erika Mozes, Natalie Raffoul, Ashley Rowe, Promod Sharma, David Simmonds, Nick Staubitz, Sunny Uppal.

Mr. Simmonds also introduced and welcomed the newest Directors:

- Sandra Datars Bere, BA’87, MPA’06
- Farah Perelmuter, BA’91

- Lisa Richards, BA'06
- Gina Uppal, BHSc'14

Mr. Simmonds introduced the representatives to other governance Boards and Committees:

**The University Board of Governors**

Jeremy Adams, Keith Gibbons, Hanny Hassan (Chair), Paul Jenkins

**The University Senate**

Carol-Lynn Chambers, Robert Collins

**The Honorary Degree Committee**

Sharon Cowin, Gary West

Mr. Simmonds presented President Elect – Warren Bongard LLB'91.

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 2017-2018.

**Moved:** Leslie Gloor Duncan

**Seconded:** Jessica Schagerl

**Carried**

**6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECOGNITION**

Mr. Simmonds thanked the following retiring members for their time and dedication to the Alumni Association: John Eberhard, Mark Millar, Elena Murgoci and Eric Saarvala.

Mr. Simmonds announced that a Past President's Award Fund, previously held by Foundation Western to honor the dedication and service of its Presidents, is now doing the same for outgoing Presidents of the Alumni Association. David reported that the second Western Alumni Past President's Award will be established and named in recognition of John Eberhard and his contributions to the Alumni Association as President from 2014-2016. The awards are valued at \$1,500 each and will be given to deserving Western students for a ten-year period. David noted that John directed the funds to the Faculty of Law where they will be added to an existing bursary in honor of one of his mentors, the Late Bill Poole.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Jim Etherington requested that the establishment of an Alumni Association at Western be recorded as 1906 not 1949.

**MOTION:** That the Alumni Association Board is committed to reviewing the established date of the Alumni Association.

**Moved:** David Simmonds

**Seconded:** Nick Staubitz

**Carried**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr. Simmonds thanked the staff partners of Alumni Relations, guided by Trista Walker, Executive Director. David asked that staff stand and be recognized. Mr. Simmonds 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:** Mark Millar

**Seconded:** Elena Murgoci

**Carried**

## **Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.**

Mr. Simmonds introduced Ashley Rowe, Recognition Committee Chair, to the podium to present the 9<sup>th</sup> installment of The Spirit of Western Award.

Ms. Rowe 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 their exceptional efforts to enrich the university community and the lives of its students and alumni.

Ms. Rowe announced that The Local Government Alumni Society is the recipient of the 2017 Spirit of Western Award. Ms. Rowe noted their annual conference brings together leading minds in the local government arena and has drawn participation from provincial and federal servants as well. The group is highly regarded amongst their peers and brings great esteem to Western University and our Master of Public Administration and Diploma of Public Administration programs.

Chapter member, Michelle Smibert, accepted The Spirit of Western pin on behalf of the Society.

Mr. Simmonds noted upcoming events:

- Homecoming 2017 will be celebrated October 20 & 21
- Walrus Talks, October 17
- Invitation to participate in the many offerings held in London and at our branch locations around the world

Mr. Simmonds invited members to stay for lunch and take tours of the new facility.

Information portion of the meeting concluded at 12:38 p.m.