



**Draft Minutes of the 73rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
June 2, 2022, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. ET
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mark Brown called the Annual General Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mark Brown noted the meeting is an opportunity to formally record and celebrate the achievements of the past year and to thank Alumni Association volunteers.

Lisa Richards presented the Land Acknowledgement statement.

Mark Brown introduced Western's Vice-President, University Advancement, Jeff O'Hagan (BA'93) to bring greetings.

Mark Brown acknowledged former Presidents and members of the Alumni Association who were on the call. And welcomed representatives from Western's Alumni Affinity Partners, TD Insurance (home and auto insurance), and Manulife (life, health and dental insurance and recently added banking products).

Mark Brown 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.

Mark Brown gave an overview of housekeeping items and how to vote on motions.

Mark Brown confirmed with Carolyn Ross, Director of Alumni Engagement and Acting 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 3, 2021. The President asked for a motion for approval of the minutes as there were no amendments or changes.

Moved: Sandra Datars Bere

Seconded: Matt Helfand

Carried

2. APPROVAL OF THE ACTS OF THE DIRECTORS

Mark Brown 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 circulated with the meeting materials. The President asked for a motion to approve the Acts of the Directors.

Moved: Nathan Ho

Seconded: Sarah Chapman

Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mark Brown reflected on his two years as President of the Alumni Association. He added that members of the Board serve as ambassadors and advocates in support of advancing the university.

Mark Brown presented highlights from 2021 - 2022:

- 330,000 graduates living in 160 countries around the world;
- 22,487 alumni registered for 98 virtual events and programs;
- To recognize the newest members of the alumni family, over 11,000 boxes which contained a letter from the Alumni Association, a convocation cap, tassel and pin were sent to new graduates;
- The Alumni Legacy Committee is proud to have supported several campus initiatives this past year, totaling \$1,125,000;
- Affinity partners offering preferred rates, and top-quality services for our alumni: TD Insurance for home and auto insurance, and Manulife for life, health and travel insurance, as well as select banking products. This past year 54,340 alumni took advantage of these offers; and
- The Purple Perks App makes it easy to access exclusive offers, discounts, contests and stories. It also includes a digital version of your alumni card. To date we've had 5,500 alumni download the App.

Mark Brown reported that in late 2021 and early 2022, the Alumni Association's Board of Directors conducted strategic planning sessions to update and reaffirm our vision, mission, and key activities to drive critical outcomes.

As Western's 150th anniversary fast approaches, we want to ensure the University continues to meet its goals. Our aim is to prosper together and continue to share in connections, contributions, skills, and knowledge. As such, the Alumni Association's [Strategic Plan](#) will serve to guide the work of the Board of Directors, volunteers and dedicated staff partners in the years ahead.

4. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mark Brown introduced the draft Slate of Officers of The Alumni Association Board of Directors for 2022-2023:

Returning Directors:

Amy Bi, BA'07

Mark Brown, MBA'95, *Past-President*

Kant Chong, BA'03

Sandra Datars Bere, BA'87, MPA'06

Matt Helfand, BA'13, MA'14, JD'18

Shannon MacDonald, BA'90

Danny Matthews, BSc'09, JD'14

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

Melanie Peacock, MBA'90, *President*

Farah Perelmuter, BA'91

Lisa Richards, BA'06

Patrick Searle, BA'11

Chantel Smith, BA'10

Laura Spero, BA'95

Newest Directors:

Hsiu-Yan Chan, BSc'03, BEd'03, MBA'12
Avis Favaro, BA'81, MA'82
Nathan Ho, BA'08, MBA'16
Michael Salvatori, BEd'90, MEd'94

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

University Senate

Anne Baxter, BA'91
Dave Ferri, BA'76, BEd'78, MEd'86
Yvette Laforet Fliesser, BScN'74, MScN'81 (*President's Designate*)

Honorary Degrees Committee

Sarah Chapman BSc'10
Laura Spero BA'95

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 2022-2023.

Moved: Jim Etherington
Seconded: Robert Collins

Carried

Mark Brown also recognized Robert Collins, BA'77 as our Campus Council Representative.

Mark Brown introduced in-coming Alumni Association President, Melanie Peacock. Melanie graduated from Western with an MBA in 1990 and resides in Calgary where she is an Associate Professor at Mount Royal University. Melanie Peacock also has her own training and consulting company.

Melanie Peacock was the 2020 recipient of the Canadian HR Lifetime Achievement Award was the recipient of the Alumni Association's Professional Achievement Award in 2016.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECOGNITION

Melanie Peacock acknowledged retiring Board members:

Trisha Beausaert BA'11: In 2018, Trisha Beausaert was co-star of the 2018 Homecoming Video. Her enthusiasm and pride for Western clearly shows in her performance. She was the

former Chair of the PR Committee, and in 2012 was the Chair of the “Last Lecture Committee.” She was also a member of the Homecoming Committee from 2013-2015 and has served as an Alumni Association Representative at convocation ceremonies.

Warren Bongard LLB'91: After having served as President of the University of Western Ontario Law Alumni Association, Warren Bongard joined the Board in 2014, and took on the role of President in 2018. Some highlights under his leadership include: supporting Western’s Be Extraordinary Campaign, by surpassing the alumni engagement target with a 110% increase in alumni engagement (116,000 engaged alumni); the establishment of the Data Analytics Task Force; a redesigned Alumni website; and launch of the Ambassador Program.

Susy Martins BA'01, BA'03, MBA'08: Susy Martins has also completed her second term as one of our appointees to the Honorary Degrees committee. She was also the Chair of the Data Analytics Task Force from 2018-2019.

David Simmonds: David Simmonds served as President of the Association from 2016-2018 and although he is retiring from the Board, he will continue as one of our appointees to Western’s Board of Governors. He played a key role as a member of Western’s Strategic Planning Steering Committee. To recognize his long-time and ongoing commitment to Western and to the broader community, the Alumni Awards of Merit Committee has selected David Simmonds as the 2022 Dr. Ivan Smith award recipient. This the alumni association’s highest honour and it will be presented at the Alumni Awards Dinner at Homecoming 2022.

Melanie Peacock also acknowledged Sandra Datars Bere and Gary West who are retiring from The University Senate, Christine Tabbert who is retiring from the Honorary Degrees Committee and Jim Etherington who is retiring from Campus Council.

Melanie Peacock thanked Mark Brown for his service as Alumni Association President from 2020–2022. During his time as President, the Alumni Association provided financial support for numerous university projects, including the generous allocation of one million dollars to name the Western Alumni stadium. He led the revision of the Association’s Constitution and By-laws and the development of the 2022 Alumni Association Strategic Plan. And he has also been a member of Western’s Strategic Planning Steering Committee and The Fund Raising & Donor Relations Committee.

6. SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD

Melanie Peacock 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. Melanie Peacock announced that this year’s recipient is Jim Etherington BA’61.

In 1998 Jim Etherington received the Dr. Ivan Smith Merit Award – the Alumni Association’s highest honour.

His volunteer roles with Western have included serving on: the Alumni Gazette Committee and Advisory Panel, the Advisory Board of the School of Journalism, the Faculty of Medicine Community Advisory Panel and as a community volunteer to the Faculty of Medicine student interview panel.

Jim Etherington served as President of Western's Alumni Association from 2002-2004. He co-founded the Alumni Legacy Committee and established the 125th Campus Improvement Fund initiative.

He has served as an Alumni Representative to Western's Board of Governors, Campus Council, Senate and as an alumni representative at Convocation from 1993-2019 - faithfully attending the convocation receptions to hand out Western pins to graduating students and to meet their families. Students loved having their photo taken with Jim!

Jim Etherington also volunteered from 2010-2020 at the student's Remembrance Day activities on campus, recognizing the efforts of Western students, staff and alumni in the military.

Finally, together with his brothers, he endowed the Archie & Alma Etherington Family Scholarship in 1994.

Melanie Peacock noted that in recognition of this award Jim Etherington will receive a boxed Spirit of Western pin.

Jim Etherington was invited to give remarks.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

Melanie Peacock thanked Jeff O'Hagan and the team in the Department of Alumni Relations for all that they do in support of the activities of the Alumni Association.

Melanie Peacock 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: Trisha Beausaert

Seconded: Susy Martins

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Melanie Peacock invited members to stay online and enjoy a performance by Sarah Botelho, BA'16 known as POESY and Victoria Falana, BA'12.