

The Friends of the University of Alberta Society

29 May 2019 Annual General Meeting

Minutes



1. Luca Vanzella called the Annual General Meeting to order at 5:45 PM.
2. Luca Vanzella acknowledged the support The Friends has received from the University administration:

Doug Stollery	Chancellor of the University
Derek Roy-Brenneis	Director, Office of the Chancellor and Senate
Melania Woloszyn	U School Program Lead
Kathy Fitzgerald	Interim Director, Planned Giving
Sean Price	Associate VP, Alumni Relations
3. Luca Vanzella presented the agenda for the meeting and ask for acceptance as stated by a show of hands. Carried.
4. William Cheung moved the **acceptance of the Minutes** of the 2017-18 AGM which was held on May 30, 2018. Seconded by Allen Snart. Carried.
5. Luca Vanzella presented the **Year End Activity Report**.

Membership

Membership has grown – and we anticipate that as we increase engagement opportunities, growth in membership will continue to grow. (We gained 23 new members since May 30, 2018)

Engagement Opportunities

Engagement opportunity highlights from the past year include:

- A **Henry Marshall Tory Lecture** on October 25, 2018, featured Jim Hole who spoke on Cannabis, the Plant Not the Politics.
- The Friends continued its tradition of **campus tree tours** on August 23 and September 27.

- **Raise The Bar**

On September 25, The Friends launched a new program designed to provide interesting, engaging learning opportunities that break down real or perceived barriers to education and connect the University and its faculty to the broader community. We call this program Raise The Bar since we're raising the bar on the way people consume content. And it helps that the events are held in a bar.

The inaugural Raise The Bar event was held on Sep 25, 2018 and featured Jonathan Schaeffer who spoke about Artificial Intelligence – Fantasy & Reality. So far in 2019, we have held two more Raise The Bar Events. On Apr 23, Marvin Washington spoke about What is Wrong with the Oilers?!?!? On May 14, Chris Herd spoke on Killer Asteroids: The Next Extinction Event?

- **U School**

In 2019, The Friends continued their support for U School. We made a \$10,000 donation to U School this year. Chancellor Doug Stollery thanked the Friends for its support of U School and said a few words about U School.

- **Friends scholarship program**

The first two Friends of the University of Alberta Society Graduate Awards were presented that in the fall of 2018, to Adam Rhodes and Vivian Giang.

- **Casino Update**

We held our second casino on Jan 3-4, 2019. Earlier this month, we received "our cut" which amounted to: \$75,000.

6. Nazir Mulji presented the **Year End Financial Report**.

The Treasurer, Matthew Sharp was unable to attend this AGM, but he has prepared the year-end financial statements, which were reviewed by two members: Nazir Mulji and Emma Freeman. Overall, the Friends Society remains in a strong and stable financial position.

7. Nazir Mulji moved the acceptance of the **Year End Activity Report** and the **Year End Financial Report**. Seconded by Ken Regan. Carried.

8. Luca Vanzella bid farewell to current Board member Brian Heidecker. Luca then presented **the slate of candidates to form the Executive** of the Friends for the 2019-20 year.

President: Luca Vanzella

Vice President: Ken Regan

Secretary: Kate Freeman

Treasurer: Matthew Sharp

9. David Jones moved the acceptance of the candidates to form the **Executive of the Friends** for the 2019-20 year. Seconded by Heike Juergens. Carried.
10. Brian Heidecker introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Lee Foote, Professor & Director of the University of Alberta Botanic Garden.
11. Lee Foote gave a delightful presentation about the University of Alberta Botanic Garden.
12. Luca Vanzella closed the Annual General Meeting at 6:30 PM.