

The Friends of the University of Alberta Society

27 May 2020 Annual General Meeting

Minutes



1. Luca Vanzella welcomed everyone and called the Annual General Meeting to order at 5:03 PM - it was a virtual meeting with 31 members in attendance.
2. Luca Vanzella presented the Agenda for the meeting: moved by Bill Cheung, seconded by Ken Regan. Carried.
3. Allen Snart moved the acceptance of the Minutes of the 2018-19 AGM which was held on May 29, 2019. Seconded by Heike Jeurgens. Carried.
4. Matthew Sharp presented the **Year End Financial Report**.

The year-end financial statements, which were reviewed by two members: Hassan Mulji and Emma Freeman. Overall, the Friends Society remains in a strong and stable financial position. The acceptance of the Financial Statements was moved by Matthew Sharp, seconded by Nazir Mulji. Carried.

5. Luca Vanzella presented the **Year End Activity Report**:

Membership

Membership has grown each year, including 2019 as we increased engagement opportunities.

Engagement Opportunities

Henry Marshall Tory Lecture

On November 26, 2019 the lecture featured Chantal Hébert who delivered an outstanding talk on Canada's post-election landscape: a harbinger of turbulence to come on the unity front.

Luca announced that November 4, 2020 the Tory lecture will feature evolutionary biologist, TV host, bestselling author, and bat expert, Dan Riskin. Whether he's explaining how nature is both a source of terror and beauty or how curiosity is a skill that can be fortified by stoking "childlike passion," Dan Riskin is a speaker who gives audiences so much more than scientific "wow" facts. Watch for announcements on our website and by email.

Raise The Bar

Raise The Bar was launched in September 2018. It's 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. In 2019, we hosted 2 Raise The Bar events:

- Apr 23, 2019: Marvin Washington, What is Wrong with the Oilers ?!?!?
- May 14, 2019: Chris Herd, Killer Asteroids: The Next Extinction Event?

Raise The Bar is on hold until we can gather as friends in a local bar.

U School

In 2019 and 2020, The Friends continued their financial support for U School. U School is a program run by the University of Alberta Senate that aims to introduce and connect students in grades 4 through 9 from socially vulnerable, Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) and rural communities to the University of Alberta.

Humanities 101

In 2020, The Friends approved two years of financial support for Humanities 101. Humanities 101 is a program run by the University of Alberta, Faculty of Arts, Community Service-Learning that offers free, non-credit, university-level courses for Albertans who have a passion for learning but whose circumstances have institutional, situational, or financial barriers that make post-secondary education inaccessible. Earlier today we presented the cheque to the Humanities 101 team online via Zoom.

Friends scholarship program

The first two Friends of the University of Alberta Society Graduate Awards were presented in the fall of 2018. And the third award was presented in the fall of 2019.

Casino Update

Our second casino was held in January 2019, and netted us \$75,000, which funded our programs. Our third casino was to be held in the 4th quarter of 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all casinos have been suspended so we don't know when our next casino will be.

Strategic Plan

Earlier this year, the Board updated the Friends Strategic Plan for the next four years: 2020-2024. The updated plan is posted on the website and has four priority areas:

- **Enhance and grow awareness** of The Friends of the University of Alberta Society.
- **Provide diverse engagement opportunities** between the Friends and the broader community.
- **Maintain the Friends scholarship program.**
- **Ensure organizational sustainability** of the Friends.

6. Luca Vanzella 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: Andrea Sulyma
Treasurer: Matthew Sharp

Allen Snart moved the acceptance of the candidates to form the **Executive of the Friends** for the 2019-20 year. Seconded by Bill Cheung. Carried.

7. Door prizes were drawn: Raishel Madsen received a \$75 gift certificate for a local restaurant of her choice; Jean Cooley and Mary Fairhurst each received 2 tickets for the next Raise The Bar. (Jean subsequently donated her tickets back to the Friends.)
8. The meeting was opened to questions from the members:
 - a. Russell Brown suggested making friends with the incoming President a priority.
 - b. Peter Graham suggested including the Board Chair and the Chancellor in the invitations to meet the Friends.
 - c. Jean Cooley reminded us that the Friends have often invited new leaders to speak to the Friends, and that the attendance has been high for those events.
9. After thanking the members for joining the virtual AGM and for supporting the U of A, Luca Vanzella closed the Annual General Meeting at 5:40 PM.