

1. Luca Vanzella welcomed everyone and called the Annual General Meeting to order at 5:02 PM - it was a virtual meeting with 27 members in attendance. President Bill Flanagan, Chancellor Peggy Garritty, and Dean of Graduate Studies Brooke Milne all brought greetings.
2. Luca Vanzella presented the **Agenda** for the meeting: moved by Ken Regan, seconded by Charlene Butler. Carried.
3. Andrea Sulyma moved the acceptance of the **Minutes** of the 2020 Annual General Meeting which was held on May 27, 2020. Seconded by Kathryn Vanzella. Carried.
4. Matthew Sharp presented the **Year End Financial Report**.

The year-end financial statements were reviewed by members Hassan Mulji and Jean Cooley. Overall, the Friends Society remains in a strong financial position despite a challenging year. COVID-19 had an impact, but event costs went down and charitable gifts increased. The acceptance of the Financial Statements was moved by CH William Chung, seconded by Sandy Murray. Carried.

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

Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

In 2020, 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.

Henry Marshall Tory Lecture

On November 4, 2020 the lecture featured evolutionary biologist, TV host, bestselling author and bat expert, Dan Riskin. Dan delivered an excellent talk, via Zoom, on *Making Science Accessible to Canadians in the Age of COVID-19*. The Henry Marshall Tory Lecture will be continuing in 2021 with Andy Knight, political scientist and University of Alberta Distinguished Professor. Watch for announcements on our website and by email.

Raise the Bar

We hosted one Raise the Bar event this year, delivered virtually over Zoom on May 13, 2021. Chris Herd presented an evening of *Martian Delights and Insights*.

U School

In 2020 and 2021, the Friends continued their financial support for U School. U School was run remotely, but created new and engaging ways to deliver their programs.

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.

The Humanities 101 team were able to successfully pivot to still deliver their programs to their students. Working with CJSR, the Humanities 101 team were able to deliver 14 weeks of course programming over the air. While they were producing a fourteen-week on-air university course, they were also planning a collaborative online course with their sister programs from across Canada. We are proud to be able to support this community connection initiative.

Friends Scholarship Program

Four of six Endowed Awards were awarded in 2020. We are happy to report that all three Annually Funded Awards, that depend on gaming revenue, were kept going, despite challenges in 2020-21.

Casino Update

Our third casino was to be held in the 4th quarter of 2020, but due to COVID-19, it was postponed twice. Casinos could open in June to one-third capacity, and it is expected that we will get our casino in the second half of 2021. Despite this, all of our financial commitments were made.

6. Luca Vanzella presented **the slate of candidates to form the Executive** of the Friends for the 2020-21 year.

President: Luca Vanzella

Vice President: Ken Regan

Secretary: Andrea Sulyma

Treasurer: Nazir Mulji

Sandy Murray moved the acceptance of the candidates to form the Executive of the Friends for the 2020-21 year. Seconded by Anastasia Lim. Carried.

7. A door prizes was drawn: Kathy Fitzgerald received a \$75 gift certificate for a local restaurant of her choice.
8. The meeting was opened to questions from the members:
 - a. Sandy Murray commented that he likes being able to attend events virtually, as he would not be able to join otherwise.
 - b. David Jones mentioned the passing of Derek Roy-Brenneis. There is a fund set up in his honour.
9. After thanking the members for joining the virtual AGM, Luca Vanzella closed the Annual General Meeting at 5:42 PM.