

Minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2023 @ 5:00 PM
Web Conference via Zoom

Quorum - Bylaw 22. Twelve (12) members in good standing; ACHIEVED (Approx. 30 in attendance)

1. **Welcome (Ken Regan):** Presidential welcome and outline of meeting procedures.

2. **Approval of Minutes of AGM on June 1, 2022:**

- ✓ Spelling error (name) identified and corrected.
- ✓ Moved: Brent McDonough; Seconded: MaryPat Barry - **Carried**.

3. **Financial Update (Nazir Mulji):**

- ✓ Treasurer, Nazir Mulji presented and reviewed the 2022 Year-end financial statements, which had been reviewed by two of our society members/volunteers, Michael Gibbins and Oliver Rossier - sincere thanks to both.
- ✓ The Income Statement reflects Interest Revenue of \$39.00 on Deferred Revenue (gaming funds) of \$44,751. Expenditures in the order of \$32,000 went to the Friends charitable activities such as: scholarships, graduation award fund, USchool and Humanities 101. In addition, approximately \$12,000 went towards the 2022 Henry Marshall Tory Lecture, *The Tyranny of Freedom* with Arno Kopecky. The total expenditures for the year was 45,085, resulting in a net loss for the year of \$295.00.
- ✓ The Balance Sheet indicates that the Friends Society has a positive fiscal position with a cash balance of approximately \$26,600 in the operating account and \$62,854 in the casino account.
- ✓ Overall, the Society is in a solid fiscal position, with plans earmarking the casino funds for future expenditures, and providing more opportunities for the Friends to engage in activities that help build a strong relationship between the University and the broader community.
- ✓ Approval of 2022 Financial Statements: Moved: Sandy Murray; Seconded: Anastasia Lim - Carried.
- ✓ Both Michael Gibbins and Oliver Rossier have agreed to continue as Financial Reviewers.
- ✓ Approval of 2023 Financial Reviewers – Confirm Michael Gibbins and Oliver Rossier: Moved: Nazir Mulji; Seconded: Kate Freeman - Carried.

4. **Approval of The Board of Directors (Ken Regan):**

- ✓ The current slate of sitting Officers and Directors for was introduced:

Ken Regan (P) Andrea Sulyma (VP) Allen Snart (S) Nazir Mulji (T)	Mary Pat Barry Tristan Cruz Kate Freeman Anastasia Lim	Brent McDonough Kathryn Vanzella Luca Vanzella
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- ✓ The proposed slate of Officers and Directors for 2023 - 2024, reflecting two retiring Directors and two **new** Directors, was introduced:

Kate Freeman (P) Andrea Sulyma (VP) Allen Snart (S) Nazir Mulji (T)	Mary Pat Barry Tristan Cruz Kate Freeman Randa Kachkar Anastasia Lim	Kathryn Vanzella Luca Vanzella Ann Yanagawa
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- ✓ Approval of 2023 2024 slate of Directors, as above,: Moved: Brent McDonnough; Seconded: Valerie Ling - Carried.
- ✓ Welcome, Randa and Ann. 😊

5. Strategic Plan (Ken Regan):

- ✓ The President confirmed that the Friends Strategic Plan, initially developed in 2020, was reviewed in 2022 in order to update and ensure its relevance. The Strategic Plan serves as an 'agenda' for the Society's current activities and future initiatives within the following four priority areas:
 - Enhance and grow awareness of The Friends.
 - Provide diverse engagement opportunities for the broader community.
 - Maintain the Friends scholarship program.
 - Ensure organizational sustainability of the Friends.
- ✓ For reference, the Strategic Plan is posted on the Society's website: <http://www.friendsoftheuofa.ca> under the 'About Us' header.

6. President's Remarks (Ken Regan):

- ✓ The President thanked the members of the Board for their incredible perseverance and resilience over this past year; because as it was for many organizations, 2023 for the Friends was somewhat like coming out of hibernation. For the previous two years, we all worked very hard to maintain as much of our programming as possible in virtual form and continued all of our various financial supports to the Friends' suite of scholarships etc. But clearly it was not the same as actually being "in our community" and being "with" you our members and others from the broader community.
- ✓ Details of some specific activities/initiatives will follow, but some impressive general highlights include:
 - This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the Friends' engagement in and contribution to supporting University of Alberta, and students and programs associated with the U of A.
 - The Friends, just last week, were recognized by the University with a presentation of The University of Alberta 2023 Advocate Award, in recognition of our 80 years of service to the Academy. Please check out the May 2023 edition of Folio Magazine for more details.
 - The attendees are encouraged to be on the lookout for further 80th anniversary activities and the new 80th Anniversary Friends logo and brand, which was just recently approved by the Board.
 - The Friends organization funds nine (9) different U of A Awards and Scholarships, as well as providing significant financial support to important community based programs operating within the University, including: a current annual \$10,000 donation to USchool which offers onsite learning opportunities for often marginalized young students who otherwise might not see a university education as something they could ever experience - literally a "life changing" opportunity for many of these beautiful young people; a current annual \$5,000 contribution to the Humanities -101 program which also offers university educational opportunities free of charge to adults from marginalized communities, so they too might find more opportunities in life.
 - Since inception, the Friends financial contributions to various scholarships and those community-based programs exceeds \$400,000!!
- ✓ These are not only significant and important financial contributions to these U of A programs, but also to our community and our world. This small, volunteer organization called the Friends of the University of

Alberta Society is DOING these good works and making a difference in peoples' lives ... and we are very proud of our work.

- ✓ The Board acknowledges Shari Pisa, Development Officer with U of A, who researched and aggregated all of the financial data to provide and a true picture of the Friends' financial impact.

7. Ms Marieliv Flores Villalobos:

- ✓ Marieliv is a PHD student in the School of Public Health and the recipient of the 2023 Friends Graduate Student Award. She expressed gratitude for the scholarship and provided a general overview, not only of here research, but also the benefits of the scholarship beyond pure financial assistance. It afforded her the opportunity for greater social time to acclimate to her new environment in Canada, having come to the U of A from Peru. Very affirming and encouraging. Felicitaciones, Marieliv!!

8. Raise-the-Bar (Tristan Cruz):

- ✓ Raise The Bar (RTB) is an important element focusing on fulfilling the Friend's mission, '*to build and nurture a broad community of friends to support, celebrate and champion the University of Alberta*'. It is The Friends' belief that RTB' diverse array of topics and speakers help to provide a bridge between the University and the broader community, break down any perceived exclusivity or barriers to the University, and demystify any beliefs that the University is irrelevant.
- ✓ Recent topics, working with the COVID constraints, included:
 - *When Protective Clothing Becomes Smart & Sustainable* (2023);
 - *An Evening of Martian Delights* (2021);
 - *Killer Asteroids: The Next Extinction Event* (2019); and
 - *What's Wrong With the Oilers?* (2019).
- For more details of the topics and presenters, please go to the Friends' website, under Raise the Bar.
- ✓ Future RTB events are currently in the works and members and the general public are encouraged to stay tuned to the Friends' social media channels.

9. Organizational Sustainability and 80th Anniversary Celebrations (MaryPat Barry):

- ✓ Building on Ken's comments, the 80th anniversary of The Friends is a reason to celebrate, and an opportunity to build momentum in growing and sustaining the organization for at least another 80 years.
- ✓ One element supporting organizational sustainability is the recently approved Board Manual. The manual captures operational practices, outlines our mandate, describes roles and responsibilities and will be helpful to for 'on-boarding' and orienting new board members.
- ✓ The 80th anniversary plan optimizes the 80th milestone to promote The Friends – building awareness of who the Friends are, enhancing understanding of what the Friends do, and encouraging people who might want to get involved.
- ✓ Based on our 2020-2024 strategic plan it has objectives in the areas of: awareness; engagement; scholarships; and, organizational sustainability.
- ✓ Watch for more communication to come carrying the anniversary banner.

10. Henry Marshall Tory Lecture (MaryPat Barry):

- ✓ The public celebration of the Friends' 80th will be at an expanded and enhanced Henry Marshall Tory Lecture, scheduled for Nov 7, 2023.
- ✓ The intended speaker – Dr. Samantha Nutt – has a track record of social innovation and impactful problem solving. A physician, global affairs expert, public health advocate and humanitarian leader she established

War Child Canada and War Child USA. Not least among her many accomplishments she was conferred an Honorary Doctorate from U of A in 2015.

- ✓ Our event approach reinforces the intent of those who established The Friends. It focuses on how the skills, talents and resources at U of A can be engaged to support and resolve community issues. In addition to the lecture, we plan to host a reception and a Social Innovation Showcase featuring insightful, informative and high potential areas of community/university partnership and research.
- ✓ The Friends' Society is looking for partners, sponsors and contributors to this effort. If you can help or connect us, please let us know.
- ✓ Mark your calendars for Nov 7. Watch for more communication. And, above all else, get involved. Join The Friends and continue the proud legacy.

11. Prize Draw and Winner (Ken Regan):

- ✓ As a thank to all those who attended the Friends' 2023 Annual General Meeting there was a random draw from the names of all registered attendees for an \$80.00 gift certificate from a restaurant/eatery of the winners choosing. The winner was Joni Bulat. Congratulations to you, Joni and thank you to all those in attendance.

12. Closing Remarks:

- ✓ The Friends Board and membership take this opportunity to Thank the two retiring Board members after years of stellar service, contribution and friendship:
 - Ken Regan (President): Acknowledged **Brent McDonnough** - after eleven (11) years with the Friends, six (6) years on Senate and Four (4) years on Alumni Council, THANK-YOU.
 - Luca Vanzella (Past President): Acknowledged **Ken Regan** - after six (6) years with the Friends, and Six (6) years on Senate, THANK YOU
- ✓ Best wishes in your future endeavors and adventures. We will miss you both – your wisdom, your collaborative approach, your diverse and realistic perspectives, your reliability and, of course, your humor. THANK YOU.

13. Next Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the University of Alberta Society: Late Spring, 2024. Details to follow. Please stay connected.