

University of Victoria Retirees Association

24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 31, 2017

The 24th Annual General Meeting of the UVRA was held on May 31, 2017 in room 124 of the Engineering/Computer Science Building of the University of Victoria. Approximately 30 members attended with President Peter Liddell chairing the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:33. Peter opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territory of the WS'ANEC' (Saanich), Lkwungen (Songhees), Wyomilth (Esquimalt) peoples of the Coast Salish Nation. He welcomed members and requested a moment of silence in memory of those members who had died during the past year.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated, with the recognition that reports have been circulated in advance and that only highlights will be spoken to during the report presentations. Moved- James Pierce. Seconded- Winona Pugh. Approved.

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the 2016 AGM be accepted as circulated, with the addition of three surnames that were missing in the document.

Moved- Colin Scarfe. Seconded- Victor Neufeldt. Approved.

3. **Business Arising.** Business arising from the minutes is included in the agenda items below.

4. **Annual Reports (for complete versions see written reports on the UVRA website. These reports were also projected on a screen at the AGM, so that all attendees could view the full text).**

4.1 President's Report – Peter Liddell

Peter noted that the new website is under development as we speak. This includes technical revisions, and assistance with the text and images. Members who have relevant images are encouraged to send them to Patty Pitts. Peter continues to be on the UVic Senate with one more year left in his term. It provides an important opportunity to continue to emphasize the role of the UVRA in the life of the university and community.

4.2 Treasurer's Report – Dick Chappell

The treasurer outlined the current positive financial situation as reflected in the printed reports and notes that the total assets for the UVRA at this time total \$103,212.38

A question was raised about the membership dues, which have remained unchanged for years, and if they should be indexed in some way to the cost of living. Peter noted that the UVRA is in

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a good position financially and Treasurer Dick Chappell mentioned that the current dues were discussed by the Board during the past year and the Board felt that there was no need to raise them at this time. The fees are reviewed annually at the September Board meeting.

4.3 Benefits – Winona Pugh

In addition to her written report, Winona mentioned that the CURAC RTO extended benefits option was added this year in addition to the Johnson and Blue Cross options that retirees are able to consider. UVRA earns an administrative fee of approximately \$7,000 per year.

A new Family Assistance provider (Morneau Shepell) is in place for the UVRA as of June 1st. Those members using the previous provider will continue their program through a transition period. The UVRA continues to work with UVic Human Resources on the many dimensions of the program. A member from the floor mentioned that the previous carrier OPTUM was excellent with preparation of wills and Winona mentioned that the new provider will offer similar services.

The UVRA has been contacted by Collette Tours which offers travel packages that may be of interest to UVRA members. The UVRA will make travel information available but does not promote one company or tour provider. Members can contact the UVRA office for information.

The MOU with the university is still being developed and will result in some denomination of the benefits for both parties of the relationship between the university and its retirees.

There was a question from the floor about MEDOC Travel coverage and whether there have been any problems settling claims. Two members spoke from the floor that in both cases there was no problem in being compensated as per the insurance when an incident occurred that affected their travel plans. It was also mentioned that the fees for MEDOC travel insurance increase markedly when the retired member turns 76 years of age.

4.4 Communications – Melvin Klassen

Mel thanked everyone who had contributed to the communications material in the past year. Most of the communications to members are sent by email, although a number of members do not have their email addresses on file. Please send your email contact information to the UVRA office if you wish to stay updated by email.

4.5 Membership – Zulette Gordon

Zulette provided an overview of her report noting that the UVRA membership is up 7% with an additional 44 members this year. Most of the UVRA members are life members and there is an approximately even representation of retired faculty and retired staff in the association.

There was a discussion about who gets a UVic ONECard from the university and it appears to be issued to retirees if you had a “V” number from being a former employee. An “affiliate” retiree from another university had received a ONECard after signing up for courses although it was not

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certain what benefits exist or how long the card may remain valid. The card may provide for computer access to library research data bases although this may be limited due to the number of site licenses that the university has for these functions.

4.6 Social Events – Patty Pitts and Daphne Donaldson

The committee report attached shows the success of the programs developed and delivered over the past year. The committee is looking for someone to take on the role of event coordination, both meals and activities that bring the membership together for mutual enjoyment. Lou in the UVRA office has been a tremendous asset as well in the organization of the events. We are open to discussing ways of making the process of planning and conducting of social events easier if there are volunteers who are interested in taking this on.

4.7 Elder Academy – David Docherty

Highlights from the report include that 325 people attended the 7 Elder Academy presentations. The program is being developed for the upcoming year and the committee is open to new ideas and how they can be implemented. There was a comment from the floor that the recording of some of the presentations was excellent and enabled people to see what had been presented.

4.8 Masterminds Lectures – John Anderson

John summarized this successful series, which occurred on the 4 Wednesdays in April. The total attendance was 272 people with a range from 41 – 89 attendees per lecture. Many thanks to Beverly Timmons and Lois Holizki for organizing the series. A written report will also accompany these minutes. John mentioned that there is an intention to create a committee to access members for ideas and presentations for future Masterminds series.

4.9 Newsletter – John Anderson

John began the role of Newsletter Editor this year with thanks for Lois Holizki for her previous years of service. The *Grey Matters!* newsletter continues to be circulated primarily by email, although there are 45 members that receive printed copies. A binder of recent newsletters will also be placed in the office area of the President, VP Academic, VP External and the Human Resources reception area.

4.10 UVRA Office - Lou Schmidt

There has been a tremendous amount of work invested in reviewing the files and processes in the office so that all documentation is in place in case an external audit of the association's books occurs. Many thanks to the staff in the Institute for Aging and Lifelong Health for their support in such a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

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Thank you's also echoed throughout the meeting at this point for Lou from Peter, Zulette, Patty (and Daphne) as well as both Georges and Melvin - all essential in the smooth running of the association's office functions.

Peter also acknowledged Leah in the IALH office, and Nina who is leaving her position in order to take courses and thanked them for their ongoing support in making the UVRA office area a pleasant place to be.

4.11 United Way – Grant Hughes

The UVRA functioned as a distinct component of the UVic United Way campaign and Grant thanked those members who had contributed during the most recent campaign. The donations for 2016 were 20% higher than last year due to the ongoing growth in the number of UVic retirees who continue to support the United Way after they retire. Over 111,000 community members in Greater Victoria benefitted from the donations raised for the United Way across the region.

Grant is completing his term as UVRA representative to the UVic United Way campaign and we are looking for a UVRA member who may be interested in taking on this function.

4.12 University Club – David Leeming

The University Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary and it has been featured in the *Grey Matters!* newsletter, with thanks extended to the editor. The UClub also extends the offer that UVRA members get their first year of membership free provided they have never previously held a membership.

Motion: That the committee reports be accepted.

Moved- Zulette Gordon. Seconded- Winona Pugh. Approved.

5. Motion to Amend the Constitution and By-laws of the Association

Two documents accompanied the discussion of this agenda item: 1) UVic Retirees Association: Bylaw amendment information sheet; 2) University of Victoria Retirees Association Constitution and Bylaws – revised and containing annotations of the reasons for revisions by Tasha Gooch.

The discussion was led by Winona Pugh who reported that the changes proposed are to ensure that the UVRA complies with the new Societies Act. The amendments were presented to and open to discussion by the membership as they had been publicized two weeks in advance of the AGM.

A question from the floor by David Leeming asked whether the UVRA had chosen the “member funded” category for the association and this was confirmed by Winona. It was also confirmed through a question from the floor that should the UVRA dissolve, any remaining assets would go to the University of Victoria Foundation.

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Motion: That the proposed Constitution and Bylaws be accepted as presented.

Moved- Winona Pugh. Seconded- Victor Neufeldt. Approved unanimously.

6. Motion to approve the UVRA-IALH Graduate Research Scholarship

President Peter Liddell provided the background to the proposal to establish a scholarship to support research focused on the 55+ age group. Due to the excellent ongoing financial situation of the UVRA and the interest in supporting knowledge of lifelong health in our membership, the UVRA is beginning the development of a research scholarship that would be a dedicated fund within the UVic Foundation. The intent is for the UVRA to commit to matching up to \$25,000 of donations to the fund. Donations would be tax deductible.

UVRA members will receive a description of the scholarship in the near future. At this point, the association is asking for support of the membership to approve the creation of the scholarship, provisionally named University of Victoria Retirees Association – Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health Scholarship.

Motion: That the membership approve the creation of the scholarship, provisionally named University of Victoria Retirees Association – Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health Scholarship.

Moved- Colin Scarfe. Seconded- David Leeming.

Discussion questions: Can another scholarship name be selected? Yes, the name is just a placeholder and may be changed in the future, especially if a major donor is found.

Does scholarship imply a high GPA? Yes, it will be a scholarship based upon academic qualifications and will not be a bursary based primarily on financial need. However, financial need may be a secondary consideration.

Motion was approved unanimously.

7. Nominating Committee – nominations

A proposed slate of Board positions was presented to the membership. Many of the existing Board directors are part way through their terms and do not need to be voted on at this meeting. However, two positions need to be voted upon: 1) Vice-president- nominee John Anderson; 2) Secretary- nominee Grant Hughes.

The election was presided over by Dick Chappell who called three times for other nominations from the floor for either position, or for nominees as member-at-large who may have an interest in being the United Way Committee Chair or the Special Events Committee Chair.

Hearing no further nominations the nominations were closed.

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Motion: That the slate of candidates presented be approved with John Anderson elected as Vice-president and Grant Hughes as Secretary.

Moved- Dick Chappell. Seconded- Isobel Dawson.
Motion was approved unanimously.

7. Any Other Business

On behalf of the UVRA, President Liddell extended his warmest thanks to the directors who are finishing their time on the Board (Elizabeth Bigelow, Laurain Mills, Beverly Timmons and Barbara Whittington). There was ongoing applause from all members present to echo Peter's comments.

Beverly Timmons has served 18 years and deserves special recognition for her leadership in the creation of the Masterminds Series as well as continued involvement in many projects and programs of the association. Peter presented Beverly with a beautiful hanging flower basket-complete with the offer to transport it and hang it up for her at her home. There was much applause reinforcing this expression of appreciation.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by David Leeming
Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 12:05

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