



# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## 8th Annual General and Special Meeting

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. EST

Zoom Conference Call

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**MINUTES** of an annual general meeting of members of the Concordia University Alumni Association (“CUAA”) held by teleconference call via Zoom, on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

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### 1. Call to order

L. Donnini, Chairperson of the meeting, welcomed attendees to the 8<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of the members of the Concordia University Alumni Association (“CUAA”) and called the meeting to order.

### 2. Welcome and report by the president, CUAA (Linda Donnini)

L. Donnini, President of the CUAA, welcomed all attendees to the 8th Annual General Meeting and invited participants to engage in a poll via Zoom. She began her presentation by reminding the members of the CUAA’s mission statement.

She presented a summary of some of the CUAA’s accomplishments of the past year and shared some thoughts on future work and goals.

- Strengthened the partnership with the Alumni Relations
- Supported the University community with donations of CAD \$30,000.
  - CAD \$15,000 was donated to the Food Fund, CAD \$10,000 to Mental Health and Wellness Being and CAD \$5,000 to marginalized populations.
- Offered an open session meeting for alumni (May 25, 2021)
  - A moderated exchange between Paul Chesser, VP, University Advancement, Michael Di Grappa, VP Services (and former CUAA president) and director Lesley Antoun.
- Created an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Task Force
  - Goal to ensure CUAA alignment with University initiatives and that all CUAA committees incorporate EDI best practices in their work.
  - EDI training for Board members to be held in near future.
- Looking forward, the Board will be reviewing processes and procedures so committee work can be streamlined and more effective.
- Surveying alumni to take more data-driven decisions.

L. Donnini thanked the volunteers and the Alumni Relations office for their support, commitment, hard work and dedication to the CUAA.

### **3. Report from the CUAA Board of Governors Representative (Philippe Poudreux)**

P. Poudreux stated that it had been a successful year for the University.

Due to COVID, the University has decided to pilot a hybrid return to campus (a mixture of in-person and online classes). While there are currently fewer international students at Concordia there has been an increase in class registration. Graduation numbers for Spring 2021 were the highest compared to previous years with a record of 6,347 students.

There was an official inauguration of the Applied Science Hub (LEED adherent facilities) on the Loyola Campus on December 1, 2021 via a virtual opening ceremony. An Innovation Lab was opened creating space for Concordia students to test ideas and build skills.

The efforts of our Giving Tuesday initiative raised approximately CAD \$245,000 in 24 hours to support Concordia athletes.

Concordia alumnus George Lengvari, BA 63, received the inaugural Mitchell Family Alumni of the Year Award.

P. Poudreux also highlighted Concordia's commitment to fighting climate change. Draft plans were developed, and input was sought via community consultations and unit-level consultation, this is a living plan that will evolve over the years.

P. Poudreux reported on the appointment of Anne Whitelaw as Provost and Vice-President, and Lisa White as the inaugural Executive Director of the University's Equity Office.

He also noted that Paula Wood-Adams, Interim Vice-President of research and graduate studies, presented a proposal to establish a School of Health at Concordia.

### **4. Notice of Meeting and quorum (Linda Donnini)**

Notice of this Annual General Meeting was sent on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to all members of record.

The scrutineers submitted the scrutineers' report on the members' attendance at the meeting and reported that there were at least 10 (number of attendees) members present at the meeting. The chairperson declared the meeting regularly constituted for the transaction of the business on the agenda. The scrutineers' report on attendance is annexed to these minutes as Schedule A.

### **5. Availability of the minutes from the 2020 Annual General Meeting (Linda Donnini)**

On motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was unanimously resolved:

**THAT** the meeting be dispensed from the reading of the minutes of the Annual General and Special Meeting of members held on September 30, 2020.

The Chairperson declared that the meeting be dispensed from the reading of the minutes of the Annual General and Special Meeting of members held on September 30, 2020.

### **6. Report by The treasurer, CUAA and receipt of financial statements for 2020-2021 (Simon Foucher)**

On motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was unanimously resolved:

**THAT** the meeting be dispensed from the reading of the Accountant's Report attached to the financial statements of the Corporation.

The Chairperson declared that the financial statements for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2021, together with the accountant's report have been received by the members of the CUAA.

For the year ending April 30, 2021, S. Foucher reported that assets totaled at CAD \$147,000, revenue was CAD \$303,503 and were within budget. He further explained that due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, administrative and operating expenses are 60% below budget. With regards to alumni programs, the amount was established pre-COVID-19 and includes a portion that was used to maintain engagement programs including CU at Home and Homecoming.

Some of the surplus monies were donated to the University (CAD \$31,000) to help students affected by the pandemic.

For the cash position, there is an increase of cash flow due to the reserves that will be used for future programming.

#### **7. Appointment of accountant for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (L. Donnini)**

On motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was unanimously resolved:

**THAT** Mizgala & Cie Inc. be appointed accountants of the CUAA to hold office until the next annual meeting of members and that the Board of Directors be authorized to determine their remuneration.

#### **8. Report from the Nominating Committee and election of incoming directors and directors standing for re-election for 2020/2022 (Kim Fuller)**

K. Fuller, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated that there had only been a few changes to the directors.

K.Fuller, presented the 2020-2022 proposed slate of directors and recognized the contribution of the following retiring director:

- Julia Khon, MBA 13

A slate of Directors, comprised of 22 directors, as set out below is being proposed.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was unanimously resolved:

**THAT** the following list of nominees be elected as Directors of the CUAA to hold office for a two year term, until the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members or until their successors are otherwise elected or appointed:

#### **Directors Standing for Re-election (2021-2023):**

Linda Donnini (BSc 91)

David Kierans (BA 75)

Miranda Melfi (BComm 86)

Pui Sum Fong (Bcomm 16)

**Returning Directors (Term 2020 – 2022)**

Mario Ciaramicoli (Beng 02)  
Lyn Fong (BA 02)  
Susannah Tam (MBA 82)  
Vicki Variantzas (BA 96)  
Hanna Vineberg (BA 88)  
Nichola Dyer (BA 85)  
Nura Jabagi (MBA 14)  
Simon Foucher (MBA 16)  
Lesley Antoun (Beng 95)  
Didier Serre (BA 13)  
Alexandre Davidson (Bcomm 16)  
Andréanne Biron (Beng 07)

There being no further nominations, the Chairperson declared those nominated to be duly elected as Directors of the CUAU to hold office for a period of two years until the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members or until their successors are otherwise elected or appointed.

Therefore, the complete slate of Directors is:

**Directors Standing for Re-election (2021-2023)**

Linda Donnini (BSc 91)  
David Kierans (BA 75)  
Miranda Melfi (Bcomm 86)  
Pui Sum Fong (Bcomm 16)

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Mario Ciaramicoli (Beng 02)  
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Lesley Antoun (Beng 95)  
Didier Serre (BA 13)  
Alexandre Davidson (Bcomm 16)  
Andréanne Biron (Beng 07)

**Ex-Officio Directors:**

Steve Avram (Beng 71, Meng 85)  
John Limeburner (Bcomm 68)  
Leisha LeCouvie

**Board of Governors Representatives:**

Kim Fuller (BFA 96)  
Philippe Purreaux (Bcomm 00)

## **9. Welcome by the Vice-President, Advancement (Paul Chesser)**

P. Chesser started by thanking the volunteers for their commitment, and service to Concordia.

P. Chesser reported on the return to campus – the University has welcomed back students while maintaining health and safety as a top priority. He added that 50% of classes are held in person and that masks are worn at all indoor spaces except when social distance can be maintained.

Concordia University continues to grow as many students choose Concordia as their first choice for higher education. Concordia remains Canada's top university under 50 years old according to the QS World Ranking. The Faculty of Fine Arts has been named one of the top two in Canada and within the top 100 internationally. The Times Higher Education has named Concordia number one in Canada in reducing inequality. The Economist has named the John Molson School of Business' Executive MBA Program as number two in Canada.

P. Chesser thanked the members of the Alumni Association for supporting Concordia's fundraising efforts with their early support of CAD \$50,000 to support Covid-10 Emergency Relief Fund and CAD \$30,000 to honour the graduating class of 2021

Lastly, P. Chesser shared that he looks forward to meeting with everyone in person, very soon.

## **11. Report by the Senior Director, Alumni Relations (Leisha LeCouvie)**

L. LeCouvie shared the outstanding success of the CU at Home initiative. Over the past year, CU at Home had:

- 91 events,
- 21,845 registrations.
- 11,977 attendees
- 7,689 alumni attendees
- 25% of alumni participants were first time attendees
- 80% of attendees are from Quebec.

L. LeCouvie proudly shared the international and national recognition of the AR team's hard work:

- Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Circle of Excellence 2021 Awards
  - CU Cares: Alumni Relations - Volunteer Engagement, Award: Bronze
- Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) 2021 District Awards
  - CU At Home: Alumni Relations - Volunteer Engagement, Award: Gold
  - CU At Home: Alumni Relations - Alumni Relations Pivot, Award: Silver
- Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAEE) 2021 Prix d'Excellence
  - CU At Home: Best Alumni Initiative, Award: Gold
  - CU Cares : Best Community Outreach Initiative, Award: Bronze

L. LeCouvie reminded everyone of the upcoming Homecoming 2021 events.

## **12. Anti-Black Racism (T. Akin-Aina)**

T. Akin-Aina, Associate Director of Alumni Relations, presented an update on the President’s Task Force on Anti-Black Racism which was established by President Graham Carr in Fall 2020. The mandate of the Task Force is to address systemic anti-Black racism as it occurs across the university — in employment, policies, teaching and learning practices, etc.

T. Akin-Aina explained that there are various subcommittees addressing the main areas of concern. She added that recently the first interim recommendations were shared and in the coming months more findings will be communicated.

**12. Homecoming Video (Linda Donnini)**

L. Donnini, presented a Homecoming Video featuring some participants of the events.

**13. Closing remarks and adjournment of meeting (Linda Donnini)**

There being no other points of order and the agenda was completed, the Chairperson asked for a motion to terminate the meeting.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was unanimously resolved:

**THAT** the meeting be terminated.

## **Schedule A**

### **Scrutineers' Report on Attendance**

The following members of the CUAA were in attendance representing at least twenty-five (25) members present at the Meeting:

**Directors:** Kim Fuller (Chair), Steve Avram, Mario Ciaramicoli, Tania De Capua, Daniel Doran, Linda Donnini, Julia Khon, David Kierans, John Limeburner, Sonia Di Maulo, Miranda Melfi, Philippe Pourreaux, Caroline Samné

#### **Members:**

Lama El-Koache, Catherine Flemming, Samer Faissal, Steve Georgopoulos, Zahra Ghavami, Alusine Bah, Serge Bruno, Hiba Al Hakim, Nadia Helal, Jian Jiao, Joanne Latimer, Lois Manton, Kathryn McMorrow, Bob Morgan, Ayesha Naqvi, Syvlie Paradis, Suhaib Mujahid, Mary Perri, Keroles Riad, Donal Ryan, Naincy Saini, Kathleen Stafford, Israel Tei, David Wilson, Alia Waouako, Adam Zhang, Anthony Telfeyan

**Advancement Staff:** Paul Chesser, Temi Akin-Aina, Leisha LeCouvie, Anais Loriston