



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



10th Annual General and Special Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2023
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. EST
Zoom Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual General and Special Meeting of members of the Concordia University Alumni Association (“CUAA”) held by virtual meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, September 28, 2023, at 5:00 pm.

1. Call to Order (Linda Donnini)

L. Donnini, President of the CUAA acted as Chairperson of the meeting.

Following the acknowledgement that the Kanien’kehá:ka Nation is the custodians of the lands and waters on which the meeting is held, L. Donnini welcomed attendees to the 10th Annual General and Special Meeting of the members of the CUAA and called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

2. Welcome and Report by the President, CUAA (Linda Donnini)

Prior to starting the formal agenda procedural, L. Donnini thanked the volunteers, Board Members, the Alumni Relations staff, and the alumni for their support, commitment, hard work, and dedication to the CUAA.

She reminded attendees of the purpose of the CUAA by presenting the CUAA’s Mission Statement as stated in the CUAA President’s Report.

In working to become a Next-Gen Board, L. Donnini mentioned the focus that was placed by the CUAA Board on equity, diversity, and inclusion, as suggested in the governance review that was performed earlier in the year.

L. Donnini then provided an update on notable activities of the CUAA including:

- The alumni recognition awards. L. Donnini invited participants to explore the ARA page where the accomplishments of recipients are detailed.
- The \$5,000 donation to the International Students in Crisis Fund
- The CUAA Board going to various outreach centers on campus including SHIFT, the Black Perspectives Office, the Loyola Gardens, and the Otsenhákta Student Centre.

3. Report from the CUAA Board of Governors Representative (Kim Fuller)

K. Fuller highlighted some of the exciting accomplishments by Concordia University and their alumni in the past year including:

- The historic \$123 million research grant presented by the Government of Canada to support Concordia's efforts to electrify society and decarbonize communities. Concordia's [Plan/Net Zero](#) video was then presented to attendees.
- Alumnus Ed Rosenthal (BA 74) hosted a hybrid event to discuss his work in sustainability and with helping NASA grow food in space.
- Stinger's Women Hockey won a silver medal at the National Championship
- Stinger's Women Basketball took home three RSEQ Honours
- Student Tyrell Lamar Williams was awarded the inaugural Jackson Winters Award

4. Notice of Meeting and quorum (Linda Donnini)

Linda Donnini, President of the CUAA, acted as Chairperson of this meeting and Miranda Melfi, Corporate Secretary of the CUAA, acted as secretary of this meeting.

Melissa Calderisi and Tara Wood acted as scrutineers for this meeting.

Notice of this Annual General and Special Meeting was sent on August 31th, 2023, to all members of record.

The Chairperson was informed that quorum was present at the meeting. Therefore, 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 2022 Annual General Meeting (Linda Donnini)

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

THAT the meeting be dispensed from the reading of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of members held on September 14, 2022.

The Chairperson declared that the meeting be dispensed from the reading of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of members held on September 14, 2022.

6. Report by the Treasurer, CUAA and receipt of financial statements for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2023 (Bhavna Grover)

The Chairperson declared that the financial statements for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023, together with the accountant's report, have been received by the members of the CUAA.

B. Grover reported that for the year ending April 30, 2023, the assets totaled CAD \$277,000. Revenue was CAD \$358,372 and were within budget.

B. Grover further explained that due to programming returning to in-person following COVID-19 protocols being relaxed, administrative and operating expenses were considerably higher than previous years.

The year-end cash position was very good (\$917,894) and the funds will be held in reserves for future programming.

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

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

7. Appointment of accountant for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (Linda Donnini)

On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, it was 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 directors standing for re-election for 2023-2025 (Alexandre Davidson)

A. Davidson explained that this year there had been no general call for applications to the CUAA Board.

In addition, he mentioned that L. Donnini will not be renewing her mandate as CUAA President and it is expected that Nura Jabagi will be elected to replace L. Donnini as President of the CUAA following this meeting.

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

THAT the following list of directors standing for re-election be re-elected as Directors of the CUAA to hold office for a two-year term, until the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members or until their successors are otherwise elected or appointed:

Directors Standing for Re-Election

David Kierans (BA 75)	Term 2023-2025
Linda Donnini (BSc 91)	Term 2023-2025
Miranda Melfi (BComm 86)	Term 2023-2025

The Chairperson declared those nominated be duly elected as Directors of the CUAA to hold office for a period of two years until the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members or until their successors are otherwise elected or appointed. Therefore, the complete slate of Directors is:

Directors Re-elected:

David Kierans (BA 75)
Linda Donnini (BSc 91)
Miranda Melfi (BComm 86)

Returning Directors:

Alexandre Davidson (BComm 16)

Hanna Vineberg (BA 88)
Nichola Dyer (BA 85)
Nura Jabagi (MBA 14, PhD 21)
Susannah Tam (MBA 82)
Bhavna Grover (BComm 01)
Fatoumata Camara (BA 12)
Hussain Shorish (BA 17, MA 18)
Vanessa Manroop (BComm 23)
Jonathan Gouliaris (BComm 17, GrDI 20)

Immediate Past President

Linda Donnini (BSc 91)

Ex-officio Observer

Leisha LeCouvie

Representatives to the Board of Governors

Philippe Pourreaux (BComm 00)
Kim Fuller (BFA96)

Following the passing of the motion, L. Donnini recognized the valuable contribution throughout their service of the following retiring directors:

John Limeburner (L BComm 68)
Kim Fuller (BFA 94)
Lesley Antoun (BEng 95)
Henry Mooney (BA 99)
Brandon Montour (BA 20)

L. Donnini further thanked Ian MacLeod, former President of SGW Chapter and ex-officio director of the CUAA for his dedication and service to the CUAA. She stated that Ian passed away earlier this year.

9. Report from the Governance Committee and ratification of amendments to the General By-Laws of the CUAA (Miranda Melfi)

M. Melfi stated that

in furtherance of the CUAA's goal to be the Next Gen alumni association and be the leading network for alumni to contribute to and benefit from the Concordia community, the CUAA Board decided to amend the General By-laws to provide more flexibility in some areas in order to achieve that goal. She summarized the amendments as follows:

- The by-laws were streamlined and were brought up to the way by-laws are currently drafted
- The by-laws reflect the structure of the CUAA and its Board going forward and in particular the new roles of the committees.
- The by-laws provide the required flexibility to the Board to make changes to roles and responsibilities of committees without having to change the by-laws each time. Although the

descriptions of the committees were removed from the by-laws, the descriptions will be in separate documents called terms of reference or mandates.

She stated that the amendments to the General By-Laws were approved by the CUAA Board of Directors on September 11, 2023, and Members are being requested today to ratify these amendments.

She noted that most of the modifications to the General By-laws are of a clean-up nature and that the more substantive changes can be summarized as follows:

1. Objectives (Article II)

- An additional objective was added, namely, to encourage the participation from current University students in the activities of the CUAA.

2. Board of Directors (Article VI)

- The number of directors is fixed at 13 in accordance with the Quebec Companies Act.
- The officer positions were moved into its own section, however the positions themselves did not change.
- The Presidents of the Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter and the Sir George Williams University Alumni Founding Chapter have each notified the CUAA that their chapter may not be able to have a representative serve on the Board. Hence, we provided flexibility in the By-laws to address this.
- The maximum term for the Immediate Past President to serve on the Board will now be two years.
- A provision was added to allow the removal of a director by a vote of at least 75% of the directors present and voting at the meeting.
- Representation on the Board of Governors has its own section and essentially remains unchanged.

3. Committees (Article VII)

- Some of the committees have been modified to better reflect a more adequate structure in terms of roles and responsibilities. Hence, we have 6 standing committees, and we no longer have an Executive Committee:
 - Nominating and Engagement Committee
 - Sir George Williams Alumni Endowment Fund Committee
 - Concordia University Loyola Medal Committee
 - Alumni Awards and Recognition Committee
 - Philanthropy Committee
 - Corporate Governance and Human Resources Committee
- The Board may amend the names of the committees as required in the future and determine the rules, procedures and terms of reference of the standing committees.
- The Board may also form additional committees as required.

4. Officer (Article VIII)

- Removal of the ex-officio positions of President of the Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter and the President of the Sir George Williams University Alumni Founding Chapter.
- Officer positions essentially remained the same, however some of the descriptions of their roles and responsibilities were updated.
- Specified that the Board may fill any officer vacancy.

5. Indemnification and Protection of Directors, Officers and Others (Article X)

- With respect to insurance, the obligation of the CUAA is to use commercially reasonable efforts to purchase and maintain D&O insurance.

Lastly, M. Melfi thanked members of the Corporate Governance Committee who worked hard to review and implement the necessary changes to the by-laws.

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

THAT the amendments to the CUAA General By-Laws be ratified.

10. Report by the Senior Director, Alumni Relations (Leisha LeCouvie)

L. LeCouvie shared the outstanding success of the CU at Home initiative. She noted that over the past year, CU at Home had:

- 127 events.
- 26 virtual events.
- 14,736 registrations.
- 6,844 attendees.

L. LeCouvie mentioned some of the exciting updates at Concordia, including:

- A grant of nearly \$23 million awarded to Professor Jason Edward Lewis and colleagues to explore the intersection of Indigenous communities and artificial intelligence.
- Concordia being listed 387th (jumping 164 places) in the QS World University Rankings
- Concordia is now in the top 26% of world universities.
- The donation campaign has surpassed \$275M with another \$5-7M of donations in final discussions.

L. LeCouvie provided further updates on Homecoming 2024 and encouraged those attending the meeting to plan on getting involved with their departments, school groups, and sports teams which will be holding meetings and reunions.

L. LeCouvie then provided a personal thank you to those leaving the CUAA Board including:

John Limeburner (L BComm 68)

Kim Fuller (BFA 94)

L. LeCouvie also thanked Linda Donnini (BSc 91) for her valuable contribution as President of the CUAA. Although Linda is stepping down as President she will continue to be a Director.

11. 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 resolved:

THAT the meeting be terminated (approximately 5:50 p.m.).

12. Q&A (Linda Donnini)

The floor was opened for questions which were asked and answered.

Linda Donnini
PRESIDENT

Miranda Melfi
CORPORATE SECRETARY

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: Linda Donnini (Chair), Nichola Dyer, Miranda Melfi, Jonathan Gouliaris, Hanna Vineberg, Alexandre Davidson, Bhavna Grover, Susannah Tam, Kim Fuller, Fatoumata Camara, David Kierans, Vanessa Manroop, Nura Jabagi

Members: Joanne Beaudoin, Apostolos Kouroumalis, Martin Hill, Magali Merk-Jacques, George Chiarucci, Bob Delaney, Ali Taj Melodee Mograss, Frank Lamosa, Laura Zuanigh, Hamid Amir Erfani, Andre Rudnicky, Alexandra Spadaccino, Helene Nguyen, Yan Nao, Roger Wilson, S Costanzo, Rath Choudhury, Tannaz Shams, Fatina Sibli

Advancement Staff: Leisha LeCouvie, Melissa Caldirisi, Tara Wood, Alana Mota