**WINDSOR UNIVERSITY RETIREES’ ASSOCIATION**

**Spring Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday April 16, 2019

Freed Orman Commons

**Presiding**: Mr. Roger Lauzon, WURA President

**Attendees**: WURA Executive and Members (27 members in attendance)

**Guests**: Dr. Douglas Kneale, Interim President; Professor Jeff Berryman, Acting Provost

and VPA; Mr. Peter Zimmerman, WUFA President; Ms. Cheryl Paglione, Human

Resources; Ms. Maria Hawkins, Student Awards & FA

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda [attached]

Motion to Approve: Ihor Stebelsky/ Maureen Irish CARRIED

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Fall General Meeting [attached]

November 22, 2018

Motion to Approve: David Palmer/ Ihor Stebelsky CARRIED

2.1) Motion to ratify the decisions made at the 2018 Fall General Meeting

Don Thomas/ John Meyer CARRIED

1. Business Arising from the Minutes - None
2. Report from the Scholarship Fund Committee [attached]

Dr. Wilf Innerd provided a brief history of the initiation of the Scholarship Fund in 1994 with Bill Phillips’ contribution and underscored that with the recent changes in OSAP, WURA’s Scholarship is incredibly important to Windsor’s deserving students. Of the 173 students who applied for the scholarship this academic year, 8 were awarded in the amount of $1800 each. It is the goal of the Committee to extend the scholarship to 10 students at $2000 each. Dr. Innerd thanked the Membership for their overwhelming generosity and encouraged everyone to continue their support.

Dr. Barbara Thomas welcomed and introduced three of the WURA Scholarship recipients to the Membership and asked each of them to provide a personal account of the significant role the scholarship plays for them. The students who spoke included: Jordyn Liebman, Nahla Hassan, and Natalie Opare. Dr. Thomas extended her sincere thanks to Fedela Falkner for all of her assistance.

5. Correspondence - None

6. Executive Reports

6.1) WURA President’s Report – Presented by Roger Lauzon [attached]

Motion to Approve: John Meyer/ Jake Soderland CARRIED

Mr. Lauzon spoke of the significance of WURA within the University community and the importance of renewal and growth. He congratulated the WURA Student Award winners and encouraged the Membership to donate to the Scholarship fund. He reviewed the different subcommittees and projects currently underway. He noted that as of April there were 151 individuals identified as WURA members. Mr. Lauzon went over the benefits of membership highlighting access to the MS Office Suite and that in the future Lynda.com (now LinkedIn Learning) would be available from ITS for $20/year. He reported on the details of the meeting that took place with the President and Provost/VPA and thanked them for their constructive suggestions. He also extended his appreciation to Mr. Richard Dumala for his efforts in redesigning the WURA webpage.

* 1. Treasurer’s Report – Presented by Norm King [attached]

Motion to Approve: Norm King/ Jake Soderland CARRIED

Dr. King conveyed that financially WURA was in good shape and reviewed the expenditures and balance of the operating budget. He noted that the Bursary Fund was healthy and extended a note of thanks to the Office of the President for generously providing $2,000 for the Holiday Luncheon. He called attention to the role the newsletter played in providing information to the membership.

7. Status of the Projects

7.1) Proposed Constitutional Amendment and Membership Change [attached]

Motion to Approve: Maureen Irish/ John Meyer CARRIED

Dr. Irish thoroughly reviewed the rational for proposing the constitutional amendment to increase the WURA membership categories to include non-unionized managers and other administrators. She discussed the background information her committee gathered in response to the questions raised at the Fall General Meeting [attached]. The Proposal circulated for article 3:01 included:

3:01 Membership in WURA shall be open to:

1. any person who during their period of employment at the University of Windsor made contributions to the University of Windsor Retirement Plan for Faculty and Certain Employees,
2. whenever applicable, any person who during their period of employment at the University of Windsor made contributions to the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan,
3. any person who during their period of employment at the University of Windsor was a non-unionized manager or other administrator, and
4. survivors of retirees in categories (a), (b) or (c) above

Dr. Irish facilitated an open exchange with the Membership related to the implications of the change to WURA and the impact on Members’ Benefits. After a full discussion the Membership voted to adopt the proposed changes to the constitution. Dr. Irish thanked her Committee Members for bringing their expertise and experience to the table and also to the full Membership for their fruitful, constructive, and open exchange.

7.2) Spring Social Events [attached]

Motion to Approve: David Palmer/ Alfie Morgan CARRIED

Professor David Palmer reported on the activities of the Social Committee and the

events planned for the Spring which included a tour of Amica, a trip to the Stratford

Festival in affiliation with the Alumni Association, and the President’s Tea for Retirees.

He indicated the Social Committee was always open to recommendations from the

Membership and for opportunities to gather.

* 1. Demonstration of WURA Drupal 7 Website

Mr. Richard Dumala discussed the work he had been doing in association with IT’s switch from Drupal 6 to 7. He displayed various pages of the new WURA webpage and drew attention to its brand-new features. He emphasized the improved navigational functioning of the webpage making it more user friendly, and also the intention of having it more appealing to visitors. Dr. Meyer thanked Richard for his considerable effort, time, and creativity with the redesign of WURA’s webpage and also recognized Dr. Donovan Thomas for his ongoing counsel and direction.

8. Committee Reports

8.1) Pension and Benefits Committee Report [attached]

Motion to Approve: Maureen Irish/ Gordon Olafson CARRIED

Dr. Ihor Stebelsky presented the details of the report from the Pension and Benefits

Committee and the issues discussed with representatives of the Office of Human

Resources. These included such items as Glucose Monitoring System coverage,

HR Pension and Benefits information and planning sessions, and the arbitration

settlement regarding the Subsidiary Plan for retired members.

9. Guest Remarks (began at 3:07 pm)

9.1) **Dr. Douglas Kneale** discussed some of the issues the University was facing as a result of the provincial governments 10% reduction in tuition fees which will result in a $10 million decrease in revenue. The University’s intention is to increase the enrolment of first-year undergraduate students and international Master’s students. Dr. Kneale discussed a few of the internal adjustments that would be required to meet these new pressures, and brought to the attention of WURA the Government’s movement towards Performance Based Outcomes. He enthusiastically highlighted many of the recent accomplishments within the University, which included the hiring of five full-time Indigenous professors as part of the President’s Indigenous Peoples Scholars Program, the Windsor Armouries being honoured with two Built Heritage Awards, and the proposed renovations to the Ron W. Ianni Faculty of Law Building by the firm of Diamond Schmitt Architects. He extended his thanks to Professor Berryman for his leadership and keeping the university on course during this period of constrained resources. Dr. Kneale and Professor Berryman opened the floor to questions from the Membership.

* 1. **Mr. Peter Zimmerman** brought greetings from his colleagues in WUFA and expressed their appreciation for the ongoing meaningful relationship between the two Associations. He referred to the changing political landscape in the province and its possible impact on Higher Education with regard to tuition, financial support, OSAP programming, and the new Student Choice Initiative that will affect student Ancillary Fees. He spoke of the successful negotiation and resolution pertaining to the settlement of the EI Premium Reduction Program.
  2. **Ms. Cheryl Paglione** informed the membership that Ms. Daljit Gill had taken an appointment with the Children’s Aid Society and that HR was in the process of filling her position. Appreciation was extended on behalf of HR and WURA for Ms. Gill’s assistance to the Membership. Ms. Paglione reviewed the current performance of WURA’s Pension Fund and Health Benefits, and indicated that the members would be receiving a letter sometime in the Fall related to the recalculation of the MPP and MGB.
  3. **Ms. Marie Hawkins** extended her appreciation on behalf of Students Awards and the Financial Aid Office for assisting Windsor students with their education costs through WURA’s generous donations and Awards. Not only has WURA and its individual members helped recognize academic achievement but they have also supported students in financial need. Each year applications for scholarships have increased substantially and the expectation for the next academic year is double.

10) Other Business

Professor David Palmer reminded the Membership that Travel Grant Applications must be submitted to the WURA Office, Room G-119 Chrysler Hall North by no later than June 15, 2019.

11. Adjournment