Ontario Tech Alumni Association Council
Annual Meeting of General Members
Virtual: Zoom
Thursday, November 5, 2020

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Shaikh Farhan Rashid (Chair)
William Lee (Vice Chair)
Astrid DeSouza
Reuben Gomes
Ijlal Gondal
Keegan Guidolin
Sean Kell
Muhammad Mahad
Angelo Pineda

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT:
Anthea Ariyajeyam
Hailey Cameron Wyman
Edyta Chorostkowska
Matthew Fawcett
Dinesh Fernando
Kaitlynn Gambier
Tyra Gordon
Chris Jacob Alex Lalonde
Brian Lieuw Kie Song
Choudhury Naser
Luisa Rojas
Erin Rutkowski-Jones
M. Senthilkumar
Andrew Seto
Suroy Thamotharam
Dwight Thompson
Justin Trach
Chantelle Whidden
Chris Whidden

ONTARIO TECH UNIVERSITY STAFF PRESENT:
Alison Broadworth
Carolynn Howard
Vivien Ricard

1. OPENING REMARKS

Shaikh Farhan Rashid, Chair of the Alumni Association Council (AAC), delivered a Territorial Land Acknowledgement. He then called the Annual General Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

S. F. Rashid welcomed everyone to the 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting and introduced the AAC members who were present: William Lee, FBIT, Class of 2017, Vice-Chair; Sean Kell, FEAS, Class of 2013, Governance Committee Chair; Muhammad Mahad, FEAS, Class of 2016, Engagement Committee Chair; and the general members of Council: Astrid DeSouza, FSci, Class of 2015, Reuben Gomes, FBIT, Class of 2014; Ijlal Gondal, FEAS, Class of 2016; Keegan Guidolin, FSci, Class of 2013 and Angelo Pineda, FBIT, Class of 2010.

S.F. Rashid acknowledged and thanked the following AAC members who will not return to the Council next year: Angelo D. Pineda, who served as Chair of the Council and has been a great help to members. Sean Kell who has helped with our Governance Committee as Chair, whose leadership with the Terms of Reference and Elections process has been greatly appreciated. Reuben Gomes who was able to help from afar; living outside of the GTA, he was still an active member in Council meetings and activities.

He commented that COVID-19 has affected everyone. He shared that Ontario Tech was able to move online within a day thanks to the extensive network and of course, the university's laptop program. The Alumni Association Council programming was changed, including tonight's AGM which we're hosting virtually. All motions required for our meeting will require they be moved, seconded and then voted upon. To assist with voting we will use the poll function.

S. F. Rashid requested a motion to approve the Agenda for the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

It was moved by Matthew Fawcett and seconded by Muhammad Mahad

      Carried.

2. ANNUAL REPORT

S.F. Rashid presented the Annual Report, beginning with the reminder of the AAC's vision: Connect. Engage. Succeed. Celebrate. Followed by the mission: Inspire Ontario Tech's global alumni community to feel connected and supported through programs and services designed to promote the spirit of lifelong success and alma mater pride.

William Lee, Vice-Chair, presented the financial report of the AAC. Revenue in 2019-2020 had increased to $34, 503 due to increased revenue from the Affinity

Partnership with Johnson Insurance. Merchandise sales were low and inventory was being switched to new brand.

The budget for fiscal 2019-2020 was $18,000 and Council spent $15,618. The majority of the budget was spent on new merchandise with an increased variety to offer.

Council kept the 2020-2021 budget at the same level anticipating continued reduction of in-person events.

S. F. Rashid reported on events from the past year. The Council expanded event offerings with the first Alumni Speaker Series event in June 2019 featuring Michelle Cox; in October 2019 with Robina Brah.

In March 2020, COVID-19 affected everything, it cancelled Pi Day of Giving events and as the impact of the pandemic became greater, it was clear we could not hold in-person events. However Council shifted our planned in-person Speaker Series events with Wayne Cuervo from Cisco Canada and Jacqueline Gibson to virtual and we were pleased to see alumni participating from as far away as Calgary. It provided an opportunity to connect with alumni who can't make it out to campus.

With the help of the Alumni Office we focused on increasing our digital presence. twitter.com/OT_alumni we have more than 1,600 followers; facebook.com/OTAlumni we have more than 2,200 followers and our Instagram account which was created in 2018 has almost 900 followers – so go start following if you aren't already! This is an excellent way for our alumni to stay connected and share news.

This past year we conducted a review and update of the Terms of Reference to develop new timeframe for terms and process for nominations. Sean Kell, Chair of Governance will lead you through the proposed changes shortly.

W. Lee reported on the new merchandise as part of the budget report and we are pleased to offer new items such as men's and women's golf shirts, a crewneck sweater and a few other items as well.

Las year, we collaborated with Ten Thousand Coffees thanks to sponsorship from RBC Future Launch to create the Ontario Tech Hub. This hub is a mentoring platform that creates introductions for alumni and students, too. We had a goal of registering 300 alumni and students which we did. I encourage everyone to check out our hub, information can be found on our website and in our alumni e-magazine.

Last year, earlier in the year, the Council increased alumni presence on campus engaging future alumni as early as first year (MyStart: Accessibility); we also invited graduating students to our events and had Council members and alumni present at student career fairs.

Each year, with funds assigned in the budget and through donations from Council members and alumni, we are able to give the Returning Alumni Award to a current student. This award is giving to an alumnus/a who returns to Ontario Tech for a second degree. We gave away one scholarship for the 2018-19 and continue to raise funds each year for this purpose.

Questions were received during the Annual Report
Choudhury Naser asked about the Johnson Insurance affinity partnership and rates available to alumni in comparison with other vendors. Other members, including Council members, who had researched rates shared that they were pleased with the rates and service provided.

Suroy Thamotharam asked if it was possible to view and purchase Alumni Merchandise online. The link to the e-store was shared in the chat and can be found at alumni.ontariotechu.ca.

S.F. Rashid presented the goals for the 2020-2021 year.
- Continue to grow our digital presence and live event streaming through social media. Work with Alumni Office to create more content for the Ontario Tech Alumni App. We also want to encourage more alumni to sign up for the app – you can download it at alumni.ontariotechu.ca

- Expand Speaker Series to present more topics and work with Athletics to add additional events with Ridgeback Alumni.

- Continue to promote our mentorship program, Ontario Tech Hub in Ten Thousand Coffees to help connect alumni and we are also partnered with the Career Centre to include students in the platform. Goal is for 100 additional alumni to sign up. Visit alumni.ontariotechu.ca for information.

3. Governance Committee Report

Sean Kell, Chair of the Governance committee outlined the Nomination Process for members. Council has a maximum of ten members and works on a rotating schedule to ensure knowledge transfer by avoiding a full transition of new members in one year.

This year, there were five positions available to be filled. The governance committee continued to use a hybrid elections model. The call for nominations was sent in the Spring and Summer for candidates to apply. Following a thorough review of all applications received, each candidate was interviewed by members of the governance committee who recommended a Slate of candidates to be approved by the Council.

The council approved the governance committee's recommendation for the Slate and brought forward to the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Astrid DeSouza, Class of 2015, Faculty of Science
Amber Morley, Class of 2019, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
Brian Lieuw-Kie-Song, Class of 2017, Faculty of Business and IT
Kait Gambier, Class of 2013, Faculty of Business and IT
Suroy Thamotharam, Class of 2017, Faculty of Business and IT

S. Kell requested a motion adopt the Slate of new members as presented.

Shaikh Farhan Rashid moved that the Slate of new members be adopted as presented.

Keegan Guidolin seconded the motion.

Carried.

Thank you for participating and welcome to our new members.

S. Kell presented revisions to the Terms of Reference.

Update Ontario Tech throughout the document, including logo.

Article 4: Meetings of General Members
4.1 Annual Meeting of General Members
currently the article states we will hold the AGM at Homecoming.

Suggested change is to remove the word Homecoming to provide opportunity for different programs.
        New article:
        4.1 Annual Meeting of General Members
                The Annual Meeting of General Members shall be held each year at a time and place determined by the   Alumni Association Council.

3. Article 5.5 Rotation of Council Members

5.5 Rotation of Council Members
The Alumni Association is governed by a rotating Council to provide an appropriate balance of experience and renewal. Each Council Member serves a two-year term, unless they are an Acclaimed Member. Each year, the term of office of some of the Council Members will expire and, at the Annual Meeting of General Members, the same number will be ratified upon recommendation of the Governance Committee, in accordance with Article 7.3 Governance Committee Terms of Reference.
        Suggested change is to add the statement to the end of 5.5:
The term of one-year on council shall be July 1st to June 30th.

4. Article 7.2 Finance Committee Terms of Reference

Suggested revision to Article 7.2: The Finance Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members. At the first meeting of the year, Council will appoint a Governance Committee Chair.

Current statement: The Finance Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members members who will elect a Chair amongst themselves via a vote amongst the Governance Committee members. In the event of a tie, the Governance Committee will ask Council to elect the Chair via a vote amongst Council.

4. Article 7.3. Governance Committee Terms of Reference

Suggested change related to elections process, item 6:

Oversee the Nominations and Elections Process as follows:
    a) Review and propose edits of the elections policy and package to the AAC
    b) Appoint the Electoral Officer in March of each year, external to the council's membership, to oversee the nominations and elections process leading up to the end of the Election Period each year.
    c) Actively promote nominations and the elections process through maximizing overall diversity, faculty, and class in seeking nominees.
    d) Conduct interviews of AAC nominees in order to gauge suitability for council. The structure and organization of the interviews will be created by the Governance Chair and approved by the Governance Committee as a whole.

4. Article 7.3. Governance Committee Terms of Reference

Suggested addition to terms:

The Elections sub-committee (or Governance Committee if no sub –committee is struck) shall assist in the Elections process as defined above in Part 6 of section 7.3 The elections period for Council shall be from July 1st to June 30th of each two year term, allowing time for the date and notice of the Annual General Meeting to occur.

Motion: S. Kell requested a motion to approve the revisions to the Terms of Reference.

Andrew Seto moved that the revisions be approved, with a correction removing the typo in Article 7.2, if it exists in the full version of the Terms of Reference.

William Lee seconded the motion.

S. Kell requested the vote.

       Carried.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

S.F. Rashid invited other business from the general members assembled, and invited members to use the chat function to post questions.

S. F. Rashid delivered closing remarks. As our organization grows, there are many opportunities to get involved both as council members as well as in more informal and short-term roles such as mentors, alumni ambassadors, working groups and Alumni Networks.

Earlier, I mentioned Ten Thousand Coffees, it is a networking platform where you sign up and identify the topics and areas of expertise that you can share and discuss with other alumni and current students and similarly you can search for people to ask them about their areas of expertise.

Meetings can be in person and we can use the platform for career talks and events too. At present we have more than 300 members in our Ontario Tech Hub and we hope that you will join the hub too. As mentioned, it is a pilot project so we want your feedback on the platform to see if it adds benefit to our alumni.

Alumni can also continue to use the Ontario Tech Career Centre portal to assist with their job hunts and attend workshops. A. Broadworth shared the portal link in the chat.

Within the Alumni Association Council, membership on the Engagement Committee is open to the general alumni community to assist with specific activities, obtain insights on the operations of the council, and inspire them to become future council members.

He invited members to get involved please let us know during the Alumni Social following this meeting or email us at alumni@ontariotechu.ca

S. F. Rashid thanked everyone for attending.

There being no other business, S.F. Rashid called for a motion to adjourn the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Tech Alumni Association.

Choudhury Naser moved that the Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association be adjourned.

The motion was seconded by Sean Kell.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.