



UNIVERSITY OF
KING'S
COLLEGE • HALIFAX

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

University of King's College Alumni Association

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

4:30 p.m. Atlantic

Zoom Video Chat

Present: Adriane Abbot, Mary Barker, Victor Bomers, Rachel Cadman, Chantal Caissie, Alyssa Feir, Nicholas Harris, William Lahey, Andrew MacDonald, Stephanie McGrath, Stuart Patillo, L.A. Steeleworthy, Paul Thomson, Ian Whytock, Adria Young, Mark DeWolf, Victoria Foley, Llewellyn Turnquist, Heather MacIvor, Elizabeth McNeil, Claire E. Campbell, Jennifer MacLeod, Lois Miller, Elizabeth Ryan, Judith White, Sheima Benembarek, Matthew Irwin, Isabelle Reynolds, Elizabeth Smith, Nancy Violi, Ian Johnson, Katie Merwin, Christopher White, Stuart Wood

Regrets: Jen Laurette, Susan Dodd, Clare MacKenzie, Cynthia Pilichos

1. College Prayer read by Elizabeth Ryan

2. Necrology List read by Mary Barker

Cindy Belyea, (Friend of the College)
Borden Conrad, (BA'69)
Rosalie Courage, (BA'76), (Board of Governors 2018-21)
Armand Couture, (1968)
C. Russell Elliott, (BA'37, BDiv'52, DD'79)
Brian Fisher, (BA'81, BSc(Hons)'85)
Ilze Folkins, (Friend of the College)
Lloyd Gesner, (BA'51)
James Golding, (1959)
Jack Hatcher, (BA'69)
Cecil Hebb, (BA'50, BSc'53)
Nancy King, (BJ(Hons)'95)
Christos Kritikos, (DCL'02)
Harvey Lewis, (1941)
Elizabeth (Cordes) MacCara, (BA'51)
Peter MacDonald, (1954)
Brian MacGillivray, (1990)
David Morris (1963)
David Murphy, (Friend of the College)
Gerald Nelson, (1946)

Valerie O'Brien, (Friend of the College)
Margaret (Latimer) Power, (BA'73)
Peter Power, (BSc'53)
Lynn Sherren, (BJ(Hons)'80)
Donald Sobey, (DCL'13)
Harold Stevens, (1958)
Douglas Troop, (1946)
Jana Wieder, (Friend of the College)
David K. Wilson, (1948, DCL'13)

3. Alumni Association President welcome & introductions

Paul Thomson thanked everyone for joining the AGM.

4. Approval of the Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 25 June 2020

Motion: (MacLeod/Patillo) to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting from 24 June 2020, as circulated. Carried.

5. University President's Remarks

President William Lahey began his report with an acknowledgement that he was on Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people. The College has expressed concern about the 215 unmarked graves found in Kamloops at the Indian Residential School in May 2021. The flags at King's will be at half-mast for 215 continuous hours and the President has a statement planned for the wider King's community.

The 2020-2021 academic year was an extraordinary year for a university with many extraordinary years, in many ways. King's more than survived the pandemic. On March 13, 2020, Dalhousie President Dr. Deep Saini and President Lahey issued a statement that expressed hope in whatever the pandemic experience would bring, including a true commitment to community, strengthening of the community, and King's as a place of care and concern for everyone and each other; President Lahey stated that his prediction was fulfilled. For students, it was a particularly difficult year and disappointing in many respects, but King's students were inspirational and resilient – incredible in adjusting, adapting, and supporting each other, and integral to the strength of Nova Scotia's pandemic response.

This year had many adaptations – from Encaenia as a virtual graduation ceremony to how faculty adapted. The President remarked how, when it was announced King's would go online, he received notes of incredulity and disappointment, but faculty took it as a challenge, and proved that it's not about the mode of delivery but instead a community where everyone learns from each other with an ethos of care and concern for all. The Foundation Year Programme was extraordinary online; many students noted an awareness of how much better the King's experience was compared to colleagues at other institutions. As such, King's will offer FYP next year with a virtual option in parallel to in-person classes.

King's has announced that it will resume in-person courses in Fall 2021. There are some details to work out, but King's is encouraging its entire community to get vaccinated.

The pandemic will still be with King's in some sense for some time to come but President Lahey anticipates a rapid recovery as the vaccinated population increases. It is important to bring young people back to the College and there is a real enthusiasm to do so. To put it in context, enrolment in 2016 was around 800, down from a peak of 1,300, with some residence spaces unfilled. This coming year, the FYP class is anticipated to be at least 250, with enrolment close to 1,000 with residences as full as per Public Health guidelines. President Lahey believes this is a result of the last few years and the success of FYP online this past year, as well as Nova Scotia's reputation as a safe province. These numbers are promising, and President Lahey believes that King's has entered a phase of longer-term financial stability as retention rates from first to second year are over 80% (up from 60%). Fall 2021 will be an exciting time and in-person events and classes are highly anticipated.

The College has hired two new tenure-track professors this year, both Mi'kmaw and the first two Mi'kmaw scholars to ever be hired at King's. A new Rogers Chair in Journalism has been hired, a prominent Black journalist with a long career – from CBC to CTV to radio. These professors will bring new perspectives to King's. Regarding ongoing conversations around Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, the only way to move forward is to have faculty that are included and representative of diverse communities, to support students and to thrive.

The Journalism School is in its final stages of establishing the second MFA degree in Creative Non-Fiction. The first MFA program has been incredibly successful to date, beginning with a cohort of 16 students to now 30. President Lahey is confident that the second MFA will be similarly attractive and make King's a place of interest to students and potential students across a broader demographic spectrum. It has been tremendous work, but it is exciting.

President Lahey remarked that the renewal and restoration of Radical, Middle and Chapel Bays last year was successful and appreciated by the students who lived there this year. The College will be moving on to Cochrane Bay, the last bay to be restored. King's does not yet have an accessible residence space and especially regarding Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and legislation, Alex Hall will be a priority for this. The design is most conducive to this transition, as the hallways are wide, and the rooms are larger than typical residences, however, installing an elevator in a 1960s building will be a challenge, but this will be next.

At the request and direction of the Board of Governors, President Lahey wrote a major report on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion last year. The Board received it in September 2020, and the report was posted online; he hoped for the wider community and the Alumni Association to read it this year. A community-wide collective response will be offered. It will also have an impact across the College, for instance, faculty will be developing an academic plan for the first time in many years, and EDI will be a major theme. There was also a development around the Haliburton Society and Haliburton Room. Considering Haliburton's well-documented views on slavery and Black people, the Society renamed itself the UKING's Literary Society. President Lahey was impressed with the Society's position to not bury or ignore Haliburton's accomplishments, or the College's historic association *with* those accomplishments, but it could remove the celebrative aspect. In that vein, the President

recommended changing the name of the Haliburton Room to the University's Equity Committee. A memo was shared with faculty, the executive of the Board of Governor's, and the Board, and there was no opposition among all three bodies. Board Chair Douglas Ruck spoke on what the association with Haliburton meant to him personally. There will be additional changes in the look and feel of the campus, which follows the decolonization of the Wardroom and portraits of Anglican Bishops removed from hallways. The College will continue to address concerns raised by students about the portraits in Prince Hall.

Regarding Dr. Wayne Hankey, the President noted that it has been a difficult and painful experience for the King's community, with thanks to the Alumni Association for meeting about the review and Terms of Reference, as well as the support on behalf of the executive.

To end, President Lahey and his colleagues have been so pleased by the alumni participation over the last year – from events to online functions, and the ongoing support to existing students – it has been tremendously encouraging and validating to see the level of engagement from alumni. This strengthens the President's belief that the King's community is wonderfully unique, and the College remains a place to be cherished.

6. Alumni Association President's Remarks

For his last report as Alumni Association president, Paul Thomson remarked what a great honour it has been to serve as president for the last two years – a role that would not be possible without terrific support from the Alumni Association to President's Office, to President Lahey and the tremendous Alumni Association executive. The thought, fairness, and integrity that the executive puts forward in decision-making could not be more impressive, and the support and kindness of alumni has been wonderful. Paul will support incoming president Ian Whytock in his role as past-President for the next two terms. Paul has been especially impressed with the degree of alumni participation this year, including at the Annual General Meetings, and alumni events from the Spelling Bee to the Holiday Happy Hour. This summer's events also look fantastic, and he hoped that, going forward, the Association will continue with hybrid online and in-person events, to reach more alumni in many more places. Paul also remarked that improvements to the website's Alumni & Friends section are excellent, and *Tidings Magazine* is also a highly awaited publication.

Regarding the College's appointment of an independent review on past conduct, Paul was grateful for the university's leadership on the issue, as well as the unanimous support and compassion for individuals who came forward. He was asked by Cynthia Pilichos to read a note, as follows:

"I fully support the approach the university has taken with respect to the allegations against Wayne Hankey. Establishing an independent review and ensuring its excellent terms of reference go hand-in-hand with the degree of care, concern, and transparency that President Lahey and Chancellor Ruck have shown regarding this very distressing situation. The university is to be commended.

I fully support the recommendation/request of the Alumni President, Paul Thomson, that alumni members have faith in the review process. The scope of the review and the terms of reference for the law firm conducting the review, a firm specializing in workplace investigations, will ensure a comprehensive investigation resulting in findings and recommendations. We need to trust a good process, one in which we are invited to be active participants, with confidentiality assured.”

In closing, Paul remarked that it has been an honour and he looks forward to returning to in-person events in the coming years, and he is grateful and appreciative of all the support.

Ian Whytock noted congratulations and thanks to Paul for his leadership, for encouraging participation, and for everything he has done as the Alumni Association president.

7. Advancement Director’s Remarks

Adriane Abbot remarked that these meetings are always a reminder and wonderful affirmation that the King’s community is much larger and greater than the Quad. She is delighted that Paul will be serving as Past-President for two terms. Adriane remarked on the three outgoing members: Jen Laurette, Ben Kates, and Jennifer MacLeod, and is grateful for their longstanding efforts and support. Adriane also introduced the new Alumni Manager, Chantal Caissie, and looks forward to the Graduation Week and welcoming new alumni.

8. Treasurer’s Report

Stuart Patillo provided a quick overview of the finances for the 2020-21 year; it was a strange and different year in terms of the financial activity, as it was lower. The market has seen equities increase across the Board, and the endowment was up 15% year-over-year. With management by Scotia Wealth, the Association established a formal investment policy by augmenting the 40/60 split to 30/70, as of March 31, 2021. Presently, the account is at 67% allocation to equity, which is aligned with the new policy. In terms of incomes and expenditures, the Association was unable to have its usual events (golf tournament, for example, and the Alumni Brunch) so receipts year-over-year were down 36% but expenditures were also down, so there remains a large excess of capital to reinvest. One cost this year was the packages from alumni for students in residence over the holidays. Next year, Stuart anticipated a return to ‘normal’ and events should go forward, so the account will see revenue and expenditures closer to 2019 statements, with excess of \$65k.

Paul Thomson thanked Stuart for his terms as Treasurer and on behalf of the association and the executive team, showed appreciation for everything Stuart has done in this role.

a. Motion to Accept Final Statements

Motion: (Patillo/MacLeod). Carried.

b. Motion to appoint auditors

Motion: (Patillo/Whytock). Carried.

9. Search Committee

Ian Whytock reported on behalf of the Search Committee, in his last report before taking on the role of Alumni Association President. He noted that, in contrast to previous years, the Search Committee put a call out to alumni asking for expressions of interest in serving on the Executive, and the Committee was overwhelmed by the response. As such, the Committee recommended the election of Sheima Benembarek, Victoria Foley, and Jennifer Thornhill, as well as Matthew Irwin who will join as a member of the Finance Committee before becoming a full member of the Alumni Association Executive as Treasurer once Stuart Patillo's term has ended.

a. Motion to elect slate of Executive Members

Motion: (Whytock/Feir) carried.

10. Announcements and New Business

No new business but many thanks to the outgoing and retiring executive members – a small token of appreciation is in the mail. The Association looks forward to meeting in September.

Mary Barker moved to adjourn at 6:10pm.