

**Present:** Tony Dhaliwal, Chair; Bradley Menard, Vice-Chair & IDEA Officer; Tricia Taylor, Associate Vice-Chair; Aman Khinda; Michelle Vandepol; Alex Parkinson; Matt Kidwell; Whitney Fordham, Director, Alumni Engagement & Executive Director, UFVAA (Staff); Anthony Biondi, Digital Engagement Strategist (Staff); Bryan Candy, Alumni Engagement Manager (Recording Staff)

**Regrets:** Harman Rathore

**Guests:** Sundeep Hans, Director, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, UFV

1. **Call to Order & introductions** (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)  
Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. **Land acknowledgement** (Aman Khinda, Director, Senate Representative)

3. **Approval of agenda** (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

**MOTION:** To approve the agenda for the January 29, 2025 board meeting, as presented.

**TAYLOR / MENARD  
CARRIED**

4. **Approval of minutes** (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

**MOTION:** To approve the November 27, 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes, as presented.

**VANDEPOL / MENARD  
CARRIED**

5. **Business arising from the minutes** (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

Bradley Menard requested a status update for action items. Whitney Fordham noted that updates will be covered in this meeting's reports.

6. **Accessible UFV** (Sundeep Hans, Director, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, UFV)

UFV remains compliant with provincial regulations, although there have been no recent updates from the ministry due to the recent provincial elections. Sundeep Hans anticipates the hiring of an accessibility coordinator, a new role that has garnered support from both the Accessibility Student Committee and the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Sundeep highlighted two key issues: a general unawareness at UFV of the duty to accommodate accessibility complaints and the necessity for staff to proactively inquire about potential accessibility issues. To address these, UFV plans to test a more accessible software alternative to Blackboard. Additionally, training sessions will be conducted this semester by Sundeep's colleague, Mike Joko. These sessions will cover human rights, UFV policies, and the principles of accommodation.

There was a discussion on the ratio of accessibility staff to students in light of the rise in diagnoses over the past five years. However, no additional provincial funding has been received. Community support and increased communication were emphasized as vital to advancing accessibility efforts.

Concerns about support for temporary disabilities were discussed, with suggestions to contact the Centre for Accessibility for student issues and Human Resources for staff. Sundeep encouraged sharing feedback through the accessibility email to help the institution track and address these issues.

**7. Chair report (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)**

**a. Executive Committee report**

**MOTION:** to approve the January 14, 2025 Executive Committee report, as presented.

**MENARD / TAYLOR  
CARRIED**

**b. President Search Committee update:** The Chair provided an update on the search process, noting a change in alumni representation on the committee and the scheduling of stakeholder roundtables in February. Board members were encouraged to attend all sessions, with no conflicts identified for those representing multiple roles.

**c. UFV Plasma Cup initiative:** Appreciation was extended to all participants in the initiative.

**d. Alumni Weekend and AGM events:** The Chair reminded board members of the busy upcoming schedule and encouraged participation in events when possible.

**e. Board nominations:** Board members were reminded to share referrals and promote board nominations.

**ACTION:** Directors to share referrals and promoted Board member nominations.

**8. Governance committee report (Bradley Menard, Vice-Chair; Chair, Governance Committee)**

**a. Board succession planning**

**MOTION:** to move the meeting to in-camera. Matt was asked to leave for this portion of the meeting.

**MENARD / VANDEPOL  
CARRIED**

**MOTION:** to approve Matt Kidwell as a new director of the board.

**MENARD / TAYLOR  
CARRIED**

Matt was invited back to the room and invited to join the board. Matt shared a fun fact about himself: he was part of the varsity soccer team.

**MOTION:** to appoint Alex Parkinson as an Associate Vice-Chair, until replaced.

**MENARD / VANDEPOL**

**b. Governance Committee report**

The committee finalized its work from the previous year by passing a set of terms of reference. This format was chosen over a policy to allow for updates without requiring board approval for each revision.

**MOTION:** to approve the Governance Committee report, as presented.

**MENARD / DHALIWAL**  
**CARRIED**

**9. Advocacy committee report** (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair, Michelle Vandepol)

The committee reviewed its key objectives, emphasizing brainstorming at the committee level before presenting ideas to the board. Members discussed the terms of reference and set a schedule for the year ahead.

Initial priorities include developing 2–3 questions for the alumni survey, creating talking points for alumni weekend, and crafting targeted messages for LinkedIn.

**10. Awards committee report** (Tricia Taylor, Chair, Awards Committee)

The committee chair invited board members to join, confirmed plans to coordinate with the Alumni Engagement office, and noted that the first meeting will take place virtually in the coming weeks.

A proposal was introduced for a new **Alumni Service Excellence Medal**, recognizing outstanding and sustained service or contributions to the Alumni Association. The award, limited to two recipients per year, would be granted at the Alumni Association's discretion. Current UFV staff and UFV Alumni Association staff would not be eligible.

Discussions clarified that the award would not be given alongside other alumni awards, such as DAA/YDAA/OSLA. Additional eligibility criteria were proposed, including excluding current directors and self-nominations, while allowing Chair Emeriti to be considered.

**MOTION:** to establish the Alumni Service Excellence Medal.

**MENARD / DHALIWAL**  
**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** that Bradley be at liberty to capture language and has the power to draft accordingly.

**PARKINSON / TAYLOR**  
**Abstention: MENARD**  
**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** to award the Alumni Service Excellence Medal award to John Pankratz, outgoing Chair, UFV Board of Governors, at the conclusion of his term.

**MENARD / PARKINSON**  
**CARRIED**

**11. Alumni representative on Senate report** (Aman Khinda, Alumni representative on Senate)

Last meeting was January 17, 2025, a joint meeting with Board of Governors. Reviewed targets through 2030. Key data points of interest:

- Record number of registrations in September 2024
- Higher number of female students
- Average student age is 20–22
- UFV has programs that meet 75% of Canadian labour requirements

The Alumni representative on Senate offered details about the meeting structure and speaking with other members at the meeting.

**12. Executive Director report** (Whitney Fordham, Executive Director)

The full report was included in the board package. Highlights included the November speaking event with DAA recipient Adam Currie, which had lower attendance than the previous year but strong engagement.

The Plasma Cup saw an alumni team victory, and the associated plasma party generated top-performing social media content.

The Executive Director also discussed best practices for a policy brief to help UFV leaders integrate alumni engagement strategies into their travel plans.

**13. Financials** (Whitney Fordham, Executive Director, Bradley Menard, Vice-Chair)

**a. 2025/26 Budget development**

The board reviewed the policy for developing the 2025/26 budget, with a reminder that the fiscal year ends on March 31. Members were asked to consider their budget preferences, such as maintaining a surplus or aiming for a balanced budget.

Discussions included the current surplus, the need for flexibility in sponsorship and ad-hoc requests, and the value of low-cost events like alumni speaker panels. A suggestion was made to allocate funds for professional development. Additional considerations included EDI training through the Rick Hansen Foundation, potential funding for alumni reunions, an increase in the advertising budget, and updating the alumni video.

**b. Board philanthropy**

The board discussed a proposed donation to the Outstanding Student Leader Award (OSLA). The Vice-Chair offered to contribute \$5,000 personally, contingent on the board matching the donation, and abstained from further discussion and voting.

Members expressed strong support for the offer, with additional details provided on the OSLA award and its endowment agreement. Further discussion focused on securing sufficient principal to fund three awards sustainably.

**MOTION:** allocate \$5,000 to the OSLA endowment fund to match Bradley's \$5,000 donation.

**DHALIWAL / TAYLOR**  
**Abstention: MENARD**  
**CARRIED**

**14. UFV 50 Discussion** (Whitney Fordham, Executive Director)

**a. 50 Remarkable Alumni**

The campaign is nearing completion, with an alumni reception scheduled for April 4. Save-the-date notices will be sent soon, and event details are being finalized. Guest invitations and ticketing were reviewed, with an emphasis on minimizing speeches to prioritize networking and engagement.

**b. Alumni weekend**

Plans include alumni-organized events, UFV Day, an alumni wine display, photobooths, guest speakers, and UFV Night with the Abby Canucks as the weekend's closing event.

**15. Other business** (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

**a. Revised board meeting schedule**

It was brought forward that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) date be moved to Monday, May 26, as the current date conflicts with another event taking place that evening.

**MOTION:** Update AGM date from May 28 to May 26, 2025

**DHALIWAL / TAYLOR  
CARRIED**

**b. 2025-2026 meeting schedule development**

The board discussed scheduling for future meetings. Concerns were raised about Wednesdays being challenging, and Tuesdays were suggested as a preferred alternative. The final schedule will be confirmed at the pre-AGM board meeting.

**16. Director attendance at upcoming events** (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

The board was reminded of the expectation for full participation from directors at upcoming events.

**17. End of meeting**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting.

**DHALIWAL / KHINDA  
CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_