

Present: Tony Dhaliwal (Chair), Bradley Menard (Vice-Chair), Tricia Taylor (Associate Vice-Chair) Vladislav Gavrilov (Director), Aman Khinda (Director), Jessica Levesque (Director), Alex Parkinson (Director), Harman Rathore (Director), Jennifer Trithardt-Tufts (Director), Michelle Vandepol (Director), , Derek Froese (Chair Emeritus), Whitney Fordham (Director, Alumni Engagement; Executive Director, UFV Alumni Association), Anthony Biondi (Digital Engagement Strategist, UFV Alumni Engagement), Maggi Davis (Coordinator, Alumni Engagement, recording), John Pankratz (Chair, UFV Board of Governors), Aditya Akre, Keenan Beavis, Jaspaul Brar, Bryan Cutler, Denise Douglas, Patricia Driessen, Rebeca Gadsden Gil, Alyson Gher-White, Samantha Gibbs, Bhupinder Gill, Dhruv Gogna, Lee Hanlon, Ashleigh Henczel, Brad Hendy, Monica Hillier, Hardil Jolly, Tina Kirkham, Tery Kozma-Gahwiler, Jasmine Mann, Jennifer Martel, Deanna McIntyre, Sheila McKay, Samantha Palmer, Caitlin Pascuzzo, Lynn Perrin, Jordon Prokuda, Hillary Rowe, Addy Schnider, Vishal Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Andrew Stahl, Himani Thapa, Derek Ward-Hall

Guests: Dr. Joanne MacLean (President & Vice-Chancellor, UFV), Susan Mide Kiss (Vice-President, Community Engagement), Laura Authier (Associate Vice-President, Community Engagement), Amy Mykes (Director, Community Programming and Experience), Al Wiseman (University Secretary, Secretariat Office), Tracey McKone (Manager, Advancement Operations), Pavi Aulakh, Prabhleen Bedi, Ry Brassington, Chad Charest, Richard Gahwiler, Brent Taylor, Rebecca Taylor, Zach Taylor, Susan Trithardt

1. Call to order (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm by Tony Dhaliwal, Chair.

2. Land acknowledgement (Michelle Vandepol, Director)

3. Approval of agenda (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

Motion: Be it resolved that we adopt the UFV Alumni Association 2024 AGM Agenda as presented.

**TAYLOR / MENARD
CARRIED**

4. Approval of minutes from the 2023 AGM (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

Motion: Be it resolved that we approve the UFV Alumni Association 2023 AGM Minutes as presented.

**PARKINSON / GAVRILOV
CARRIED**

5. Welcome and updates (Dr. Joanne MacLean, UFV President & Vice Chancellor; Susan Mide Kiss, UFV's VP Community Engagement)

Dr. MacLean addressed the Alumni Association, thanking the body for inviting her to speak. Dr. MacLean spoke to how UFV's alumni provide a vision, and the institution has built this idea into its mission, vision, and values. She hopes that alumni know UFV cares for them and looks forward to staying connected.

Susan Mide Kiss greeted the association, and thanked Dr. MacLean for her words. She reviewed the past year's engagement, including Convocation being brought back to UFV's campus, celebrating 50,000 alumni graduating, and St'elt'elawtexw (Community Celebration). She thanked alumni for all they do, and for staying engaged.

6. Auditor waiver (Tricia Taylor, Associate Vice-Chair)

Motion: Be it resolved that we waive the audit of the 2023-2024 financial statements.

**TAYLOR / LEVESQUE
CARRIED**

7. 2023-2024 Financial statements (Whitney Fordham, Executive Director, UFV Alumni Association; Director, UFV Alumni Engagement)

Whitney Fordham presented the UFV Alumni Association's financial statements for 2023/2024.

Motion: Be it resolved that the UFV Alumni Association approve the UFV Alumni Association's 2023-2024 fiscal year financial statements.

**TAYLOR / RATHORE
CARRIED**

During discussion, members inquired about the investment of association funds and the use of special initiatives funding. It was noted that the association holds no investments, but a reserve fund policy is in development and members were invited to engage further in this ongoing process. Clarification was provided that special initiatives funding supported activities such as the SUS Food Bank and the 50 Remarkable Alumni campaign.

8. Report from the Executive Director (Whitney Fordham, Executive Director, UFV Alumni Association; Director, UFV Alumni Engagement)

The Executive Director provided a report highlighting the UFV Alumni Association's ongoing efforts to bring its mission, vision, and values to life by engaging, supporting, and celebrating alumni. Key initiatives over the past year included enhanced alumni

engagement through online platforms such as the LinkedIn Showcase Page and the “Weekly Wisdom Wednesday” series, as well as programs like *How to Recruit Yourself*.

The report noted progress on the first year of a three-year governance enhancement plan, developed in collaboration with the Governance Committee. The Executive Director emphasized the importance of fostering inclusive spaces, building meaningful connections across the university and broader community, and implementing a strategic plan that supports agile and transparent operations.

Appreciation was extended to the Alumni Board of Directors, the Alumni Engagement Office team, alumni volunteers, affinity partners, and campus and community partners for their contributions to the Association’s success.

The Executive Director concluded by expressing gratitude to the alumni community and reaffirming a commitment to co-creating the future of the Association as it looks ahead to the next 50 years.

9. Report from the Chair (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

The Chair, Tony Dhaliwal, provided a report highlighting key activities since the May 2023 AGM. Notable updates included the Alumni Association’s role in the joint Chancellor selection committee, which led to the recommendation and appointment of Dr. Jo-ann Archibald, Q’um Q’um Xiim, as UFV’s 4th Chancellor.

The Chair noted progress in alumni engagement through initiatives such as featuring alumna Danielle Deschamps’ artwork on the alumni wine label in support of student awards, and the nomination of two alumni for the UFV Board of Governors vacancy.

The Association is actively involved in UFV’s 50th anniversary celebrations, including support for the *50 Remarkable Alumni* campaign and the launch of the inaugural *UFV Alumni Weekend* in April 2025.

Recognition was given to Alec Zinman, recipient of the 2023 UFV Outstanding Student Leader Award, and to the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, Eryn Braley and Dr. Eric Gerbrandt. Tribute videos for each honouree were presented during the meeting. The Chair emphasized the global impact of UFV’s 50,000+ alumni, many of whom are contributing significantly to their communities and hiring current UFV students and fellow alumni.

The Association remains committed to advancing lifelong alumni relationships and continuing its journey of learning and growth in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). The Chair acknowledged Associate Vice-Chair Bradley Menard for his leadership in EDI.

Finally, the Chair recognized UFV’s increased investment in alumni engagement, including the addition of a Manager of Alumni Engagement position. Gratitude was expressed to the Board of Directors for their continued volunteerism and dedication.

10. Constitution revisions (Bradley Menard, Associate Vice-Chair)

A thorough review of the Association's bylaws, constitution and priorities has been undertaken.

Motion: Be it resolved that we adopt the proposed UFVAA constitution as our constitution.

MENARD / STAHL
ABSTENTIONS: THREE (3)
CARRIED

11. Bylaw Revisions (Bradley Menard, Associate Vice-Chair)

Motion: Be it resolved that we adopt the proposed UFVAA bylaws as our bylaws.

MENARD / DHALIWAL

During discussion, questions were raised regarding the accessibility of the proposed bylaws and whether the revisions could be viewed. It was confirmed that the bylaws were included in the agenda package and, if ratified, would be published on the UFV Alumni Association website. The proposed changes were also displayed during the meeting. A point of clarification was made regarding the spelling and pronunciation of "Stó:lō."

Motion withdrawn with general consent.

Motion: Be it resolved that we adopt the proposed and amended UFVAA bylaws as our bylaws.

MENARD / DHALIWAL
ABSTENTIONS: TWO (2)
CARRIED

12. Elections (Bradley Menard, Associate Vice-Chair & Governance Committee Chair)

Governance Committee Chair Bradley Menard introduced agenda item 12 and invited Tony Dhaliwal to the podium to conduct the election for the office of Vice-Chair.

Tony Dhaliwal declared that a single ballot was cast on behalf of the nominated candidate, and **Bradley Menard** was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.

Menard resumed the floor to conduct the elections for Directors-at-Large.

A single ballot was cast on behalf of all nominated candidates. **Alex Parkinson, Harman Rathore, and Michelle Vandepol** were elected Directors-at-Large to two-year terms by acclamation.

13. New business & questions (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

Under new business, members raised questions and shared comments regarding the Association's investment practices. Suggestions were made to form a committee to guide investment decisions, with an emphasis on involving the broader membership in the process. Concerns were also expressed about continuing to partner with banking institutions known for investing in fossil fuels, and the importance of aligning financial partnerships with the Association's values was highlighted. Members were encouraged to participate in ongoing discussions related to ethical investment practices.

14. Adjournment (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

Motion: Be it resolved that we adjourn the 2024 UFV Alumni Association AGM.

**TAYLOR / PARKINSON
CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Minutes approved:

Chair: 

Date: May 26, 2025