

Present: Tony Dhaliwal, Chair; Tricia Taylor, Associate Vice-Chair; Alex Parkinson, Associate Vice-Chair; Harman Rathore; Matt Kidwell; Whitney Fordham, Director, Alumni Engagement & Executive Director, UFVAA (Staff); Anthony Biondi, Digital Engagement Strategist (Staff); Bryan Candy, Alumni Engagement Manager; Luisa Torres, Auxiliary Alumni Engagement (Recording Staff)

Regrets: Bradley Menard, Vice-Chair & IDEA Officer; Aman Khinda, Alumni Representative on Senate; Michelle Vandepol

Guests: Kim McLandress, Alumni Representative on the UFV Board of Governors; Anne Russell, UFV 50

1. Call to Order & introductions (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Introduction

Board of Directors was introduced to Kim McLandress, Alumni Representative on the UFV Board of Governors

3. Land acknowledgement (Harman Rathore, Director)

4. Approval of agenda (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

MOTION: To approve the agenda for the March 26, 2025, Board of Directors meeting, as presented

TAYLOR / PARKINSON
CARRIED

5. Approval of minutes (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

MOTION: To approve January 29, 2025, Board of Directors meeting minutes, as presented.

DHALIWAL / TAYLOR
CARRIED

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

None

7. UFV 50 historical photo project (Anne Russell, UFV 50)

Anne Russell gave a presentation regarding the launch of UFV's Digital Archive. In celebration of UFV's 50th anniversary, the initiative has provided an opportunity to digitize 7,000 images from the university's first five decades. This significant project has taken 24 months to complete.

8. Chair report (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

a. Executive Committee report

MOTION: to approve March 12, 2025, Executive Committee report, as presented.

**DHALIWAL / PARKINSON
CARRIED**

- b. AGM event:** The Chair confirmed that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on May 26, with planning already underway. Invitations have been extended to Chancellor Archibald, President MacLean, Kim McLandress, John Pankratz, and other key guests. The event will reflect on the past year's successes and offer renewed opportunities for alumni engagement.
- c. Succession planning:** As part of the Association's commitment to long-term sustainability, a formal succession planning process has been initiated, including the development of a transition document to ensure a smooth handover for future leaders.
- **Bradley** will assume the role of Chair in May.
 - **Tricia** will step into the Vice Chair role (part of a six-year leadership path).
 - **Alex** has joined the Executive as Associate Vice Chair.

The Chair expressed sincere gratitude to all board members and the operational team for their continued dedication and support. With this being the Chair's second-to-last board meeting, appreciation was extended for everyone's hard work in advancing the success of the alumni community.

9. Governance committee report (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

a. Governance Committee report

MOTION: To approve the Governance Report dated April 11, 2025.

**DHALIWAL / TAYLOR
CARRIED**

b. UFVAA25 Board Chair Role and Responsibilities

The Chair noted that the document outlining the UFVAA25 Board Chair Role and Responsibilities was created by the Governance Committee. The board had no questions or concerns regarding the document.

MOTION: to approve policy UFVAA25 Board Chair Role and Responsibilities, as presented

**RATHORE / PARKINSON
CARRIED**

c. Board nominations

This item was deferred as the Governance Committee Chair was not present to provide an update.

d. Governance plan

This item was deferred as the Governance Committee Chair was not present to provide an update.

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

The Committee Chair shared that she held a one-on-one meeting with Matt, as this will be his first time participating in the selection of award recipients. She also noted that the next committee meeting is scheduled for the end of April, as the current focus is on preparations for UFV 50 Alumni & Friends Weekend.

11. Advocacy committee report

This item was deferred as the committee Chair was not present to provide an update.

12. Alumni representative on Senate report

This item was deferred as the alumni representative on Senate was not present to provide an update.

13. IDEA Officer report (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

a. Rick Hansen training

The Chair mentioned that he has completed the Rick Hansen training. Two directors were unsure where to find the link, and the Chair provided guidance on how to access it, encouraging all members to complete the course.

b. Annual IDEA audit

This item was deferred as the IDEA Officer was not present to provide an update.

c. Call for nominations for IDEA officer

This item was deferred as the IDEA Officer was not present to provide an update.

14. Executive Director report (Whitney Fordham, Executive Director)

The full report was included in the board package. Highlights shared included the International Women's Day Panel, which featured three alumni as panelists; the Theatre alumni Panel, where four Theatre graduates returned to campus to share their post-graduation experiences; and the development of Canadian AI Advancement Institute by alum, Tristan Taylor.

The Executive Director also provided an update on the 2024/2025 budget, which concludes at the end of this month. There was a positive response from the board regarding the year-end results.

MOTION: To approve the additional expenditure of \$18,000 to be included in the 2024–2025 fiscal budget, allocated as follows: \$12,000 into the Outstanding Alumni Endowment, bringing it up to the level required for it to generate 3 awards, annually. \$5,000 for UFV Giving Day 2025 matching funds, \$500 prize for photobooth at UFV Alumni & Friends Weekend, \$500 door prize for those who check in at the visitor centre at Alumni & Friends Weekend.

**TAYLOR / RATHORE
CARRIED**

15. 2025/2026 UFVAA Budget presentation (Whitney Fordham, Executive Director)

The Executive Director presented the balanced 2025–2026 operating budget, previously reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee.

Key updates included:

- Revenue: Consolidation of merchandise and frame sales under “Convocation”; no future revenue from the BMO MasterCard program; conservative projections for TD Insurance and interest income.
- Expenses: Inflationary increases applied; accessibility line increased to \$500; TEDx Abbotsford added as a recurring sponsorship; event sponsorships reduced overall; modest increases to insurance and legal counsel lines.
- New items: Reinstatement of the Wine Label Contest and introduction of a \$1,000 allocation for the new Service Excellence Medals.

MOTION: to approve the 2025/2026 UFV Alumni Association budget, as presented.

**RATHORE / PARKINSON
CARRIED**

16. UFV 50 Discussion (Whitney Fordham, Executive Director)

a. Alumni & Friends Weekend

The Executive Director expressed excitement as preparations are complete for the upcoming Alumni & Friends Weekend, taking place on April 4 and 5.

i. 50 Remarkable Alumni Weekend Reception

The Executive Director shared that 46 alumni stories have been completed to date, with three more in progress. The reception will take place on Friday, April 4, and all board members are encouraged to attend and volunteer.

ii. Volunteering for Saturday

The Executive Director encouraged board members to complete the volunteer form to support Saturday’s events.

iii. UFV Night with the Abby Canucks

The executive Director reminded the board about the upcoming UFV Night with the Abbotsford Canucks. The Alumni Association has a suite for the event, and invitations have been sent to board members. Six tickets remain available; members who have not yet responded were encouraged to RSVP via email.

17. Director Attendance at upcoming events (Tony Dhaliwal, Chair)

a. UFV 50 Alumni & Friends Weekend

The Executive Director shared highlights of the upcoming UFV 50 Alumni & Friends Weekend, which includes family-friendly activities, academic talks, performances, alumni vs. student sports games, and campus tours. Key features include the 20 Years of Alumni Wine display and contest, a throwback photo booth with a \$500 prize, and the Friday night reception with speed networking featuring the 50 Remarkable Alumni. Board members were encouraged to promote the event, volunteer by completing the sign-up form, and pick up their volunteer T-shirts.

b. Convocation – June 10, 11, 12: Please attend at least one ceremony

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


18. End of meeting

MOTION: to adjourn the March 26, 2025, meeting of the UFV Alumni Association Board of Directors

**TAYLOR / RATHORE
CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Chair:  Date: May 26, 2025