

Present: Bradley Menard, Chair & IDEA Officer; Alex Parkinson, Associate Vice-Chair; Harman Rathore; Matt Kidwell; Aman Khinda; Tarndeeep Chattu; Tristan Taylor; Graham Petek; Tony Dhaliwal, Chair Emeritus; Whitney Fordham, Director, Alumni Engagement & Executive Director, UFVAA (Staff); Bryan Candy, Manager, Alumni Engagement (Staff); Anthony Biondi, Digital Engagement Strategist, Alumni Engagement (Staff); Luisa Torres, Coordinator, Alumni Engagement (Recording Staff)

Regrets: Tricia Taylor, Vice-Chair; Michelle Vandepol

Guests: Susan Mide Kiss, Vice-President, UFV Community Engagement, Bilal Faisal Faheem, UFV Student Union Society, Nikiel Lal

1. Call to order & introductions (Bradley Menard, Chair)

Meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m.

2. Land acknowledgement (Bryan Candy, Manager UFV Alumni Engagement)

3. Declaration of conflict of interest (Bradley Menard, Chair)

The Chair invited Board members to declare any actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest related to the items on the agenda. Members were reminded to disclose any conflicts as they arise during the meeting and to state their name and the nature of the conflict for the record, at which point the Board would determine whether recusal from discussion or voting was required.

4. Approval of agenda (Bradley Menard, Chair)

The Chair noted one amendment to the agenda: Tarn to present the Awards Committee Report in place of Tricia.

MOTION: To approve January 27, 2026, Board of Directors meeting agenda, as amended.

CHATTU / TRISTAN TAYLOR
CARRIED

5. Approval of minutes (Bradley Menard, Chair)

The Chair noted two minor corrections to the November 25, 2025 meeting minutes.

MOTION: To approve the November 25, 2025 Board of Directors meeting minutes, as revised.

MENARD / KHINDA
CARRIED

6. Business arising from the minutes (Bradley Menard, Chair)

The Chair reported on two follow-up items from the previous meeting:

1. Congratulatory correspondence was sent to President Mandigo and Provost Ryder Glass on their recent appointments.
2. The letter to the University Secretariat was sent at the beginning of the month. Receipt was confirmed, and it was noted that the credentials policy referenced in the correspondence is currently under review, making the timing of the communication particularly relevant.

7. Report from VP, Community Engagement (Susan Mide Kiss, Vice-President, UFV Community Engagement)

The Chair welcomed Susan Mide Kiss, Vice-President, Community Engagement, who provided a presentation outlining recent initiatives, strategic priorities, and future directions within the Community Engagement portfolio. Key highlights included:

- Susan reaffirmed UFV's commitment to engaging learners, transforming lives, and building community, noting the increasing importance of collaboration, inclusion, and co-creation during a period of sector-wide uncertainty.
- An overview of the Community Engagement portfolio was provided, including:
 - Alumni Engagement
 - Communications & Storytelling
 - Community Programming & Experience
 - Marketing & Brand Experience
 - Relationship and Fund Development
 - Portfolio Administration and Operations
- UFV's designation as an Ashoka Changemaker Campus was highlighted, positioning the institution on a global stage for social innovation, decolonization, equity, and community-engaged teaching, research, and partnerships.
- Susan introduced the PAIR (Partnership, Agency, Inclusion, Recognition) matrix, a principle-based decision-making and evaluation tool used to guide partnerships and assess impact. The framework supports intentional, reciprocal, and accountable community engagement and has gained interest locally, nationally, and internationally.
- The Board was updated on the co-creation process underway to develop UFV's first Community Engagement Framework. The process includes:
 - Engagement with internal and external community champions
 - Conversations across Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, Hope, and rural communities
 - Use of a "weaving" approach to relationship-building and collective impactNext steps include continued engagement sessions, theme analysis, validation with community partners, and a potential framework launch later in spring 2026.

Following the presentation, Board members asked questions regarding:

- How the Community Engagement approach will adapt during ongoing post-secondary sector uncertainty
- Opportunities to deepen partnerships with the Alumni Association and alumni community

Susan emphasized flexibility, responsiveness, and continued collaboration as key to navigating emerging challenges and strengthening shared impact.

8. Chair report (Bradley Menard, Chair)

The Chair provided a report highlighting the following key points:

- The Chair acknowledged the beginning of a new year and extended well-wishes to Board members for a prosperous year ahead.

- The Board was informed that the post-secondary sector in British Columbia and across Canada is entering a period of significant budget realignment. The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills has commissioned Don Avison to prepare an independent report with recommendations to support an accessible, affordable, and sustainable system aligned with provincial economic priorities. The Chair encouraged the Board to remain mindful of these broader sectoral challenges when approaching its work.
- In response to current constraints, the Chair emphasized the importance of focusing on a value-added approach rather than growth, highlighting creativity, collaboration, and leveraging partnerships as practical and sustainable ways to advance the Association's work.
- The Chair encouraged Board members to consider how their skills, experience, and knowledge could be leveraged beyond committee work and event participation. Members were invited to bring forward ideas on how the Board can contribute meaningfully to emerging community needs, with further discussion planned for a future Board meeting. The Chair referenced the recent discussion on enhancing the Awards program as an example of building on existing strengths while celebrating current successes.

9. Executive Committee report (Bradley Menard, Chair)

- a. January 14, 2026 Executive Committee report

MOTION: to approve January 14, 2026, Executive Committee report, as presented.

**MENARD / CHATTU
CARRIED**

The Chair highlighted that the Executive Committee had approved Michelle to serve as the Board's second Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Officer. The Chair expressed appreciation for Michelle's willingness to serve and noted the importance of mentorship and leadership development in this role.

- b. MOU Negotiations Special Committee

MOTION: That the UFV Board of Directors, pursuant to Bylaw 63, hereby establish an MOU Negotiations Special Committee;

That the Special Committee be assigned oversight of the UFVAA-UFV MOU renewal negotiations, with a membership consisting of Bradley Menard (Chair), Alex Parkinson, Graham Petek, and Tricia Taylor;

That the Special Committee be mandated for a period ending upon the successful execution of the renewed MOU or the delivery of its final report to the Board, at which time it shall be dissolved in accordance with Bylaw 63(b);

That any Alumni Association Office staff providing support to the Committee shall be recused from discussions and decision-making regarding terms that present a potential or perceived conflict of interest; and

That the Special Committee provide In-Camera reports to the Board as necessary or upon request, concluding with a final confidential report to the Board upon completion of its task.

The Chair provided additional context on the purpose of the MOU, noting that it outlines:

- The partnership between the Alumni Association and the University
- Financial and operational support for Alumni Association staffing

- Revenue allocations (including convocation-related revenue)
- Alumni services such as career services, library access, and campus services
- Branding, communications, and marketing responsibilities

The Chair further explained that potential outcomes of the renewal process may include amendment, extension, or termination of the existing agreement, and emphasized the importance of legal expertise and leadership development within the Special Committee.

**KHINDA / CHATTU
CARRIED**

10. Governance Committee report (Graham Petek, Governance Committee Chair)

- a. December 8 Governance Committee report

MOTION: to approve December 8, 2025, Governance Committee report, as presented.

**PETEK / KHINDA
CARRIED**

- b. UFVAA11 Travel Expense

Key updates included clarification that economy class travel is the standard, with business class travel subject to case-by-case approval.

It was noted that mileage and meal rates will remain aligned with the University policy at this time and will continue to be reviewed as economic conditions evolve.

MOTION: to approve revised policy UFVAA11, as presented

**PETEK / MENARD
CARRIED**

- c. UFV Board of Governors recommendations

The Governance Committee recommended **Daman Bhathal**, CPA, as the UFV Alumni Association's nominee to serve on the UFV Board of Governors. The recommendation reflects alignment with the Board of Governors' skills matrix, particularly accounting and financial expertise, as well as community connection.

MOTION: to recommend Daman Bhathal as UFV Alumni representative on the UFV Board of Governors

**PETEK / PARKINSON
CARRIED**

- d. Associate Membership, Sandy Avelar*

The Governance Committee recommended granting Associate Membership to Sandy Avelar, noting her strong connection to UFV and significant community impact, despite not meeting the formal criteria for regular alumni membership.

Associate membership is a non-voting category under the bylaws and distinct from Honorary Life Membership.

MOTION: to grant Sandy Avelar with Associate membership to the UFV Alumni Association

**PETEK / TRISTAN TAYLOR
CARRIED**

e. Bylaws*

The Governance Committee presented proposed revisions to the UFV Alumni Association Bylaws, including:

- Reducing the maximum number of elected Directors to support board effectiveness
- Clarifying voting status of ex-officio members to enhance engagement and agency
- Removing prescriptive committee structures in favour of flexible Terms of Reference
- Eliminating restrictive appointment formulas to support strategic recruitment

MOTION: to bring forward a revised set of UFV Alumni Association Bylaws for approval by the membership at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

**PETEK / MENARD
CARRIED**

f. In-Camera session – Appointment of new Directors

- The meeting was moved In-Camera at 7:02pm.
- The meeting moved out of the In-Camera session at 7:06pm.

The Chair welcomed Nikiel Lal to the Alumni Board of Directors.

g. UFVAATOR6 Policy Reviews* (information)

The Governance Committee presented UFVAA Terms of Reference 6 – Policy Reviews for information. The document outlines the framework and schedule for ongoing policy reviews, including criteria for legal compliance, relevance, effectiveness, and risk management.

It was noted that revisions to terms of reference fall within the Governance Committee's authority and were not brought forward for Board approval.

11. Awards Committee report (Tarn Chattu, Director, Awards Committee)

a. January 5, 2026 Awards Committee report

Tarn presented the Awards Committee Report as included in the agenda materials (page 43).

Key updates included:

- Tristan will be invited to present proposed updates and potential additions to the Awards program at a future Board meeting.
- Board members were encouraged to actively support the Awards program by sharing nomination posts and/or submitting nominations.

MOTION: to approve January 5, 2026, Awards Committee report, as presented.

12. Advocacy moment (All)

The Chair opened the Advocacy Moment, inviting Board members and guests to share advocacy efforts in support of alumni, students, and the UFV community.

- **Aman Khinda** shared an example of informal advocacy, describing how she supported a prospective student by answering questions about UFV, which helped ease concerns and contributed to the student's decision to pursue studies at the University.
- **Bilal Faisal Faheem** (guest) provided an update on student advocacy at the provincial and federal levels. He outlined participation in sector-wide discussions related to the provincial post-secondary system review and highlighted ongoing advocacy efforts to protect student financial support, affordability, and student services.
- **Matt Kidwell** shared plans to expand internship opportunities within his firm, including roles focused on equity and Indigenous students, and expressed interest in strengthening awareness and recruitment connections with UFV students.
- **Tristan Taylor** noted his upcoming participation in the *Afternoon Exchange* mentorship event and reflected on the importance of mentorship as a forward-looking alumni engagement initiative.

The Chair thanked all participants for their advocacy contributions.

13. Alumni Representative on Senate Report (Aman Khinda, Director, Alumni Representative on Senate)

Aman reported on the most recent **Senate meeting held on January 16, 2026**, noting that it was a **joint meeting of the Board of Governors and Senate**.

Key highlights included:

- The meeting began with an in-depth presentation and discussion on **artificial intelligence**, focusing on its implications for the post-secondary sector and how the University may need to respond.
- The session included **small-group discussions** with Board and Senate members, including direct engagement with the President. Discussions focused on UFV's mission and vision, particularly the concepts of *engaging learners, transforming lives, and building community*.
- Aman shared reflections on the importance of defining **community as a sense of belonging**, emphasizing that meaningful community-building requires intentional efforts beyond branding. This perspective was noted as relevant to future discussions related to UFV's vision and strategic direction beyond 2030.
- It was noted that joint Board and Senate meetings occur periodically and provide valuable opportunities for dialogue and idea-sharing across governance bodies.

Board members thanked Aman for her report and acknowledged the importance of alumni representation and voice within the Senate.

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

Whitney spoke to her written report included in the agenda package and highlighted recent activities and updates since the previous Board meeting.

Highlights included:

- **January Mentoring Month:** The Alumni Engagement team has been spotlighting mentorship through alumni stories featuring **Liam Ritchie**, **Kristin Long**, and **Charlene Bentley**, celebrating alumni leadership and reinforcing alumni support for current students.
- **Afternoon Exchange (January 29, 2026):** Approximately **10 alumni mentors** will participate in informal conversations with **about 40 students and recent graduates**. The event is designed as a low-barrier, relational format focused on building confidence, particularly for students who may not feel comfortable in traditional networking environments. Whitney thanked **Luisa** for leading the design, promotion, and coordination of the Afternoon Exchange and thanked all alumni mentors for their participation.
- **Digital engagement:** E-newsletters and social media continue to perform strongly, with **story-driven and campaign-focused content** generating the highest engagement. Posts highlighting alumni achievements and student connections remain the most effective.
- **Student-facing visibility:** A Board member noted strong student-led sharing and visibility of **Ideation Jam** content on LinkedIn. Whitney thanked **Tony** for his support of digital engagement.

a. Budget update

Whitney provided a mid-year financial update as of January 22, 2026.

Key points included:

- The Alumni Association is in a positive net position of approximately \$54,000 year-to-date, driven primarily by the timing of program delivery.
- Mid-year revenue totals \$27,340 against an annual budget of \$56,300, with convocation-related revenue and the second TD affinity payment expected later in the fiscal year.
- Bell Mobility cancelled its affinity marketing revenue program for the year, resulting in a projected \$1,500 revenue shortfall, while alumni discounts remain in place.
- Expenses total approximately \$21,935 (just under 40% of the annual budget), with several planned costs expected later in the fiscal year.
- Board travel expenses were reported as over budget due to transportation and mileage costs, along with an unbudgeted \$1,000 CERA Day sponsorship, both considered manageable.
- The budget is expected to land close to break-even by March 31, 2026, with a modest year-end surplus typical.

Whitney outlined the 2026–2027 budget development process, noting that the draft budget will be reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to Board approval in March, and invited Board input on strategic priorities and budget approach.

b. Sponsorship request – Interpret Festival

Whitney presented a sponsorship request for the **Interpret Creative and Performing Arts Festival**, a signature interdisciplinary showcase for students in the School of Creative Arts and Graphic and Digital Design.

Highlights included:

- The festival aligns with Alumni Association values of community, inclusion, recognition, and agency.
- Three sponsorship tiers (**\$1,000–\$3,000**) were presented, with a PAIR evaluation included.
- The **Alumni Wine Label Art Contest** submissions will be showcased regardless of sponsorship tier.
- The event takes place in **April**, allowing flexibility in fiscal-year allocation.

MOTION: to provide sponsorship support for the Interpret Festival at **Tier 2**.

**KHINDA / KIDWELL
CARRIED**

15. Director attendance at upcoming events (Bradley Menard, Chair)

The Chair reviewed upcoming events displayed on the screen and thanked Board members who have already volunteered to attend and support these activities.

Board members were reminded that the **annual events calendar** had been shared at the previous meeting and were encouraged to:

- Consider which upcoming events align with their availability and interests, and
- Sign up to support events where they are able, if they have not already done so.

16. Other Business

The Chair invited Board members to raise any items of other business.

No additional items were raised.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and participation.

Minutes approved:

Chair: _____ Date: _____