

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
**May 20, 2021 – 1:30 – 2:30 (Zoom)**

**1. Provost Welcoming Remarks: Jerry Tomberlin**

Jerry gave a warm welcome to attendees and hoped he will soon become a member of CURA. He spoke about events that took place at the University and the following is a summary:

- New Strategic Integrated Plan (SIP) for the next five to ten years. Inspired by the three borders that make up the campus: the Rideau Canal, the Rideau River, and the Community, it outlines three strategic directions:
  - Share Knowledge, Shape the Future
  - Serve Ottawa, Serve the World
  - Strive for Wellness, Strive for Sustainability

For those interested in reading the whole document, you can find it at: [Strategic Integrated Plan \(SIP\) - The President and Vice-Chancellor \(carleton.ca\)](https://www.carleton.ca/strategic-integrated-plan-sip-the-president-and-vice-chancellor)

- New Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- New Leadership:
  - Michael Charles, AVP, Equity and Inclusive Communities
  - Kahente Horn-Miller, AVP Indigenous Initiatives
  - Benny Michaud, Director, Centre for Indigenous Initiatives
  - Brenda O’Neill, Dean Faculty of Public Affairs
  - Nathasha Macdonald AVP, OIRP (Office of Institutional Research and Planning) took over from Bruce Winer who recently retired
- Online Teaching was “very messy” but successful, and for a full year – going forward the decision is which courses will be live and which ones online
- COVID as tragic as it is, gave us the experience of transitioning to online learning – all courses were moved online, engaging students and collaborating with Ottawa U.
- New Learning Management System “Brightspace” was launched without issues
- Research income this year from granting agencies and partners was more than \$81M, an increase of more than 50% over the last 2 years
- Carleton had the highest rate of growth among all Canadian comprehensive universities in 2020 and again in the top three rate of growth this year
- The new Nicol building will be operational in September with a phased move- in over the summer
- \$16M Engineering Design Centre on Library Road to be completed by October
- Planning for fall 2021 will be a challenge with the 6-ft. rule, reduced class sizes, etc. but will provide options of face to face and online – by winter 2021 should be back to normal but somewhat different

- Question: Gene Swimmer asked if there is an update on the request for a retiree rep to join the Pension Committee – Jerry: The Committee is discussing the request and is on their Agenda

## **2. Introductions: Susan Nesrallah**

- Mandy Hair, Director of HR Operations is the liaison between retirees and the University
- Gerald de Montigny is the new Retiree Rep on the CUASA Council
- Irwin Reichstein is a returning Retiree Rep on the CUASA Council
- Eugene Swimmer was chosen as potential Retiree Rep on the Carleton Pension Committee
- Executive Committee Members:
  - President – Susan Nesrallah (also Webmaster)
  - Vice-President – Bob Morrison (also CURAC Rep)
  - Past President – Peter Watson
  - Secretary – Andrew Brook
  - Treasurer – Irwin Reichstein
  - Members at Large – David Holmes, Margaret Haines, Peter Fried, and Randal Marlin

Mike Jutting was part of the Committee as a Member at Large for years and was very committed to CURA. Sadly, he passed away in March and we miss him very much.

## **3. President’s Report: Susan Nesrallah**

The CURA request to have retiring staff keep their CU email accounts, same as retired faculty, was rejected at the Senior Management Committee February meeting citing a recent serious security breach and ongoing potential risks of legal liability – Jerry and Mandy will be pursuing this further.

CURA proposed to have a retiree on the Carleton Pension Committee with Eugene Swimmer as a non-voting, observer status representative. This is still in progress with Jerry and Mandy to address it with Betsy Springer, the Committee Chair.

CURA is conducting a Retiree Writing Competition for all Carleton retirees. Instructions, details and a submission form are on the website on the left-hand side menu at: <https://carleton.ca/cura>.

The first social activity was a talk by Richard Van Loon titled “6000 years up the Ottawa River and into the West”. Richard will be invited back for Part 2 in the fall. A recording is available here: [Click here to access a recording of this lecture](#)

Margaret Haines is the Chair of the Retiree Program Committee and is working on having retirees (all) invited to participate in “Homecoming” events in the fall. The Committee also puts out a semi-annual Newsletter. For more information on the Committee and Newsletter, contact Margaret at: [margaret.haines@carleton.ca](mailto:margaret.haines@carleton.ca)

The next outing, after the lockdown will be a tour of the newly renovated National Arts Centre.

#### **4. Treasurer’s Report: Irwin Reichstein**

The bank balance as of April 2021 is \$8135. A moratorium was placed on membership fees for the length of time of the COVID-19 lockdown. The annual fee is \$30 which covers a catered lunch during the two meetings, the September Welcome Meeting, and the May AGM.

#### **5. Retiree Survey Results: Peter Watson**

Peter was experiencing audio problems and was not able to present during the meeting. He sent the following to be included in the Minutes:

There were 158 responses, about 1/4 of the number of invitations sent. Half were CUASA retirees and about 1/3 from CUPE.

Almost everyone had maintained some contact with Carleton. About half had continued to work at Carleton, either teaching, doing research, serving on committees or other work. The majority visited campus for one reason or another; the library and the pension update presentations attracted half the participants. As for social events, outdoor activities, cultural events and lectures seemed to be particularly enticing.

The survey does not adequately capture the amount of work being done by retired staff however, it represents a good first attempt, and I am very grateful to Mandy Hair for her work on this and Jerry Tomberlin for sponsoring the work. If anyone is interested in seeing the detailed responses, please contact Peter for a copy of the (very large) spreadsheet with identifying information stripped out to preserve anonymity at: [watson@physics.carleton.ca](mailto:watson@physics.carleton.ca).

#### **6. CURAC / Later-Life-Learning (LLL): Bob Morrison / Peter Watson**

Bob had technical problems and was unable to join the meeting but sent the following report:

In place of this year's conference, McGill held a very successful Virtual Assembly with a distinguished guest speaker on Epigenetics, followed by an awards ceremony. Attendance was about 220 from across Canada. Epigenetics is the study of the non-gene

part of our DNA, which turns out to have important implications for human behavior. A video of the Assembly and Dr. Szyf's talk titled "Nature and Nurture: How early life experience changes our DNA", is available on the McGill Retiree Association website MURA [here](#) . The Q&A session continuation can be found at: <https://youtu.be/pldlpLdPLsU>.

Peter: The LLL Program, similar to Carleton's Lifelong Learning Program, is a new initiative by CURAC. Peter volunteered to be the Contact for CURA. Of late, every university has some form of learning in retirement program, and the goal is to make the lectures available to all retirees across Canada. CURA is very much in favor of this program and will share information with retirees "who are interested" (opt-in rather than opt-out). A communication will be sent on the listserv (approx. 550 retirees) asking them to "sign up". Notices of courses will be sent only to those who sign up. More information on LLL can be found at: <https://curac.ca/committees/lll-committee>.

#### **7. Vote on Constitution Amendment: David Holmes**

David spoke on behalf of the Nominations Committee, David Holmes (Chair), Elsie Clement, and Peter Fried. He asked the membership to vote on the ratification of the Amendment to "Article 4: Executive Committee" of the CURA Constitution. The document was sent to members at an earlier date for review. The Amendment had been recommended and supported by the Executive Committee and was unanimously ratified at this AGM. The revised Constitution is on the CURA website: <https://carleton.ca/cura/about/more-information/>.

#### **8. Election of Committee Members: David Holmes**

As there were no other candidates, acclamation of the new members of the Executive Committee was unanimous for Martien de Leeuw, Susan Jameson, and Wendy Watkins. The retiring members are Bob Morrison, David Holmes, and Randal Marlin.

#### **9. Closing Remarks: Susan Nesrallah**

On behalf of the Committee, Susan thanked Bob Morrison, David Holmes, and Randal Marlin for their hard work and commitment to CURA for over 20 years. The Association was founded by Professor Don Wiles in 2005 and they have been members and officers in various positions ever since.

They helped establish CURA, with a Constitution and Letter of Memorandum with the University, they recruited members, organized events, joined CURAC, and in 2017, were part of the organizing committee of a very successful CURAC Conference hosted at Carleton which coincided with Carleton's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

They will be missed on the Committee but still be members of CURA. Thank you, gentlemen for your hard work, dedication, and commitment!

**New Executive Committee: Susan**

The AGM ended a little after 2:30 but the Committee, along with the acclaimed members remained to conduct the filling of the newly vacated positions. The new Executive Committee members are:

- President Susan Nesrallah (also Webmaster)
- Vice-President Andrew Brook
- Past President Peter Watson
- Secretary Margaret Haines
- Treasurer Irwin Reichstein
- Members at Large: Martien de Leeuw, Peter Fried, Susan Jameson, Wendy Watkins (also the new CURAC representative)

*Thank You Everyone!*