



Alumni Association

Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Alumni Association

Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 4, 2021, 6:30pm

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE PRESENT: Andria Allen (Chair), Judy Cerny, Michelle English, Faye Mishna,

Judy Newman, Matthew Regan, Terese Weisberg

REGRETS:

ABSENT: Theo Adjei

MINUTES: Terese Weisberg

TOPIC:	DISCUSSION:	ACTION/PLAN:
Welcome & Call to Order	Andria Allen welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.	
Land Acknowledgement	She read the Statement of Acknowledgement of Traditional Land.	
Dean's Remarks	Andria welcomed and introduced Dean Dexter Voisin.	
	Dean Voisin acknowledged the tragic loss of Professor Marion Bogo who passed away last week. Although she was only 5 feet tall, she was a giant in the field of social work.	
	She was the recipient of many distinguished awards such as Officer of the Order of	



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Canada, and Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award, from the Council of Social Work Education in the United States.

In her more than her 50 year career, Marion served as Field Practicum Director, Associate Dean and Acting Dean. And beyond these administrative titles, she cared deeply for the Faculty.

She will be greatly missed, but her legacy and impact will endure.

Dean Voisin thanked the many who supported the FIFSW new Talk it Out free online counselling clinic. He also affirmed the commitment to decreasing barriers to the faculty through the new Black and Indigenous Application Programs.

The Dean thanked all alumni for their ongoing support of the Faculty. He then asked Faye Mishna to say a few words about Professor Bogo.

Marion Bogo was a mentor to Faye, a colleague, and also her close friend. She transformed social work around the globe, and was seen by social workers around the world as a leader in the field.

Students were asked to offer their remarks about Professor Bogo. Students referred to her gentle spirit, nurturing affect and her ability to be honest and kind at the same time. She had a profound effect on the faculty.

Marion Bogo had a wonderful sense of style, including shoes that will be very difficult to fill.



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	Faye advised that there is a condolence kudo board for people to access. She asked Daniel Downey to enter it in the chat box.	
Roll Call of Executive	Andria identified those who comprise the Alumni Association Executive: Andria Allen-President, Matt Regan-First Vice President, Judy Cerny-Treasurer, Theo Adjei-Outreach Coordinator, Terese Weisberg-Secretary, Judy Newman-Past President.	
	As well, a number of alumni have stepped forward as committee reps, including Faye Mishna-Faculty Liaison, Pam Weir-Faculty Council, Michelle English-MSW Studies Committee and Mentorship Committee.	
	Elizabeth Lee, Terry McCullum, Maribeth Christensen, Simon Lam and Michelle Allick are members at large.	
Adoption of July 15, 2020 Minutes	The minutes were reviewed and approved.	Motion to accept: Matt. Second: Judy N. All in favour. Approved.
Treasurer's Report	Judy Cerny presented the 2020-21 Financial Statement as of April 30, 2021.	
	The starting budget for the year was \$7526, most of which covered the cost of event speakers and associated costs such as a Zoom upgrade. Expenses totaled \$6138.75, leaving an excess of revenue of \$1387.25 which will be rolled over to our upcoming year.	



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The annual budget for the 2021-22 has been increased to \$10,000, bringing the current balance in our account to \$11,387.25.

The Treasurer's report was approved. Andria thanked Judy for her report.

Motion to accept: Judy N. Second: Michelle E. All in favour. Approved.

President's Report

Andria thanked everyone for attending this evening.

She reflected on the tumultuous year that we have had, thanking frontline healthcare providers and social workers for all they have done in these difficult times.

Covid highlighted the differential impact of social inequity, and the rise of hate in the murders of George Floyd in the US, and the Afzaal and Salman Family members in London Ontario.

Covid also highlighted racism, with respect to the Residential Schools and the attempts at genocide.

Andria noted that through Covid, there has been a massive demand for mental health services. FIFSW responded in many ways, one of which was the development of the 'Talk it Out' online clinic. It supports in particular, marginalized people who would otherwise not receive services. Andria thanked Dean Voisin for his leadership in its development, and all alumni who donated funds toward its creation.

This past academic year nine events were offered to the Alumni Association, and each event successfully averaged over 200 participants. The topics reflected the interests of alumni. Andria thanked the faculty for all their support, especially the



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	Advancement Office and the IT Department. Similarly this academic year, a number of events will be offered, reflecting the interests of 141 Engagement Survey respondents. These include for example, Trauma, Treatment Modalities, Self-Care, Private Practice, and the FIFSW Talk it Out Clinic. The Distingished Speaker Event will be offered as soon as it is permitted. To start the year off, Jane Middelton-Moz will present on November 8 th . Andria thanked the Alumni Association Board and Executive for their commitment, and all alumni for their participation.	
Nomination and Election of Officers	Matt Regan presented the two positions up for re-nomination/nomination: the position of President currently occupied by Andria Allen, and the position of Secretary currently occupied by Terese Weisberg. There were no further nominations for either position. Both Andria and Terese were acclaimed and Matt congratulated both.	
	In response to a question as to what the Executive plans to accomplish in the upcoming academic year, Andria noted that one of our goals is to maintain and then increase membership participation. Alumni were surveyed to identify their interests, and so our events are being planned based on the input of alumni.	
Adjournment	The business section of the AGM was adjourned at 7:12pm.	Motion to accept:Terese. Second:Pam. All in favour. Approved



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Alumni
Mentoring
Program
Overview of the
Year

Michelle English presented the Alumni Mentoring Program Overview of the Year.

In the fall of 2020 students participated in a *Lunch with a Recent Grad* session, to learn about experiences after graduation.

Then in December, 49 MSW students were matched with a pool of 39 alumni mentors. The January social networking kickoff event was held virtually this year, and turned out to be very successful.

Throughout the remainder of the year workshops were held, focusing for example, on resume writing and interviewing skills. As well, monthly check-ins with students and mentors were completed by the program coordinators, Valerie and Nora.

Michelle announced the 2021 Outstanding Alumni Mentors, nominated by students:

- Travis Peck
- Dana Nielson
- Michelle English

She sent her congratulations and thanked all mentors. She also invited all alumni to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in this program.

Keynote Address: Heather McDonald

Andria turned it over to Faye Mishna who welcomed and introduced Heather McDonald, the Keynote Speaker of the evening.