



UNIVERSITY  
**COLLEGE**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
(UCAA) ANNUAL GENERAL OPEN MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, August 24th, 2020 (6:00 – 8:00 PM)  
via Zoom & Teleconference

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Overview of Meeting, Membership Update.

**Speaker:** Erika Bailey, Chair, UCAA:

- a. Erika Bailey will remain in her role of UCAA Chair for a 1-year term
- b. The global pandemic delayed UCAA recruitment of new members, but provided an opportunity to connect to UC alumni on a local, national, and international stage
- c. Congratulations and welcome to newest executive member, Chris Girard (BCom 2005 UC), who will serve a 3-year term
- d. Thank you and acknowledgement of contributions to executive member, Rae Gaouette (BA 1962 UC), who had to resign in early September
  - i. UCAA will be following steps outlined in the UCAA by-law: By-Law 5.5 (Vacancies and Resignations) and will meet to invite an Appointee
  - ii. The confirmed appointee will be announced on the [UCAA webpage](#).

2. Vision for UC and the role of UC Alumni

**Speaker:** Markus Stock, UC Principal

- a. Participation and sharing are important values to him
- b. Stated that alumni bolster UC through volunteering, financial aid to infrastructure, programs, and so much more
- c. Looks to alumni to see where we are going as an institution, how we can provide for the students, and how we can show our fellow alumni the value of this growing community
- d. UC will remain true to inclusiveness, diversity, and open inquiry. These values are even more important these days, and that UC lives up to its promise to be a true representation of Canadian society.

3. Plans for UC Alumni

**Speaker:** Naomi Handley, Director of Advancement, UC

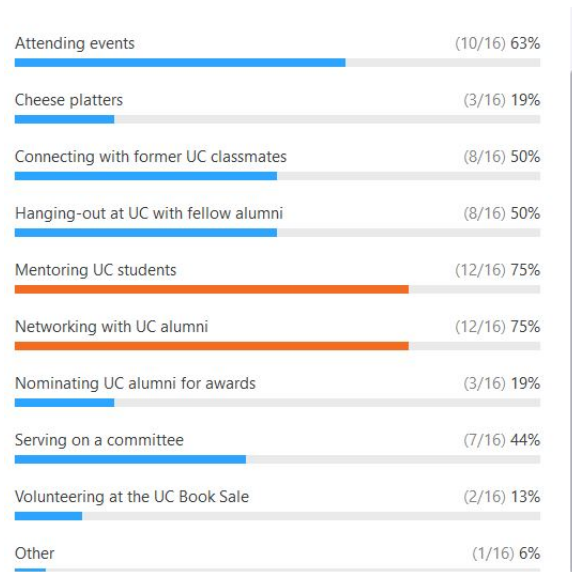
- a. UC Advancement is working hard to create an online community for alumni
- b. Our social media channels have been active in recognizing, highlighting, and engaging with various campaigns and important issues (National Indigenous History Month, Pride, Perspectives on Covid-19, and more)
- c. Overview of upcoming events, some of which may be shared through the [#StayHome U of T Hub](#) as well as being found on our [UC website](#)

- d. The re-opening for new and revitalized spaces at UC has been postponed until further notice
4. Vision for UC students in year ahead  
**Speaker:** Liam Bryant, President, UC Lit
    - a. UC Lit has been operating digitally since March, commissioners are working from home
    - b. The Lit is looking to see what can be accomplished with the technology at hand for events (digitizing Fireball, for example) as the JCR and other spaces cannot be used
    - c. Maintain the culture of the College, “even if UC students don’t know how to do it right, we make a good dance of it!”
  5. Reflections as Past Chair  
**Speaker:** Ho K. Sung, Past Chair, UCAA
    - a. The By-laws and Constitution provide a firm foundation for the UCAA as it meets new challenges
    - b. Ho reminisces fondly on the opportunities being the Chair of the UCAA has provided, such as welcoming Markus as the new Principal at the Installation, and having a working relationship with the UC Principals and UC Advancement offices
    - c. Hopes the UCAA will continue to help with engagement in the UC community
    - d. Thanks to all those he has connected with over his years as a member and Chair of the UCAA
  6. Plans for the UCAA in 2020-21  
**Speaker:** Erika Bailey, Chair, UCAA
    - a. All UC alumni are a part of the UCAA after graduation
    - b. The UCAA Executive Committee aims to foster community amongst UCAA members
    - c. Erika is creating a succession plan for the incoming Chair next year, looking to feed into a longer-term planning process around what our membership thinks the UCAA is
    - d. Erika invited each executive member to briefly introduce themselves
      - i. Sharda Angl “Fostering community is important. Looking at all the backgrounds that come together. Proud to be a part of the team!”
      - ii. Dayna Waltman “Always pleased to be involved with this wonderful community. I have fond memories, and the community has been staple in her life. I am happy to have a strong voice in this community building environment.”
      - iii. Chris Girard “Very excited to join with the UCAA, getting more involved with UC over the years. Started with UC Books, am also involved with the College of Electors. I look forward to more chances to collaborate!”
      - iv. Julie Jo – sends her regrets, could not attend the meeting.

## 7. Poll & Break-out Rooms

**Poll Question:** “When you think of a UC alumni community, what do you wish for?”

Results:



### Summary of Break-out room discussions:

Erika:

Value of the online experience and how it brings everyone together in easier ways; sense of value across generations, and more work to do to connect with emerging alumni and what else we can offer as a community.

Sharda:

Togetherness, being in person is our ideal. In this space and scenario, breakout groups are great ways to feel that connection still. Salon talks, have a breakout session or an open 15 min for people to chat and check in with each other. Foster that community, leave profession behind and meet for human contact. Find ways to make connections happen.

Dayna:

In current world, zoom and tech does break down barriers. Also on leaders of UCAA to ensure we have a proper diverse pool to engage through this tool (zoom). Also discussing inclusivity and challenges that technology brings and privacy. Positive spin on what engagement allows, maintaining the energy and momentum that we get online and carry it through in person when we rely less on technology.

Chris:

People at different life stages: early, mid, retire. Common theme of connecting. Opportunities for mentoring, also offering “seniors” chats. Finding different topics and self-select and connect through those means. Invite UC community together and chat about this. Young alumni have a larger interest in learning from senior alumni, looking to a mentorship role. Speed dating for employers/employees, help younger alumni get exposed to different people. Common unifier of UC community. Commuters vs. on residence find those connections.

## Questions:

1. **How do you remain so involved and manage to get things done?**

**Answered by Ho:** *Find something that's meaningful to you, you will make time for it. A lot of it comes down to time management and prioritization*

2. **What's been the biggest challenge to the UCAA in the past?**

**Answered by Ho:** *The biggest challenge was to reach out to all the alumni to let them know we exist as an organization. We've made some positive steps in that direction.*

a. **And as you see it today?**

**Answered by Erika:** *Trying to connect with newer alumni – what community we are becoming? What do they want from the community?*

3. **How has alumni engagement changed since the onset of COVID? improved at all?**

**Answered by Naomi:** *Our geographic reach has increased, and interest has improved. We receive notes of "thank you for giving us something to do". We are lacking the physical connection, that's been hard to duplicate online. Not all of us are fluent in technology, and not everyone is comfortable using MS Teams or Zoom. We are doing wellness checks, connecting on a personal level with alumni and donors who are feeling isolated.*

4. **How are the students adapting to COVID?**

**Answered by Liam:** *For UC students, many of them do not know that the UC lit exist! The first years especially, they have no sense of reminiscence about the JCR and physical spaces. They may not have the same connection, and they have had to be more involved with the virtual community – despite everything, we have over 25 people who want to run for 1st year positions on council! We've quadrupled our social media strategy. People see the content, but don't always engage with it, they may be engaged but just on their own terms, not in a tangible method.*

*Looking to transform all that they love as students into some sort of virtual component, such as the UC orientation – UC is the only college that had an in-person component for their orientation.*

5. **Anything the alumni could do to help make this time less stressful?**

**Answered by Markus:** *Right balance of validating worries but also trying to communicate a positive outlook. UC alumni can help us amplify the message that we wish we weren't in this situation, but everyone is understanding that we are all stressed. There is a community there to help.*

*More concretely: students are relating to UC content via social media and online info channels. Helpful if alumni amplify messages from the college, help us create an online community. That's how students mostly relate to the college right now. They are using it, the better we get it out there, the better it is for reaching the students. Messaging can come from our vibrant community!*

6. **Will the mentorship program be adapting to better meet students' current needs? Do we understand their new needs?**

**Answered by Erika:** *3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students: insight – not only those that would benefit from reaching out to the alumni, but all students. All students would enjoy the opportunity to connect with the UC alumni community in some shape or form. Keep the institutional memories going,*

*because the connection is important.*

*Would hope that the program, or mixer/panel for students and alumni would be helpful. The students may not know they need it until they experience it. Many students would really cherish being able to speak with alumni, and the need is probably more than one it looks like looking from the outside.*

**Expanded upon by Emily Kakouris:**

*We are continuously learning about what those new needs are, especially as the program has moved to an online only platform. There is the opportunity to, for future years, invite first and second year students to also participate in the UC Career Mentorship program. We understand there's been questions about the job market, access to services, and more. Alumni and students are adapting to the changes, and we'll be doing our best to meet those needs. I am asking current mentors who have applied for 2020-2021 to submit any questions or concerns they may have about the program this year and will modify orientation materials to reflect those needs.*

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