

**SAGA Executive Meeting
Room 2D21 Agriculture Building
Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

PRESENT: Mayson Maerz (chair), Keith Head, Dennis Ewanus, Vern Racz, Bryan Harvey, Ewald Lammerding, Blair Cummins, Madison Englot, Eric Johnson, Lucas Ringdal, Raelene Petracek
by phone: Irene Ahner, Page Newton
Regrets: Hamish Tulloch, Louis Bossaer

1. Call to order by Chairperson Mayson Maerz at 7:06 pm
2. Adoption of Agenda
 - **MOTION:** B. Harvey CARRIED.
3. Adoption of minutes from April 2018 meeting
 - Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting
 - **MOTION:** B. Harvey CARRIED.
4. Business arising from the Minutes
 - none
5. Correspondence
 - none
6. Financial Report – D. Ewanus
 - Financial Report was electronically distributed by D. Ewanus prior to the meeting
 - Website is ready to go for Reunion registrations as soon as price is determined it can be set up.

MOTION: accept Financial Report, D. Ewanus – CARRIED

MOTION: Set registration fees for Reunion the same as last year \$75 early, \$85 late, I. Ahner - CARRIED

7. Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – K. Head/V. Racz/E. Lammerding/M. Maerz

The following Report provided electronically:

Committee activities were limited during the summer months.
Brochures were made available at the various Cheers with Peers activities.
The Terms of Reference have been reviewed by Dr. Walley. The Scholarship Committee needs to review them. The Terms of Reference are attached as a separate file.

Dean Buhr is hoping that the scholarship will be open to the Kanawayihetaytan Askiy (KA) certificate students. This is the certificate program involving the basic environmental, legal and economic aspects of land and resource management in Aboriginal communities.

<https://agbio.usask.ca/programs/kanawayihetaytan-askiy-ka-program.php#OurstudentsarefromacrossCanada>

To date there has been one contribution to the scholarship fund. More promotion is required and likely should be focused on the reunion year chairs.

- Discussed request to have the Scholarship open to the KA certificate students and the decision was made to leave as is (Degree and Diploma) until there is more money in it.
- Decided that the Committee should draft an email to all of our members informing them about the scholarship and include the link to it.
 - Will be sent to the Reunion Chairs and to our email list.
 - Will see if Hamish can send this out

ASA - M. Englot.

- Golf Tournament was a success. Were ~15 teams, made ~\$2500
- Grad is Jan 19th at TCU Place
- Bean Feed – November 01
- Career Fair – Oct 17
- Fundraisers – TBD
- Telemiracle Bed has been replaced, old bed will be displayed in Lounge

Reunion – E. Johnson

- All Reunion Chairs are in place except for maybe 1999 School.

Banquet/Mixer Report - Ewald L.

- Everything Booked
- WDM Display, would like to do it again. Suggestion: bring in an old piece of equipment (or picture maybe) for people to guess what it is
- Should we include the samples again? Talked to Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote and she thought it was worthwhile so we will do it again- Mayson suggested Louis could continue to take care of this again.
- Downstairs is booked for next year
- Dennis confirmed that the website is all set to go, have done a couple of test runs
- Deposit paid for next year

Friday Event – M. Maerz for H. Tulloch.

- Hamsh is going to start working on guides for the tours
- Food & Refreshments – Hamish will work with Dean's office.
- Suggestion: an earlier tour of the Synchrotron (noonish) – would need to check with CLS.
- Suggestion: Centre of Excellence will be open for tours – would need to be set up ahead of time. There is the possibility of use of a bus that the Agros have access to.
 - Suggested time: ~10:00 on Sat in order to get back in time.

Hockey –

- No report – Lucas will talk to Billy

Newsletter – E.Lammerding.

- Deadline is Nov 15
- Looking for new sponsors – only have one currently

Development Office and Alumni Relations Report – H. Tulloch.

- Report provided electronically

1. SAGA Award and funds raised

Fran is supportive of the current draft of the terms of reference. Assuming these most recent edits meet with SAGA's approval then the award is ready to be made final.

The response to the SAGA award has been quite limited so far. We've just received a single donation for \$250. I believe there is potential to generate some interest in the award through contacting the class chairs and explaining the existence/purpose of the award fund. If the class chairs are supportive of this award then they can be encouraged to ask their classmates to contribute to the fund. I had hoped to reach out to the chairs during the summer but just couldn't find the time. Perhaps the award subcommittee could meet in the next few weeks to discuss how to proceed with promoting the award.

2. SPAM to SAGA email list

A number of spam messages that appear to be coming from Tanya have been sent to the saga_alumni mailing list. I have been working with University's IT services group to find a solution, which has only been partially successful. It seems that the same mailing list is now being accessed through agbio.alumni@uask.ca email address instead of Tanya's. I am waiting on a call back from IT services again but as of late Monday afternoon I don't have this resolved.

1. Lists for reunion chairs

This isn't an immediate problem but next year we may have issues generating useful class lists for the reunion chairs. This is the result of policy changes that are being implemented by University Relations around alumni data. Essentially, we are being told to only share names of graduates without any contact information. This would have affected us this year except I thankfully wasn't aware of the policy change when I created the list information for the class chairs. In my state of ignorance, the list information I provided included contact information. In addition to providing less (and almost useless) information, the new policy also obliges the chair to attend a training session before the list of names can be shared (along with signing a Confidentiality Agreement).

I suspect the policy has come about because of pressure to protect private information but I think it is being carried too far. This policy is new to me too and I still don't fully understand it but I will try to find out some more to share at our next meeting.

- Noted that there are ~700 mailed and 1200 emailed newsletters so we need to do a practice run of an email before we need to send out the newsletters (email re: scholarship).
- Mayson will set up meeting with Dr. Buhr re: lists.

Crop Production Week – K. Head

- Following Report provided electronically:

The Crop Week AGM was held on April 9, 2018. At that meeting two new members were welcomed to the group. The Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission and the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission are the new members.

Also at the AGM there was discussions on the future structure of Crop Production Week Inc. Currently the 6 groups meeting as CropSphere are members of Crop Week. However, CropSphere plans to incorporate and at that time would require only one membership in Crop Week.

The other concern is with sponsorship. CropSphere involves one venue and integrated activities while the activities of the other members of Crop Week occur at several venues. Consequently, sponsors prefer to support CropSphere making Crop Week sponsorship difficult to obtain.

A special meeting is scheduled for Oct 31 to discuss the future structure of Crop Production Week Inc.

Much the same as last year, may be a couple of new members

Membership/Website – V. Racz/K. Head/D. Ewanus

- Master list is updated monthly
- Website is updated
- There were 23 of the free 1st yr members, Vern is trying to put them in a separate list
- Keith requested photos from our summer activities for the website
- There are ~700 mailed and 1200 emailed newsletters, need to do a practice run of an email before we need to send out the newsletters

Hall of Fame – B. Harvey

- New format worked well
- Request for nominations, they keep them on file for subsequent years

MAL – I. Ahner/ B. Cummins/P. Newton

- Agribition get together date will likely be 22nd Nov. Same place as last year, it was a good place with lots of traffic
- Crop Production, was some confusion with the company we thought was sponsoring, there are a couple of ideas for new sponsor

Vice President – E. Johnson

- All covered previously

Past President – L. Ringdal

- Nothing else to report

President Report –M. Maerz

- Report provided electronically.
 - Vice President
 - Eric Johnson, Research Assistant at the U of S, has stepped forward to take on the role of Vice President.

AgBio Convocation Ceremonies, June 6

- I represented our Association on stage for this ceremony. Lots of smiling, handshakes and congratulations all around.

Farm Progress Show Cheers with Peers, June 21

- Ewald and Blair Cummins MAL co-ordinated efforts
- Estimate 30 (?) Ag grads came and went
- We were closed down an hour earlier than advertised, due to a country concert.

Ag In Motion Cheers with Peers, July 19

- Good turnout of Ag graduates, probably 30 over course of afternoon?
- Ewald and Louis were the constants; myself, Lucas and forgive me if I missed anyone...
- Drinks sponsored by DEKALB and Brett Young Seeds to the tune of \$100.00 each.
- Question: how do we turn these events into membership promotions and sales?

Friday Night AgBio event for Reunion Weekend, August 3rd

- Met with Hamish at College on Friday, August 3rd to discuss Friday night AgBio event, in the absence of College Development Co-ordinator. Hamish confident he can pull together similar resources to ensure the evening runs smoothly.
- I volunteered SAGA to help where necessary (ex: building tours, our presence at Lounge)

Agro Golf Tournament, Friday August 24th

- Ewald brought banner stands which were set up at one of the holes, as well as near the bar at supper.
- I was present with a questionable team and wore the SAGA/DEKALB Seeds hats for the day.
- For the first attempt I felt the event went very well. Timing is always the challenge, but concept was to allow employers to utilize as a wrap-up event. I know of at least two companies who did.

Alumni Reunion Weekend, September 20-22

- No plans for SAGA to attend, currently.

In summary, these are the activities I have been involved in for the summer. Now, time to gear up for the Reunion Weekend!

MOTION: Accept Reports: B. Cummins CARRIED.

8. New / Other business

- none

9. Date of Next Meeting

- Tues October 16 at 7:00

10. Adjournment – 8:59pm V. Racz