Durham College Alumni Association

**Annual General Meeting**

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| **Date**: September 15, 2021  **Time**: 2:30 p.m. | **Place**: Virtual Meeting- Run the World platform |

**Board Members** Nicole Blackman, Carrie-Anne Atkins, Cameron Ackerblade, Gabby De Sousa, , Vanessa Hughes, Brent Lessard, Amanda Morari, Peter Wiebe, Jonathan Hurter

**Regrets:** Ryan Cullen, Lorraine Fuller, Amanda MacDonald

**In Attendance:** 66 people registered for attendance-see list on file in ODAA

**Staff:** Don Lovisa, Linda Flynn, Sally Hillis

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

At 2:30 p.m., DCAA Board President, Nicole Blackman, welcomed attendees and called on Cameron Ackerblade, past president, to give the Land Acknowledgement recognizing Durham College is situated on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation which is now home to many Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island (North America).

Due to the pandemic, the AGM is being held virtually again this year and a link for the meeting was sent to all alumni who registered to attend. Nicole reviewed housekeeping items especially in regards to how voting will be managed and that the meeting will be recorded. Documents including the annual report, agenda, minutes from last year’s meeting, proposed 2021-2022 slate of Board of Directors and their bio summaries were uploaded to the alumni website, 30 days in advance of the AGM as per the DCAA Constitution requirements.

1. **Durham College Update – Don Lovisa, President**

Nicole introduced Don Lovisa, president of Durham College who gave opening remarks. Highlights of his report included an update on the Whitby trades expansion- the Centre for Skilled Trades and Technology, the Centre for Research & Innovation and Trades Innovation Centre. Don thanked the alumni association for their ongoing support of Durham College, its alumni and students.

3.0 **Adoption of Previous Minutes dated September 30, 2020**

Nicole reviewed highlights of the minutes of last year’s annual general meeting including a review of alumni activities and events; 18 graduating students were recognized with the DCAA Leaders of the Future Award; and various reports were received from the president, finance and nominating committee. There were no questions.

*Motion to accept the DCAA Minutes dated September 30, 2020: V. Hughes/C. Atkins*

*Motion Carried*

4.0 **President’s Report** **– Nicole Blackman**

Nicole gave her report using a power point presentation commenting on highlights from the past year in the 2020-2021 DCAA Annual Report:

* *Alumni Initiatives*- $300,000 donation to the Centre for Skilled Trades and Technology which included a one-time $50,000 matching opportunity for alumni and friends of the college. An additional pledge of $250,000 was approved by the Board. Beginning with the 2021-2022 budget, over the next five years, $50,000/year will go to the Building for Skills campaign. Alumni staff created a new guide to assist graduates as they navigate life after college. Partnership with DCSA (Durham College Student Association) included the purchase of an advertisement in the Student Survival Guide and an orientation gift. Alumni staff launched a social media campaign, Alumni in Focus, highlighting DC’s recent and not so recent alumni at various stages in their career
* *Alumni Outreach*- DCAA supported the Grad Lawn Sign event to celebrate grads with lawn signs due to cancellation of Convocation. Enactus DC partnership- Enactus DC team was recognized for their successful year and the important contribution the team makes to society.
* *Alumni Events-* DC Alumni Series had 4 events this past year covering topics from impact of COVID-19, racial disparities in law enforcement and healthcare, mental health and global supply chain challenges in a disrupted world.
* Congratulations to our 4 Alumni of Distinction award recipients and best of luck to our 5 Premier’s Award nominees.

There were no questions.

*Motion to accept the President’s report: C. Ackerblade/A MacDonald*

*Motion Carried*

5.0 **Finance Report – Sally Hillis**

Sally Hillis referred to the 2020-2021 DCAA Annual Report, pgs 37-39 and gave a high-level review of the Finance Report noting the fiscal year is September 1-August 31 and the finance report in the Annual Report is actual revenue/expenses as of July 31 with estimates to period ending August 31, 2021.

Highlights include:

* Budget of $129,500 which included a surplus of $24,750 carried forward from last year. Total revenue exceeded projected revenue by 4% and total expenses were over budget by 41% resulting in $13,025 deficit. This is primarily due to the one-time approval by the Board to use $50,000 from savings for matching funds for the Building for Skills campaign.
* $12,000 was disbursed in bursaries and scholarships.
* The final year of a five year CFCE campaign pledge was made for $50,000
* The board sponsored the DC Grad Lawn Sign event again this year due to the postponement of Convocation.
* Bank balance as of July 31 is $173,935.

**Endowment Fund**

Opening balance $327,890

Bursaries (9 x $1000) 9,000

Closing balance $373,781

Joint Endowment with $ 1,600 (1 @ $1600 bursaries)

OACETT (2012)

(Ontario Association of Certified

Engineering Technicians and

Technologists)

There were no questions.

*Motion to accept the Finance report: C. Ackerblade/J Hurter*

*Motion Carried*

6.0 **Nominating Committee Report – Carrie-Anne Atkins**

Carrie-Anne Atkins reviewed the Nominating Committee report advising there were four board openings and two of these have been filled by new directors (Ann Marie Morrison and Cassie-Jean Dillon) and one has been filled by existing board director, Brent Lessard, to serve a second term. Current board director, Ryan Cullen, has withdrawn his candidacy leaving a vacancy that, in accordance with the Constitution, can be addressed at a later time. Carrie-Anne reviewed the process that was followed to notify the membership of the board openings, interview and selection process.

In response to a question concerning how members are defined for the alumni association, Sally Hillis referred to Article 5 of the DCAA Constitution defining membership. There were no further questions.

*Motion to accept the Nominating Committee report: C. Atkins/A MacDonald*  *Motion Carried*

Carrie-Anne reviewed the proposed slate of DCAA Board of Directors for 2021-2022.

*Motion to accept the 2021-2022 Slate of DCAA Board of Directors: C. Atkins/V Hughes*

*Motion Carried*

7.0 **Constitution Committee Report- Jonathan Hurter**

Jonathan advised that due to the change in the DCAA Mission and Vision Statements approved by the Board this past year for the 2021-2024 DCAA Strategic Plan, amendments are required to the DCAA Constitution dated September 11, 2019. There were no questions.

*Motion to revise the following sections of the DCAA Constitution dated September 11, 2019 to be in alignment with the new 2021-2024 DCAA Strategic Plan and to read as follows:*

*Article Three: Vision of the Association*

*3.01 We are a diverse global network of DC alumni that supports and encourages its members to stay connected by inspiring collaboration, engagement, giving and a commitment to success for future generations.*

*Article Four: Mission of the Association*

*4.01 Bringing the Durham College (DC) community together.*

*J Hurter/C Atkins Motion Carried*

8.0 **2021-2024 DCAA Strategic Plan- Brent Lessard**

On behalf of Ryan Cullen, Brent advised this past year the Board held 2 workshops and numerous meetings to create a new strategic plan for the next three years. Board, student representatives and an alumni focus group provided important information for the planning process. Special thanks were extended to Peter Garrett and Ryan Cullen for their leadership in creating this new plan. Brent reviewed the highlights of the document including the new Mission and Vision statements, four pillars and goals associated with each pillar. He thanked all who were all involved in creating this important plan which will guide the DCAA over the next three years.

9.0 **Leaders of the Future Award – Nicole Blackman**

Nicole gave a brief description about how this award was established and criteria for selection committee. 20 recipients were recognized this past year and will receive award money of $250, a certificate and congratulations letter.

10.0 **Closing Remarks**

Linda recognized and thanked Nicole Blackman for her service as board president this past year and her years of service on the board. She also recognized the important work Nicole has done as a front line health care worker during this pandemic especially her support of the Indigenous community.

Nicole recognized retiring board directors Vanessa Hughes and Ryan Cullen for their years of service and advised that Carrie-Anne Atkins is incoming president for the DCAA and Gabby DeSousa will move to VP1. She thanked the board and staff for their support. She reminded everyone to stay tuned for the alumni virtual social, Cocktails & Conversations, that will follow the meeting.

9.0 **Adjournment**

*N Blackman adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm*