

**Community Affairs Board  
Innis College Council  
Monday 10 December 2018 at 1:30 pm  
Innis College, Room 310, East Wing**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Elspeth Arbow, Lucas Granger, Joyce Hahn (assessor), Charlie Keil, Daniel Li, Merle McMurray, Tony Pi, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Bart Testa, Joanne Uyede, Ben Weststrate (assessor), Victoria Wilson (designate of Dianthi Fernando), Caroline Wrobel, Andrew Zhao

**Regrets:** Ennis Blentic (assessor), Rita Chen, Dianthi Fernando, Brandon Liu, Ashlee Redmond

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

**2. ELECTION OF MODERATOR AND SECRETARY**

A Motion to acclaim Caroline Wrobel as moderator was moved (Arbow), seconded (Zhao), and carried. A Motion to acclaim Lucas Granger as secretary was moved (Wilson), seconded (Uyede), and carried.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2018**

A Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was moved (Uyede), seconded (Li), and carried. [Click here to view the minutes.](#)

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None reported.

**5. ADVANCEMENT OFFICE REPORT**

Weststrate reported the following, on behalf of Ennis Blentic, associate director, advancement:

**A. Communications**

- The focus of mass communications this term has been on event promotion.
- The third issue of the *Innis Alumni & Friends Magazine* in final stages of editing, and will be distributed imminently to ~7500 alumni and friends of the College.
- The alumni e-newsletter series will be relaunched in the winter term, with the help of work-study student Louisa You. This issue will include: alumni interviews; media highlights/headlines; a story from *The Herald*; upcoming events; and a link to communications-focused feedback survey. An attempt is being made to strike a balance between alumni and student content. Keil recommended including some of the Innis Student Life eNewsletter student interviews.

**B. Alumni Mentorship Program**

Coordinated by Lara Roccatani, alumni and events coordinator, and Sarah Burley Hollows, assistant dean-

student life, the fifth cycle of the program launched on October 23, 2018 with a meant-and-greet reception. There are approximately 30 alumni-student pairings.

Keil noted that the primary limiting factor, with respect to the number of pairings, has been a deficiency of student-mentee applicants, resulting in unpaired, would-be mentors. He invited feedback on how to increase student interest. The following recommendations came forth:

- Better advertising the central U of T [mentorship program database](#)
- Including (anonymous) descriptions of mentors and sample mentor-mentee pairings in the promotions
- Better communicating that the program is also for students who have less clear career paths, and who are seeking guidance throughout their university experience—as well as those outside of Cinema Studies
- Better communicating the concept of mentorship in the promotional campaign
- Conducting classroom visits to key Innis-based courses
- Projecting promotional posters on the Innis Town Hall screen prior to lectures
- Facilitating pairings on a rolling basis, throughout the year, to accommodate students after the initial launch date

## C. Innis College Alumni Network

### Events since last Board meeting:

- Apr 18: Alumni dinner with Sarah Weaver & Asha Daniere
- Apr 26: Alumni dinner with Tom Timmins & Jeff Rubin
- June 1: Class of 1968 fiftieth reunion, with a special performance by class rep and folk signer Bob Bossin
- June 28: Regional alumni reunion in New York City, hosted by Eddy Moretti
- July 7: First-of-its-kind “Reunion in the Green” for all College alumni, featuring food and beverages by various Innis alumni (e.g., Grand Electric taco truck; Dufflet pastries)
- July 19: Regional reunion in San Francisco, hosted by Nick Shah
- July 24: Los Angeles reunion, hosted by Stephanie and Erika Savage
- Oct 3: Writing and Rhetoric (W&R) panel, “Sexism in Cyberspace”
- Nov 8: Annual Harold Innis Lecture featuring Charlotte Gray
- Nov 13: Alumni dinner with Mark McDowell and Sheila Htoo
- Nov 22: Innis Student Award Ceremony with keynote speakers Larry Wasser and Sav Brar
- Nov 27: Alumni dinner with Cherise Burda and Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
- Nov 27: W&R public lecture with Lawrence Grossberg
- Nov 28: Q&A with Eddy Moretti
- Nov 28: Advance screening of “Clara” with director and producer
- Dec 7: Second annual Refugee Student Benefit Concert

### Upcoming Events:

- Jan 16: Reprise of the London, UK regional event
- Jan 24: Screening of the documentary “The Woman Who Loves Giraffes” with Anne Innis Dagg (daughter of Harold Innis) and director Alison Reid

- Jan 31: Screening of “Octavio Is Dead!” with filmmaker Sook-Yin Lee
- Feb 14: Screening of “Brown Girl Begins” with alumna-filmmaker Sharon Lewis, as part of Black Future Month
- Mar 28: Lecture by alumnus Phil Howard of the Oxford Internet Institute

Keil added that discussion of additional regional reunions in Vancouver and Hong Kong is underway. In addition to the group mixers, Keil and Blentic scheduled several individual meetings with alumni in each location.

## 6. LATER LIFE LEARNING REPORT

Later Life Learning (LLL) president Merle McMurray reported that the recent Refugee Student Benefit Concert was wonderful, as was the fall pilot program “Books & Beyond,” where a dozen members read and discussed books with the help of librarian Kate Johnson. The program was “almost too good” in that the frequency of books was intense. The winter iteration will be scaled back (to four books). McMurray noted that the Monday, Tuesday and Friday LLL lectures are as popular as ever.

## 7. HAROLD INNIS FOUNDATION REPORT

Foundation president Ceta Ramkhalawansingh reported that the Board of Directors will meet immediately after this. The annual Harold Innis Lecture series, revived three years ago, featured Canadian author-biographer Charlotte Gray on November 8. The event was a sell-out. The 2019 Lecture will feature Dionne Brand, award-winning novelist and poet and Governor General’s Prize recipient.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

### A. Revitalisation and Expansion Campaign Update

Keil reported the following updates:

- A meeting to shortlist architectural bidders is impending
- A committee of 25 “student ambassadors” has been assembled for the general purpose of spreading the word about the project. Among various roles, ambassadors will be informing the student body about the merits of the project, in anticipation of a student levy vote at the spring 2019 general election.

### B. Art Committee Proposal

Weststrate reported that at a recent Student Affairs Board meeting it was proposed that the Art Committee be reconstituted this year under Community Affairs. In 2017/18, the Student Services Committee passed a motion to fund the installation of student artwork within the College, over the course of several years. Despite this decision, and the subsequent selection and installation of student art, a formal committee description (i.e., purpose) was never realized. As such, the question of ownership of the existing art is ambiguous.

Student Affairs proposed that Community Affairs take over, as the latter is better prepared to handle the sale of the artwork (e.g., through silent auction) and the eventual donation of funds to a charitable cause.

Should the Community Affairs Board be willing to take on this subcommittee, it will be responsible for explicitly articulating all logistics of selection, installation, sale and donation.

Community Affairs Board members discussed involving the Office of Student Life, and its “Arts & Culture” portfolio, in the call for artwork submissions. It was also suggested that Innis alumnus Jim Shedden, manager of Publishing at the AGO, could help answer questions.

The Board resolved to defer the question of re-striking the Art Committee to the next Executive Committee meeting. Weststrate volunteered himself and Redmond to draft a proposal to bring to that meeting.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Wrobel), seconded (Granger), and carried.