



# **Annual Report**

**April 11, 2018**

The Constitution of University of Regina Women calls for an annual general meeting (AGM) to be held in the spring of each year. The main purpose of this meeting is to elect officers (members of the Executive). In addition, the Constitution provides for alteration or amendment by majority vote of members at a regular business meeting, and the AGM has served this purpose. The Treasurer also provides an annual financial statement for the information and approval of members at the AGM.

A copy of the Annual Report is provided electronically to all members and in hard copy to those members who request it in that form. A hard copy of the Annual Report will be available at the meeting.

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**University of Regina Women  
Annual General Meeting  
April 11, 2018 La Rotonde, University of Regina**

1. Guest speaker: Deanne Guest, Annual Giving Officer, External Relations—University of Regina
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of minutes of 2017 AGM (attached)
4. Reports from UR Women Executive
  - a. Past-President
  - b. President
  - c. Vice President
  - d. Treasurer
  - e. Membership
  - f. Publicity
  - g. Interest groups
  - h. Social Program
5. Nominating Committee Report (A. Hayford/S.McCarthy)
  - a. We are nominating the following for positions starting June 2018
    - i. President: Samy McCarthy
    - ii. Vice-President: Laurie Carlson-Berg
    - iii. Membership: Marilyn Lewry
    - iv. Social Convenor: Bonnie Dobni
  - b. We are looking for nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary
  - c. Alison Hayford will become Past President
  - d. The following will continue in their positions until 2019: Treasurer—Catherine Arthur-MacDonald; Interest Groups—Janet Listoe; Publicity—Ruth Heinrichs
6. Old Business
  - a. Spring Convocation reception—request for volunteers
  - b. Annual bursary—funding
7. New Business
  - a. Change of procedure: responsibility for working with External Relations on bursary—the URW Handbook designates the past president; proposal to add current vice-president
  - b. Change to informal procedures re interest groups: To start from 0 with book clubs and possibly other groups at the Fall welcome back reception
  - c. Brown Bag lunches—volunteers
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

**Minutes  
University of Regina Women  
Annual General Meeting  
April 12, 2017  
University Club**

1. The meeting was called to order by the President.
2. Agenda: Moved and seconded and approved unanimously
3. Minutes of 2016 AGM: Moved and seconded and approved unanimously
4. Reports from UR Women Executive: Members received reports from the Executive. Only the report from the treasurer required approval.
  - a. President
  - b. Past-President
  - c. Treasurer: Fiscal statement and report for 2016-2017 moved and seconded and approved unanimously.
  - d. Membership
  - e. Publicity
  - f. Social Program
5. Nominating Committee Report
  - a. Nominations from the floor for Secretary
  - b. Nominations for President (A. Hayford), Vice-President (S. McCarthy), Treasurer (C. Arthur-Macdonald); Social program (L. Paul), Membership (N. Millard), Publicity (R. Heinrichs); Interest Groups (J. Listoe)  
There were no nominations from the floor. All nominations were approved unanimously.
6. Old Business
  - a. Spring Convocation reception—request for volunteers (June 7,8,9)
  - b. Storage of silver (information)
7. New Business

Motions requiring approval:

  - a. Motion 1: That fees for membership in University of Regina Women be increased from \$20.00 to \$30.00. Moved and seconded and approved unanimously.
  - b. Motion 2: That University of Regina Women amend the criteria for membership to include all alumnae (female graduates) of the University of Regina. Moved and seconded and approved unanimously.

Other new business:

  - c. Replacing events formerly held jointly with CFUW: It was agreed to continue organizing a Fall event.
8. Adjournment

## Reports from members of the Executive

President: Alison Hayford

**Meetings of the Executive:** The University of Regina Women Executive met in August, October, and January. The January meeting was held on campus and the first part of the meeting was open to all members of URW. While not as many members attended as we had hoped, the plan is to continue to hold at least one open Executive meeting a year. A planned March meeting was completed by email because of difficulties in finding a time when most members could attend.

I would like to thank all the members of the Executive who have worked hard to keep University of Regina Women an active organization. I would like to extend particular recognition to those who have completed their terms on the Executive—Susan McLaren as Past President, Norma Millard as Membership Convenor, and Linda Paul as Social Events Convenor. And it goes without saying that I also extend thanks to those members of the Executive who are continuing in their positions for another year and who in some cases are committed to Executive positions beyond that time.

**General report:** Some of what I have to say repeats points I made in previous reports, but past issues are still significant. Membership remains static, and while we have attracted some new members and some younger members, our membership still consists largely of women who have retired or are close to retirement. Many of our interest groups have been largely closed to new members. Some of our activities are more accessible for women with relatively flexible schedules than those who face constraints on their time through work and family obligation.

An ageing membership is not a problem in and of itself, but like any organization, if URW is to survive, we must maintain or (preferably) increase our numbers. In order to do this, members of URW must think about the purposes and goals of URW as an organization. Its original purpose was, in large part, to provide a setting where wives of men associated with the University could find social relationships and also serve the University in some ways. While this purpose made sense for many women in the past, it no longer reflects the realities of most women's lives. Younger women are either associated with the University through their own work or, if through partners, they are likely to have social connections through their own employment or in other ways. Women who are employed often work long hours, and if they are also raising children, they may have little or no free time. Serving at convocation receptions, which take place on weekday afternoons, is usually not possible for women who are employed or who have young children (and even more impossible for the many women doing both). For many women, finding time to curl on a weekly basis or even to read for a book club

once a month or prepare a dinner for 12 once a year can be overwhelming in the context of all the other claims on their time. These are realities URW needs to recognize.

In addition, each stage of life brings its own particular interests and needs. Women who are at the stage where they are raising children not only tend to have very little time for other activities, they may want to spend the free time they do have with women at their own stage of life. Many current members of URW are at the stage of life where they are dealing with elderly parents or in-laws, or are themselves the elderly parents and in-laws. While people often enjoy sharing activities with people who are at stages of life different from their own, people who have limited free time may prefer to spend it with others whose interests are close to their own. Organizations hoping to have a broad membership need to recognize the breadth of interests and needs of their members.

Members of the Executive think that URW can remain relevant, but we recognize that for URW to maintain itself or to grow, we need to make some changes. First, we need to recognize the different ways in which women relate to the University of Regina. Second, we need to offer activities and events that fit into the different kinds of time constraints faced by our members. Third, we need to offer activities and events that reflect interests that cross generation gaps.

In response to these concerns the Executive has proposed a number of changes to URW. Last year, URW members voted to extend membership to alumnae. Over the past three years, the Executive has looked at ways of making our interest groups and events more accessible to current and potential members.

- We expanded some current interest groups and developed some new ones.
- We scheduled some interest groups at times that work better for women who don't have free time on weekdays and who might find it difficult to attend events on weekday evenings. Thus we offer a weekend book club, which has been successful, and a weekend walking group which did not succeed (but is worth trying again).

The Executive has also discussed ways to make URW more visible to potential members and more meaningful to current members. For many years, the September Welcome Back reception has been our only open event on campus, while our only other visibility was serving at the Convocation reception. We thought it would be good to make URW more present within the University community, and to this end, we initiated two practices that we hope will succeed in the long run.

- First, we held an open meeting of the Executive on campus with the idea that this would encourage current members to bring their ideas to the organization and feel more actively a part of it. This meeting did not draw on as many people as we had hoped, but it is a practice we should continue.
- Second, our members form a considerable base of knowledge and experience that can be of interest to the larger University community. One idea that came out of the open

Executive meeting was to hold occasional brown bag lunches on campus, in which URW members with particular areas of interest or expertise moderate informal public discussions of those areas. I moderated the first brown bag lunch on February 9. The topic was Me Too! and we had good publicity from the University. About 20 people attended, most of them non-members of URW. The hope is to have at least 2 or 3 of these a year and we are looking for other URW members to moderate brown bag lunches on topics of general interest to the University community.

Vice-President: Samy McCarthy

I organized the Convocation Reception Teas In June and October 2017. Everything went without a hitch, and I had more volunteers than I needed. That shows the generosity of our members, and the good work we do for the University. The silver is now stored at the University.

Secretary: Laurie Carlson-Berg

No report

Membership: Norma Millard

We have 58 members. Our membership fee of \$30 covers the cost of some of our events (i.e. the Welcome Back Reception) and subsidizes other events (i.e. the AGM dinner). We also use some of the funds to top up our yearly bursary to a university student. A full list of members has been circulated.

Interest groups: Janet Listoe

The following interest groups continued this year (coordinators' names in parentheses):

- Book Club #1 (Sara Cryderman)
- Book Club #2 (Tatiana Levit)
- Book Club #3 (Janet Listoe)
- Culinary Explorers Club (Lise Lundlie)
- Curling Club (Linda Paul)
- Film Club (Alison Hayford)
- Gourmet Cooking Club (Barbara de Vlieger)
- Le Cercle Francais (Laurie Carlson Berg)
- Mixed Bridge Club (Susan McLaren)
- Walking Club (Judith Conlan)

No new clubs were started this year. Many clubs take a summer break and start again in September. The Welcome Back event would be a good opportunity for a member of each club to say a bit about it and encourage members to try something new. If anyone is interested in starting a new club, please let me know.

Publicity: Ruth Heinrichs

Announcements and reminders were sent out for all URW events. Mailed announcements were sent to those who had requested them. Two newsletters (December and February) were distributed electronically and seven were mailed to those without e-mail or who had requested mailed newsletters.

Social program: Linda Paul:

This year we held three events in addition to the AGM.

Welcome Back:

We held our usual Welcome Back reception in September in Luther College, Room 100. Our Welcome Back events have been located at this venue for several years and Luther knows the routine, what we need, a menu we are familiar with and they keep a list of what we have ordered in previous years. The staff also remembers our event and can fill in details as needed. I suggest we continue to have our Welcome Back in this location. Besides greeting our past members, we welcome potential members, several of whom joined U of R Women.

On November 13, we sponsored a talk by Gary Morin, Assistant Director of Centre for Continuing Education, who spoke about the renovation of the Old Campus. Because of problems with on-campus catering, we held the talk at Greko's restaurant.

Chocolate Tasting: 10 of us gathered at Bernard Callebaut Chocolate shop on March 8 for a chocolate tasting. Everyone enjoyed the event, and we may plan another chocolate tasting for a future date.

Annual General Meeting:

Sandy Wankel from North Central Family Centre is the scheduled speaker for the 2018 AGM. She will show two short videos. As I write this, before the event actually happens, I would like to share my perceptions. The AGM is an annual event. For many years we held this event at the University Club. With their unfortunate closing, we have had to change venues. We decided to



hold the event on campus, at La Rotonde. Thanks to Laurie Carlson-Berg for her initial arrangements and ongoing assistance. So far, we have 33 people attending the 2018 AGM. Arranging the event in this location required several visits to La Rotonde and Chartwells, the campus caterers. There are a few concerns, such as liquor provision and obtaining the proper permits, and setting up tables from various locations. Organizing an event for this venue has become quite time-consuming. We look forward to this event.

Treasurer (Catherine Arthur-MacDonald):

Alison Hayford for Catherine Arthur-MacDonald: The annual financial statement is attached below. One issue we face is funding the bursary. Starting in 2014, we have not collected enough each year to fully fund that year's bursary. The University makes up the difference with funds from the bursary trust fund it manages for URW, which grew during years when donations exceeded the bursary. While a shortfall is manageable in the short run, clearly we have some decisions to make about this situation.

The annual financial report is attached on the next page.

**UNIVERSITY OF REGINA WOMEN  
FISCAL YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
2017 – 2018**

Opening bank balance		\$1520.54
 <b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
<b><u>MEMBERSHIPS</u></b>	1560.00	
<b><u>EVENTS</u></b>		
• AGM dinner (2016)	544.00	
• Nov.18/16 Event (23@) \$15	330.00	
• GIC	1500.00	
• Interest	18.75	
Total	\$ 3962.75	
		<u>\$3962.75</u>
		\$5483.29
 <b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
<b><u>EVENTS</u></b>		
• 2017 AGM		
University Club Charges	1062.83	
Honorarium Speaker	100.00	
• Welcome Back Event		
Luther College	190.81	
Wine	48.33	
• Nov.16/18 event (345 food+ 110 room)	455.00	
Speaker	100.00	
• Coffee Jan. 18/18 meeting	18.29	
<b><u>BANK</u></b>		
• GIC	1500.00	
• Service Fees	5.00	
<b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u></b>		
• Printing/Stamps/Flash drive	39.44	
Total	\$3519.70	
		\$3519.70
		Balance: \$1963.69