



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

64th Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association

Saturday 1 October 2022

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
64th ANNUAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 1 October 2022 at 2:30pm

Hybrid Meeting held in the Council Chambers, Fielding Johnson Building and via Zoom

Minutes

Present:

Martin Cullen (Chair)	Lynda Wight (LWi)
Kerry Law (KL)	Rachel Selfridge (RS) – DARO Staff
Kelly McCormack (KM) – DARO Staff	Sadé Henry (SH) – DARO Staff
Steve Corbett (SC) – DARO Staff	Elle Day (ED) – DARO Staff
Bob Fairbrother (BF) (Via Zoom)	Lukas Stahl (LS) (Via Zoom)
Jashan Johal (JJ) (Via Zoom)	Richard Lee (RL) (Via Zoom)

Secretary: Jack Castledine (minutes)

Apologies for absence were received from Liz Blood, Simon Green, Charles du Couëdic de Kerérant, Michael Aw, Rhiannon Jenkins

1. Welcome by Chair of the Standing Committee of the Alumni Association

The Chair, Martin Cullen, welcomed members to the 64th Annual Alumni Meeting, held in the Council Chambers in the Fielding Johnson Building on University Campus. He added he hoped in-person attendees had enjoyed events at the Alumni & Friends Day. He also welcomed alumni joining online from around the world via Zoom.

The Chair introduced Steve Corbett, the newly appointed Director of the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

2. Welcome from Steve Corbett, Director of the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO).

Steve Corbett introduced himself, his previous roles and his ambitions for DARO for the upcoming academic year.

You can [read a press release that introduced Steve Corbett](#); this press release was published in May 2022

3. Update and Q&A from President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Nishan Canagarajah Update on the University

Professor Nishan Canagarajah explained that he has four key audiences within the wider University community; these audiences are students, staff, alumni and the local Leicester community. He thanked alumni for the support they give to the University through several different avenues – advising the University on alumni interests through responding to the Alumni Centenary Census, giving their time as volunteers and / or making donations to the University.

Professor Canagarajah was pleased with the response rate to the Centenary Alumni Census (more information in item 7 on the agenda below) and the alumni participation in the events of the recently ended University Centenary celebrations. He feels the latter reflected well the heritage of kindness and love that has been present for so long in Leicester. He noted that during the Centenary period £11m had been pledged or donated by supporters, many of whom are alumni, and that projects such as the Poppy Pilgrimage and 100 Trees had been completed or were being brought shortly to a close.

Professor Canagarajah urged alumni to look at the University rankings, in which University of Leicester, has performed well this year, and to the University's REF21 results. He also noted the strong student recruitment performance during the summer showed the University was in 'a good state'.

Professor Canagarajah closed by thanking alumni again, noted that the University welcomes feedback and encouraged alumni to get in touch or to visit campus if the opportunity arises. He thanked Lynda Wight, Vice-Chair of the Alumni Association Committee, for her ten years of service to the Committee.

Q & A

Professor Canagarajah was asked what he thought had been the highlight of the Centenary celebrations during the last 12 months. He replied that choosing from so many events and activities was extremely difficult, but presented a shortlist of two favourites; the opening of the renovated Percy Gee Students' Union Building and the Centenary Alumni Celebration. He said he particularly enjoyed the presence of so many former and current Students' Union Presidents at the Percy Gee Opening, with 11 in attendance all together, and spanning every decade since the 1960s. He particularly enjoyed the Centenary Alumni Celebration as an opportunity for over 100 alumni to return to campus (the dinner was held in the Students' Union building) , as well as the Alumni Awards which were distributed to alumni from around the world who are true Citizens of Change.

[Read about the official opening of the renovated Percy Gee Building](#)

[Read about the Centenary Alumni Celebration event on our past alumni events page](#)

[Watch a two-minute video on YouTube featuring interviews with attendees of the Centenary Alumni Dinner](#)

4. Report of the 63rd Annual General Meeting, held on 2 October 2021

Attendees of the Alumni Annual Meeting were invited to approve the minutes of the last Alumni General Meeting in October 2021. **The minutes were approved.**

5. Chair's Report of the Year

The Chair delivered his report of Alumni Committee activities of the last 12 months. He noted the fantastic events and activities that had taken place as part of the Centenary celebrations, and that over 1,500 alumni had engaged with at least one such event or activity in person. Around 7,000 Alumni had engaged with the Centenary Alumni Census.

The Chair noted how hybrid meeting technology had been embraced by the Alumni Association Committee, allowing for high attendance by members from around the world. Alumni Committee members attended many of the aforementioned events and activities, offering an excellent opportunity to engage with other University stakeholders as representatives of the Alumni community.

The Chair noted that the winter and especially the summer Graduation ceremonies were a particular highlight of the year. The DARO team were present at an alumni stand during both sets of graduation ceremonies, allowing them to engage with large numbers of new and old alumni during a year of graduation ceremonies on an unprecedented scale. The Alumni Committee were also involved, with a representative of the Committee present for most of the winter graduation ceremonies, and all of the summer ones. The Centenary Alumni Celebration was also an opportunity to engage with alumni on campus, and, as previously mentioned by the President and Vice-Chancellor, announce the winners of the Alumni Awards.

6. Accounts: Funds at the disposal of the Alumni Committee

A brief update of the funds available from the Convocation Fund and William Ruddick Fund was given. The current state of these funds on the date of the Alumni Annual Meeting (1 October 2022) was as follows:

The Convocation Jubilee Fund	Capital Fund:	£44,324.00
	Expendable Fund:	£5,039.00
William Ruddick Legacy Fund	Capital Fund:	£36,481.00
	Expendable Fund:	£6,799.00

7. Findings of the Centenary Alumni Census

Kelly McCormack, Alumni Engagement Manager, noted how heartwarming she had found the responses received from alumni to the Centenary Alumni Census. She noted that the DARO team and the Alumni Committee are in the process of analysing the findings and letting them inform their next steps.

You can [find out more about our findings from the Centenary Alumni Census](#) by visiting the corresponding page on our website.

Centenary Alumni Census Q & A

Q: Is a list of the benefits & services available to alumni available on the website?

Yes – you can [view a full list of alumni benefits & services](#) on the alumni website. The Alumni team will act upon the findings of the Centenary Alumni Census and use these findings to inform development of benefits and update the website accordingly as new benefits become available.

8. Elections

Martin Cullen handed over to Vice-Chair Lynda Wight to give an update on current members of the Alumni Committee standing for re-election and co-opting members of the Alumni Committee standing for election as full members.

Lynda noted that Martin Cullen was standing for re-election as Chair of the Alumni Committee for another term of three years, and that following a vote Martin was recommended to the alumni community by the Committee as their preferred candidate. Lynda asked the alumni community to support this resolution; **there was no objection from the room or from the online chat, so this motion was carried.**

Lynda proposed that Rhiannon Jenkins, the incumbent and recently reelected Students' Union President and current co-opted member of the Alumni Committee be elected to serve another 12 months as a co-opted member. Lynda asked the alumni community to support this resolution; **there was no objection from the room or from the online chat, so this motion was carried.**

Lynda **proposed that the** following co-opted members of the Alumni Committee be re-elected for a further 12 months:

- Arnaud Melilli
- Charles Tawk
- Kim Holloway

Lynda asked the alumni community to support this resolution; **there was no objection from the room or from the online chat, so this motion was carried.**

Lynda noted that she will be stepping down from the Alumni Committee, as will Polly Mwangi as a co-opted member of the Committee. Lynda further noted that her role as Vice-Chair would be considered as part of ongoing development of the Committee's Terms of Reference.

The Chair thanked Lynda for her decade of service to the Alumni Committee. He thanked alumni for their attendance, either in-person or online via Zoom. In-person attendees were invited to join for a tree planting ceremony for a dedicated Alumni Association Committee tree on campus followed by a tour of the Freeman's Common campus