



SMUSAA AGM 2020 Minutes

9:38am 03oct2020

Approval of the agenda:

1. John Wenman '59
2. Chris Devlin '86

Motion passed.

Approval of the 2019 Minutes:

1. Chris May '92
2. Henry Frew

Motion passed.

Met Quorum: 24 participants

Head of School Report

Decided to close the school early in March before the intended Spring Break due to Covid-19. It reopened in April into a fully remote context. The School believes it went well and there was a good approval rating. Open to 100% in September.

The School knew that they would be down in boarding numbers, so instead the School increased the number of day student admittance. Also a surge in alumni children.

They will be congested for space upon the return of boarding students being allowed back to the school because of the additional day school admittance.

The SMUS Parents Auxiliary donated \$150k of money to match the Financial Aid fundraiser and the School was able to ensure that students of newly financially vulnerable families would not miss the end of the School year, nor the commitment to the next School year. The School's relative position to the public and other independent schools has actually strengthened through the response to covid.

Chris Devlin '86:

What is the percentage increase in alumni children this year?

HoS: Gone up by about 9 students to 112. 7 or 8%



Jim Wenman '66

What is the current enrollment of the school?

HoS: The total was 992 as of yesterday (October 2nd) and we just heard that 30 boarders are now able to come back to them.

Primarily what country are they from?

They would come from all over Asia, Mexico, USA, Germany. About 35 countries were represented.

Peter Finamore '73

Will the additional boarding students take the school to a break even point?

HoS: Yes - hard to say but it will be close.

Alex Fanat '19

Is there a process for quarantining newly-arriving international students?

HoS: yes there is a strict 14 day quarantine that occurs off of campus.

Samantha Stone '87

How are the cohorts working out?

HOS: It's working really well, every school is part of a small circle of 5-6 friends, then a forum of about 20, and then a cohort with their grade. The school does expect that a positive COVID-19 case will come through eventually, and that then they will have to decide on a close down point. In Vancouver the trend so far is that their schools have only had to close down the social circle or cohort affected, i.e. positive contact plus 4-5 contacts that had to self isolate but the school kept going.

Peter Finamore '73

How has the structure of boarding changed to accommodate cohorts and COVID-19 risks?

HOS: totally changed the house structure around. They are no longer family houses, they are designated by grade.

President's report

The past Association year, which should have ended in May of 2020 has been a busy and an effective one for the School SMUS and for us. Thank you to you all for joining us today on Zoom for our first virtual meeting. We are learning as we go how to host an AGM meeting in this way!

As you should be aware Floreat, the strategic plan for charting the direction SMUS will take under the leadership of Mark Turner was launched. We, the board of the Alumni Association, are excited to see how Floreat unfolds as we proceed through this next decade.



We have also had a chance to work with Mark Turner as an active voice on our Association board. Through amicable negotiations, Mr. Turner and the SMUSAA are working together to determine how we might both complement each other effectively. Focus is on how we all might support the present-day school, the vision for the future, and the Alumni that stay so invested in the past, the present and the future of SMUS. When we have finalized the MoU or *Memorandum of Understanding* as it has been termed, in the name of transparency, it will be posted for you the Alumni to read and to comment on before it is finalized. We will update you on this through our website and social media channels.

The term “Association” is a broad one of which we hope all Alumni will take note. SMUS has a wide and diverse cross section of Alumni spanning from early in the century to the first 20 years of this new millennium. Spread around the world and varied in nationalities, race and gender. Collectively we could be amazingly strong together. Individually we have different interests, perspectives and visions to how we might stay connected to the school. With pride we can tell you that Alumni are a strong and diverse force; the American Friends, which is a separate society, are a significant contributor to the school. Our Association is attempting to find ways that we might meet the unique needs of each generation in connectedness.

Matt Ashton '13 has done a brilliant job of stepping up to streamline efforts with Denise Rees, the School's Alumni Relations officer to engage Alumni in the opportunities available for Mentorship. SMUS connect, is a vital tool in this endeavour and we would encourage you to sign up and consider a role as either a mentee or a mentor. Additionally, Matt has delved into the world of Social media with gusto and conducted on line interviews with SMUS Board of Governors members and nominees as a lead up to the Board Election. He also has an entertaining series that is released live most Sundays that talks with Alumni about their pathways since graduating from SMUS.

Engagement with you, the greater Alumni is our priority and we are trying to create different groupings that might interest you. The Incogs are still playing each summer and several Alumni are keeping this proud Cricket society strong and able. They will however need help from those interested to continue this tradition. John Wenman '59 will speak to this here and we are hoping to have information updated on our website going forward.

This year we are putting together a more formalized Alumni Rugby group. Chris May '92, Tye Spicer '98 and Jeremy Cordle '91 are the contacts for this group. Engaging our female Rugby Alumni is a priority as well as self-sufficiency with regard to running events and investing in Rugby ventures at the school. Chris will speak to this.

Women's network – Thanks to the efforts of Lara Tomazeski, Pam Lewis and Moira Alexei we have a better idea of how the women of SMUS can reconnect. The women's collective will be launching.



Lastly, please consider getting involved with the Alumni Association. If you are interested in a board position or getting more information about the newest committees, can volunteer your skill towards the archives, website, content , be interviewed by Matt or something we haven't thought of yet, we want to hear from you.

Our goodbyes – two long-time Alumni Association members

Jeremy Cordle '91, our former Alumni President has opted to step down. As he “hung in there” to make sure we transitioned, we are grateful to his support and dedication to the School and to our Association. Jeremy will remain involved as he is going to be assisting in helping to develop the Alumni Rugby committee with Chris May, Tye Spicer and the other Alumni that are stepping forward to assist with this. We wish you well Jeremy as you start up your new youth training centre, expand your business and continue to plow forward with innovation and energy.

Chris May '92 is also stepping down. Chris has been on the Alumni Association for (Many) years. This last year he stepped us as the Vice Chair. We are grateful to his calming presence, his steady and thoughtful contributions as he is steadfast in his ability to “cut to the chase” and to offer sage advice on how he would proceed. Chris too will continue to be connected to the school as his daughter Harper started this year in grade 9. He is also going to work as a board liaison for the Alumni Rugby committee.

Thank you both of you!

A big thank you as well to those Alumni Association members that are remaining on the board as part of their terms. Phil woodcock who has called in from Holland (proving you really can be on the Association board from anywhere.) Tye Spicer, William Cunningham, Tom Erlic, Matt Ashton and Chris Devlin who especially has done a lot of patient hand holding as we put together this next agreement.

As an Association we have also had some losses to our greater community. As we reviewed our 2019 Minutes the obvious loss of Giles Thorp '63 and his passion for Cricket comes to mind. There has also been the recent loss of Roe Archibald '64



Our thoughts go to all of you that knew and grew up with these gentlemen and for the loss of others that no longer walk among us.

We are also sending good wishes to Rob Wilson and to Brenda Waksel who have made the decision to step down from the Archives. Alumni it is our time to step here – these are our memories. This is our school. If you can get involved here – that would be great.

Thank you too to Mr. Turner, Adrienne Davison and Denise Rees as we forge forward to solidifying our relationship and clarifying the role of Alumni in the future of the school.

Dialogue post President's Report

John Weman '59

Both Rob Wilson and Brenda Waxel are stepping away from the SMUS Archives. The Archives are currently housed in an inappropriate place. Sam, do you know if there is any arrangement to who will take this project on?

Sam- I will let Adrienne answer this but it would be ideal if we could recruit an archivist from the SMUS Alumni community. And we are actively looking to engage with Alumni to develop a committee that could look into this.

Adrienne Davison

The plans for the Archives have not been left hanging. Currently Adrienne is overseeing the Archives as one of her positions of responsibility. The proposed Campus Master Plan absolutely 100% addresses the question of how we can better display the Archives. She continues to have frequent meetings with Brenda and Rob. Adrienne is fully aware and in agreement that the current archives space is deplorable. They are working to find a better location for where the volunteers can work. There is a group of volunteers still around too. Now is not the time to be adding any staff positions (Covid-19 has the School operating on a tight budget), but it is a possibility that the school could be going into a deficit, so the time is to be saving money not spending. Adrienne does want to assure the Alumni that the Archives have not been shelved.

Is a contribution still made by Alumni to the Alumni Association.

Tom Erlic '88

The way that Revenue Canada is structured, the students could not be billed on behalf of another Society (SMUS). Previously the idea was that the Alumni Association was sent money that the School billed the students on their behalf and then the School received that money back



in the name of Alumni Association in order to create a fund in the name of that year. The School can respectively no longer do that for the Association and now bills the graduates separately and creates the fund directly. There is no financial gain or membership fee to the AA when an alumni joins the association.

10:24am.

Samantha Stone '87

In the meeting that she and Tom Erlic '88 attended with Henry Frew '78, Shara Campsall and Rita Lord. It was agreed that the school was going to continue building their fund by drawing from the newly graduated but the alumni were going to have to step out of that conversation due to CRA protocols.

The information that money is withdrawn from your account by the Alumni Association has been removed from that letter. Now effectively going to AAA is graduating through .

Adrienne Davision

You can't bill people for "gifts". They must be made voluntarily per CRA regulations. Adrienne will find out and return back to Samantha and the AA. She will report back next week.

John Wenman'59

To think the solution would be you to ask for a volunteer gift until they get their transcript.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Erlic '88

Henry Frew () motion to approve Treasurer's report as presented by Tom Erlic

John Wenman '59 second.

Motion passed.



Committee reports:

Distinguished Alumni Award

Henry Frew '78

Things have been different this year and they are taking a different approach to the award. Nominations are still open for another month or so, and they are looking at Alumni that are supporting the global efforts to do with the COVID-19 pandemic. The hope is that we would receive domestic and international Nominees. Currently there are 4 nominees and they are all from BC.

As a follow up to last year's award. The Recipient has not determined when they can come to receive the award so an award ceremony has not been arranged.

John Wenman'59

Who was last year's winner?

Henry Frew'78

Our number one basketball player (Steve Nash ') We have been in touch with his assistant but have not set a time to receive the award.

Cricket:

John Wenman '59

A year ago there was a great possibility that the sport of Cricket could be lost at the school. It has been made clear that cricket was not welcome by the athletic department. John Wenman and others are determined that this loss does not happen. Cricket is not part of the official games program, and the use of their field for cricket is done through alumni volunteers, not through school staff. The heritage Incogs team is still playing at the school grounds. John and others ran a practice in September and had some promising young players. The current Incogs team made it to the division playoffs but unfortunately did not take the win like they have in previous seasons, but it was good nonetheless. Jamison Franco-Shultz is a promising young player for Canada and has the potential to be quite influential for SMUS in the Cricket world.

Priorities to improve Cricket at SMUS



1. 2.5" of additional asphalt does need to be added to the cricket turf.
2. Batting cages, which were created largely with alumni and parents need to be repaired.

It would be ideal if the School would have the grass cut short enough on the field so that proper skills can be developed. It is currently most inadequate. The grass is simply too long. Overly heavy watering leading up to before cricket matches also caused issues.

In addition the Wenman Pavilion obviously needs a large upgrade.

Tom Erlic '88

Is there an approximate cost for how much it would cost to raise the asphalt?

Approximately 16k, which includes the nets as well.

This is about half of the costs which have been identified and would be a good fundraising goal for SMUS Alumni and Cricket.

Would a lawn mower help with trimming the grass just before the matches?

John Wenman '66

It would, and such a lawn mower was purchased, but the grounds staff have absolutely forbidden anyone on not on the ground staff to do such things to the pitch. Because of this John Wenman '59 has had to go out with his hand mower. There was one time that Eric Kjestaad '65 brought his lawn mower and was able to create a 20m square that could be cut and recut over multiple weeks and it was actually quite effective. For some reason the ground staff at the SMUS demand that the grass remain ridiculously long, and this makes it much more difficult to play that game as it is supposed to be. So why have they been told that they cannot cut the grass, and it is not clear why this is the case as a clear answer has not been provided.

Jim Wenman '66

I do have good news on the cricket front. He was approached by Richard Lamont, who is the headmaster of Shawnigan Lake School, and that they have staff that are keen about cricket and they are going to take up cricket again. They have a private round down the road from their school, one of the few private grounds in Canada. In the last AGM that we had, the headmaster



said that other independent schools are not interested in cricket, and this is clearly not the case. The other good news, the Shawnigan Headmaster, is that he went to “Wlkinish???” oldest school, which is a very good cricket school and they have an Alumni team, when they come out, Shawnigan would like to play with the Incogs.

Jim Wenman '66

When I went to the school we had 6-7 staff members who were included with the cricket. Now we have many more staff and no staff involvement. This is something for the school to think about and there is tremendous potential for the school to do so at this time.

Rugby

Chris May '92

Over the past 6 or 7 years the Alumni Association and with the Advancement Department have supported a SMUS Alumni Rugby Captain's dinner annually. It was first hosted at a pub downtown and a Q& A with Canada's top players. Nick Grant got it started, Jeremy Cordle got involved. The events are beginning to be constrained by how many people the venue can hold. This year an ad hoc Alumni Rugby committee looked at how these events might progress and perhaps whether they might conduct some fundraising e.g. a bursary for a SMUS student to continue their rugby journey after their graduation. Looking to make it into a fee for ticket event so that a rugby legacy fund could be created. It may be a way to recognize SMUS students and how to participate in high level rugby and to recognize them as high performing athletes. Of importance this year was to include the female athletes into the dinner and support their program. Girls are also playing rugby at school and this could help them get set for international teams. Chris believes that the dinner held before alumni weekend was always an amazing event, so they would like to keep the timing about the same but not sure how it is going to look going forward in light of the pandemic.

John Wenman '59

Could you speak to the strength of rugby at the school currently?

Chris May: it is hard to say. Not sure what the rugby looks like. His daughter in grade 9 does have 2 on campus practices per week. But there are also players for the senior team in grade 11 or 12 that it is their first year playing rugby at the school. It is different from then when they had 4 senior teams sharin the field at one time.

Women of SMUS network:



Samantha Stone '87

This would be a group trying to offer something for everyone. Trying to pull in the women Alumni and to give them a vehicle for their mutual passions to be established and shared.

Elections

Chris May and Jeremy Cordle are stepping down

Neil Mulholland has been nominated. He has a passion for the school and has stepped in to assist.

Neil Mulholland has been voted in by acclamation.

Samantha Stone will retain the President's Role – by acclamation.

AOB:

John Wenman'59

I think it is quite remarkable when the school has done in the current situation of the coronavirus.

We are saying goodbye to Jeremy Cordle '91: Thank you for being on the Alumni Association board for over 12 years.

Chris May '92 also stepped down, he has been on the board for about 6 years.

Big thank you to all of the Alumni attending.

Philip Woodcock, thank you for calling in from Holland.

Thank you to all of you that were able to make the time to join us.

Please remember these



Latin phrases as we depart.

Floreat – our new school plan of “to flourish”

Tutum Manere – or Stay Safe as Covid is amongst us
And of course VIVAT .

Samantha Stone '87

Meeting adjourned at 11:11am.