

Local Government Program Alumni Society Constitution Amendments Proposed by Executive, July 14, 2006

The Executive is proposing some changes to the Alumni Society's Constitution to reflect a decision to broaden alumni representation with the addition of a Director-at-Large, to address the fact that Alumni Western does not normally send a representative to meetings of chapter executives, and to respond to an Alumni Western suggestion to add a minimum quorum for General Meetings.

The proposed changes are highlighted below. They will be brought forward for a vote at the Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held during the Conference on Friday, November 24, 2006. Publication of this information in the Alumni Newsletter is your notification of this proposal, and of the AGM, as required by the Constitution.

If you have any questions or concerns about this proposal, please contact Albert Frootman, MPA '97, at 519.740.4650, ext. 4575 or at frootmana@city.cambridge.on.ca.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

1. Directors

5.02 COMPOSITION: The Executive shall consist of:

(a) Regular members elected to the position of President, Past-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-President, and Director-at-Large.

(b) The Director of the Local Government Program or their representative.

~~(c) The Director of Alumni Relations, or their representative, who shall be appointed as a director to represent the Alumni Association of the University.~~

All members of the Executive shall have voting privileges.

5.09 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS: At least once per year the Executive will call a general meeting for the purpose of electing officers, passing resolutions and amendments to the Constitution. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members of the Alumni Society at least 14 days prior to the date on which the meeting is to be held. Notice shall be made by mail, through the Alumni Society newsletter, and/or through advertisements in periodicals that the Executive deems appropriate. A minimum of 10 regular members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.



November 2006



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

A Milestone Achievement for the City of Toronto On-site Diploma: Gold Award Winner

The City of Toronto received a Gold Award at the 2005 Public Sector Quality Fair held October 6, 2005 at the National Trade Centre, Toronto. The Gold Award was presented to recognize the successful partnership between the City of Toronto and the UWO Local Government program.

In 2002 the Local Government Program partnered with the City of Toronto to offer the Diploma In Public Administration off-campus to twenty-five staff members of the City of Toronto. This special arrangement was facilitated through the office of Dr. Aaron Pun, Human Resources Consultant with the City of Toronto. Members of the first City of Toronto DPA class graduated in Autumn, 2003. The second City of Toronto DPA class graduated in 2004. A third class of City of Toronto staffers is now working its way through the Diploma program.

The partnership between the City of Toronto and the Local Government Program is part of the Shape the City initiative which developed to address the loss of a "critical portion of its social capital—people who had extensive experience, expertise and understanding of how the former municipalities operated..." which occurred at the time of amalgamation. Shape the City focuses on organizational effectiveness and quality of service by investing in people through advanced learning.

Offering the DPA on-site in Toronto increased the number of City managers able to participate in the program while also offering savings in accommodation and travel expenses estimated to be \$250,000.

According to the City of Toronto: "...the program has demonstrated the City's commitment in management development and it has created capable leaders, some of whom have taken up senior leadership positions in the organization after completing the course. The research work completed has benefited the City. And, the alumni group has continued to collaborate across divisions and to serve as champions of change for City-wide initiatives..."

Andy Sancton and Josh Morgan now responsible for LGP

After a seven-year break, I am very pleased to be launching a return engagement as director of the Local Government Program. There have been lots of changes since I last held the job. The biggest change is that Josh Morgan, MA (UWO Political Science, 2004) joined the program in August as the new Recruitment and Development Officer. He is responsible for all non-academic activities, including liaison with alumni. Josh has already made much progress in mastering a new position that is remarkably divergent in its demands.

This is also a time to thank both Ross Gibbons and Teresa McLaughlin for their dedicated work to the Local Government Program. Ross will still be teaching in the MPA as well as carrying on with his heavy load of undergraduate teaching, and Teresa continues in her role as the Graduate Assistant for the Political Science MA and PhD programs.

– Andrew Sancton, Director

News And Views is a publication of the Local Government Program, Department of Political Science, University of Western Ontario and of the Local Government Program Alumni Association. To contact News and Views:

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From our graduates:

Viola Poletes Montgomery:

(MPA 1993) I enjoy reading your updates on past alumni and I thought you might consider my submission. I met my husband, Byron Montgomery, when I attended the MPA program from '92 to '93. Byron worked as the Researcher when I was enrolled in the program. Speed forward to 2004, Byron and I were married at Spencer Hall. Our first child, Daphne, was born on November 26, 2004 at St. Joseph's Healthcare Centre in London. Byron is currently the President of the non-profit, Mad River Institute for Political Studies which has offices in both Southwestern and Central Ontario. After maternity leave I returned to my role as the Regional Director for the Canadian Diabetes Association, South West Ontario. The MPA degree has been very rewarding to me – both professionally and personally!

Ben Billings

MPA graduate (2003) Ben Billings, after several years as a Senior Planner with the City of London, accepted the position of Manager of Community Development/Senior Planner (Jan 3/2005) for the Township of Middlesex Centre. His responsibilities include managing staff performing the full spectrum of planning duties and overseeing all functions under the Ontario Building Code Act.

The Township of Middlesex Centre is a rural municipality located immediately adjacent to the north and west of the municipal boundary for the City of London. While the primary land use in the Township is agriculture, there are significant development pressures on the many villages and hamlets in the Township to become "bedroom communities" for those residing in larger centers such as the City of London. Ben invites you to give him a call at 519-666-0190 anytime to say hi! He also wishes to extend a best wishes to all of his former colleagues from the program and to the MPA staff at UWO.

Irene Kuo

Irene Kuo (MPA 2004) started a new position as Communication Analyst with a federal government organization during the summer of 2005. She recently finished a two-week job-specific training course.

Irene wrote to Carol Agocs with the following comments: "I'm happy about the learning curve so far and really enjoy the working environment and the work itself. After working for awhile, I really appreciate my time spent in the MPA program as well as my experience at UWO in general. I also find that all the hard work is really worth it. I can't believe that another new MPA class just started this September! Again, I must say that time flies! Hopefully I will have the opportunity to visit you at UWO in the near future, when I get the chance of traveling to Ontario."
Best regards,
Irene

Anne MacArthur

A welcome note from Catherine Burr passed on this very good news from Anne MacArthur, MPA Class of 2005:

Anne has been hired as Deputy Senior Clerk for the City of Woodstock and writes:

"I will not forget what the local government program at Western has done for me! Best wishes and I look forward to seeing you at graduation."



MPA 2006 Award Winners Holly Cornies (left) and Sandra Datares Bere (right)

2006 MPA Full-Time Students



From left to right: Alex DeLorey, Ishwor Dhungel, Kelly Stymeist, Holly Cornies, Ben Elling, Peter Slaa, Jason Dale

A Message from the Alumni Society President

Our annual conference is approaching, and is now little more than a month away.

We again have a very capable Conference Committee actively working towards the hosting of another informative and engaging annual conference. The Committee is working under the capable direction of Ross Fair (City of London). A new face on the conference committee this year is Erin O'Hoski (Federation of Canadian Municipalities). Erin was involved a few years ago as the student representative on the Local Government Program Curriculum Review Committee chaired by Carol Agocs. More information about the conference has been sent to you, and is available on the Local Government Program web site.

A welcome to Josh Morgan, who is the new Recruitment and Development Officer for the Local Government Program. Josh, we look forward to working with you.

At the same time, a sincere thank you to Ross Gibbons who has moved on to do more teaching. Ross has been great to work with over the past years, and has done much to support the Alumni Society. And even though Ross has moved on to other responsibilities, he has again arranged for the musical entertainment for the closing reception at the conference.

We look forward to seeing you again at the conference in November.

Best regards,
Albert Frootman, MPA '97

Officers of The UWO Local Government Program Alumni Association

President:
Albert Frootman

Vice-President:
Carol-Lynn Chambers

Secretary-Treasurer:
Karen Gautam

Director:
John Ballantine

Past-President:
Cathy Hoffman

2006 Alumni Conference Committee:

Chair:
Ross Fair

Members:
Lee Anne Doyle, John Ballantine, Andrea Bourdeau, Karen Gautam, Cathy Cuyllle, Andrew Sancton, Josh Morgan, Carol-Lynn Chambers, Albert Frootman, Erin O'Hoski, Cathy Hoffman.

Academic Medals In Public Administration

The practice of recognizing top graduates of the Local Government Program began with a generous gesture from Ron Farrow. During his many years with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Ron Farrow played a leading role in providing support for the Local Government Program and for the establishment of the MPA. Ron also taught in the Department of Political Science for many years. Upon his retirement from the Ministry Ron asked that funds raised for a retirement gift be used to fund an award for the MPA student with the highest average marks.

For a number of years the Ron Farrow Award was presented annually by the Department of Political Science and the Local Government Program to the MPA student with the highest average marks. Even Ron's colleagues weren't flush enough to permanently endow the award.

So, in 2003, it was decided to change the award from cash to an Academic Medal in Public Administration and to broaden the number of awards to reflect achievement in the Western Campus and City of Toronto DPA programs as well as the part-time and full-time streams of MPA students. There are now four Academic Medals in public administration which are listed below along with the names of the students who have received them:

Allan O'Brien Academic Medal in Public Administration for the graduating part-time MPA student with the highest academic standing.

2003: Doug Carr
2004: Ross Fair
2005: Kandy Webb
2006: Sandra Datares Bere

Academic Medal in Public Administration for the graduating full-time MPA student with the highest academic standing.

2003: Erin Murphy
2004: Will Jacques
2005: Sophie Skaith
2006: Holly Cornies

Ron Farrow Academic Medal in Public Administration for the graduating Western DPA graduate with the highest academic standing.

2003: Scott Blandford
2004: Joe Taylor
2005: Kathryn Rogers
2006: John Skorobohacz

Academic Medal in Public Administration for the graduating City of Toronto DPA graduate with the highest academic standing.

2003: Katherine Wiele
2004: Jane Pypier
2005: Diana Baxter