

**SAGA 84th Annual General Meeting
January 12, 2019**

TCU Place, Saskatoon

1. President Maerz called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m. with 22 members in attendance

2. Agenda

Amend to add Scholarship Committee report

MOTION: The Agenda as amended be approved. Bryan Harvey / Page Newton - **CARRIED**

3. Minutes of 83rd AGM

MOTION: Approve as circulated. Lorence Peterson / George Wilson - **CARRIED**

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes** – none

5. Treasurer's Report- Dennis Ewanus

See attached

Treasurer noted that most registrations are done online which reduces the work significantly.

MOTION: That the Treasurer's report be approved. Lorence Peterson/ Bryan Harvey - **CARRIED**

MOTION: That Lorence Peterson be appointed to do an Engagement Review for the upcoming year. Dennis Ewanus / George Wilson - **CARRIED**

6. Reports

a) Scholarship Committee- Vern Racz

The scholarship committee consisting of Keith Head, Ewald Lammerding, Mayson Maerz, Louis Bossaer, Hamish Tulloch and Vern Racz met several times during 2018. In October 2018 the Scholarship fund was launched complete with capability to receive funds, brochures and other information.

The scholarship is open to continuing undergraduate students in any degree or diploma program offered at the College of Agriculture and BioResources . An important consideration for awarding this scholarship will be the recipients involvement in college, university or community activities as well as academic achievement.

The SAGA Scholarship fund uses the University for receipt of funds as an administrative function while still allowing some direction and targeting of funds. Contributions to the fund can be made directly through the SAGA website and receive a tax receipt through the University of Saskatchewan. This allows the donors to make a targeted contribution aligned with SAGA's thinking.

It was hoped originally that we could fund yearly some three \$1000 scholarships. We are happy to report that we have over \$4200 making the awarding of \$1000 scholarships possible for the 2019/20 academic year.

We know that this scholarship fund is sustainable at this level and as the fund contribution becomes a habit amongst members amount of the scholarship could be increased.

The scholarship fund, its promotion and development will continue.

Respectfully submitted

Your scholarship committee

Discussion at meeting around crediting donations to a class group specifically

b) ASA – Madison Englot

Verbal report:

Note new name: Agriculture and Bioresources Student Association (still will be ASA).

Activities are much the same kinds of activities as in the past (probably similar to '89, '69 and '54). Still, and as always, ASA likes to do donations and activities. Examples are Telemiracle, Toy Drive, Ronald McDonald House, Childrens Hospital. It is great to see the ASA and SAGA working together.

c) Membership/Website – Vern Racz, Keith Head, Dennis Ewanus

The number of SAGA members is increasing slightly with some 2095 members. The number of life members is increasing as a proportion of total membership (estimated 85%). This is showing is a greater degree of commitment from graduates. The problem of attracting recent graduates still exists, although activities by the executive in interacting with students should help. The numbers of newsletters being distributed by mail continue to decrease (less than 600). It should be noted that email addresses are also less likely to change than are addresses for homes making the job of distribution cheaper and easier.

The website continues to be improved with Dennis Ewanus and Keith Head taking a lead role in its development this last year. There continues to be maintenance needed as well as new items to be added. The website has broadened the capabilities of SAGA substantially and for members it has become a place to visit on a regular basis.

At meeting: Vern extended Thanks to Keith and Dennis for all of their work.
Would like some new pictures for website.

c) Hockey –

No report provided

d) Newsletter – Ewald Lammerding

Good Evening. We've had a good year with the Newsletter. After the June issue, we weren't sure if we'd receive any more advertising dollars to help us offset the cost of the printed version of the Newsletter, which is our largest expense. But through the hard work of Mayson and others of the Executive, we secured three advertisers. Municipal Hail renewed for another year at \$500. Farm Credit Corp came aboard, also for a half page at \$500. Then we rounded things out with Brett Young Seeds for a 1/3 page at \$300.

These three advertisers go a long way to reduce our Newsletter overhead. But I feel we should cap advertising at no more than a page and a half; more could create problems to get news, informative articles and our usual columns into the Newsletter.

Due to efforts by Vern Racz, Hamish Tulloch, and previously Tanya Napper we are continuing to reduce our mailing list, unfortunately by some members passing, but we are also getting more tech savvy older grads that let us know we can switch them over to email. But the reduced hard copy list is barely making a dent in the continuously rising prices of paper, printing and stamps, though combine both aspects, and we have succeeded considerably in lowering our overall cost.

Of more concern to me is the disappearance of contributions to the Newsletter, by all grads in general. Gone by the wayside are the old standards of The Thundering Herd and Pooped Deck because no one is sending me that information. I have seen a revival of class pictures of either their summer or winter reunion, and it's great to get an article to go along with it. But I would appreciate more input from fellow grads, besides Irene and Bob and a few others. The old Newsletters used to be filled within personal tales and anecdotes from all levels of Ag Grads. One final note, we do need a second person with the Newsletter. Not so much to help do it, but to be able to do it, if I am unable for any reason in May or Nov. I have done it twice while I was in Ontario, so with technology being what it is, I could still publish the Newsletter should I retire to Costa Rica, if and when my wife lets me.

e) Banquet/Reunion – Ewald Lammerding

Good evening. We had an excellent turnout for the Jan. 6, 2018 Reunion Banquet. 375 grads and their guests turned out to congratulate Art Delahey and Lorence Peterson receiving Saga Honorary Life recognition, and enjoy a delicious dinner.

We had a much better handle on how to proceed with preparing for the evening, and I would like to sincerely thank Raelene Petracek for doing such a great job with her seating plan. It was my mistake that led the 1960 College guys having to find their own table off in the corner.

It was our first year that we introduced two new aspects to the Banquet. First; the Executive decided to celebrate our 65 year and older grads, with dinner on the house, so to speak. This included all grads from the years preceding, and including 1953. This idea, courtesy of Vern Racz, was very well received. So we have continued, offering it this year to the 1954 classes.

Second; the Executive also decided an excellent method to promote the SAGA organization to the newest AgBio grads was to invite the ASA Executive to join us, on us. Of the 8 students who attended, several joined Saga as Life members upon graduation, but more importantly, they spread the word to fellow students of the value of joining their Alumni group.

Dennis and Vern, with Charlene Racz running the operation, and ably assisted by Linda Maerz and Michelle Bossaer, did an exceptional job getting everyone through the doors in an orderly and speedy fashion. Tanya Napper, formerly of the Development Office was a great help, assisting at the front table, after having been the person responsible for preparing so much of the material we need. Hamish Tulloch, head of the Development Office, helped where needed.

TCU place presented a dinner that everyone enjoyed, kudos to the Chef, and the staff that did so well serving our needs. Darcy was the head service man, and he saw to everything we needed before hand and many things that I forgot till the last minute.

Imagery Photography did another excellent job with the class pictures, fulfilling every request. Such a change from years past, I did not receive one complaint. We still need to be vigilante about people taking their own pictures when Imagery is taking theirs. It disrupts all the work Imagery puts into setting up the photo shoot, plus it ruins the final picture with grads looking elsewhere. That cannot be photo-shopped out. Louis Bossaer '95 C ably filled that role for us.

And another thank you to Louis. He again arranged to have the three beverage sampling tables. Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote '87 C, has organized this the last two years and will do the same this year. This feature has become so popular, they always run out of product before time.

Comments at meeting:

- The Western Development Museum staff have been very good/helpful for displays.
- Consensus was that the downstairs of TCU is good for our reunion.
- SAGA is looking for nominations for Honorary Life.

f) Sask. Agricultural Hall of Fame – Bryan Harvey

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame continues to operate in its new format and selected 6 new candidates for induction in 2019. The names were announced on January 10th and the induction ceremony will take place on April 27. There are Agriculture Graduates amongst this years inductees. This year's inductees are as follows:

Chantelle Donahue
Clarence Hookenson
Roger Pederson
Arnold Petracek 1965 C
Daniel Prefontaine
Neil Shantz, 1982C

Comment at meeting: Bryan emphasized that we should be nominating people - there are lots of Ag Grads that qualify.

g) Crop Production Week – Keith Head

2018 Crop Week Recap

The 2018 Crop Week was held from January 5 to 11, 2018.

The 13 members of Crop Week held their AGM's and information meetings at various locations in Saskatoon including the Saskatoon Inn, TCU Place, Prairieland Park, and the Western Development Museum.

New Crop Week Members

In 2018, The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, and the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission joined Crop Week. Their meetings during Crop Week 2019 will be at the Radisson Hotel on Thursday and Friday, respectively.

The Crop Production Show (Prairie Land Park) had an attendance of 19,480 in 2018

Crop Production Week 2019

Crop Week 2019 is January 11 to 18.

Details available at <https://cropweek.com/>

Change in 2019:

- The Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association will hold its convention at the Turvey Centre in Regina on February 5, 2019

Restructuring of Crop Production Week Saskatchewan Inc. (CPW Inc)

Crop Production Week Saskatchewan Inc. (CPW Inc), incorporated in 2003, serves as the umbrella organization for Crop Week activities.

As Crop Week has grown it has necessitated expansion to several different venues in the city. Consequently, the demands on the CPW Inc have been reduced as the member groups organize their individual venues and requirements. The activities of CPW Inc now include maintenance of the website, involvement with the Networking Session, getting the member agendas into the Show Guide, and coordinating members' meetings to avoid overlap of activities. Although these activities are important, they do not require the services of a full-time manager.

A proposal has been tabled to have the CropSphere group take over management of CPW Inc. This would meet the management requirements of CPW Inc and it would meet the needs of CropSphere for a corporate entity to manage its sales tax requirements.

The CropSphere members appear to be prepared to take on the management responsibilities of Crop Week Inc, provided it does not affect their autonomy regarding the CropSphere event. This, in effect, means that the CropSphere members would need to have control of CPW Inc.

The proposed changes would see the six members of CropSphere become Regular members with voting rights, while the other current Regular members would become non-voting Associate members. The Associate members would appoint one voting director to the Board of Crop Week Inc.

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of CPW Inc regarding memberships will be required.

In summary:

1. The CropShere members would assume control of CPW Inc and its assets (approx. \$50,000)
2. The six current members of CropSphere (Sask Canola, Sask Pulse, Sask Wheat, Sask Barley, Sask Oat, and Sask Flax) would be Regular Voting Members of CPW Inc
3. The nine remaining Regular members of CPW Inc (Agri-Arm, Alfalfa Seed, Canaryseed, Forage Seed, Mustard, SAGA, SSCA, Sask Seed Growers, and Winter Cereals) would become Associate Non-voting members
4. The Associate Members would appoint one voting member to the CPW Inc board.
5. The two Advisory Members of CPW Inc would remain Advisory Members.
6. All members would vote at an AGM.

Advantages of the Proposal:

- Crop Week Inc would continue to provide services to all members. These services include the Crop Week website, the Networking Session, and inclusion of agendas in the Show Guide.

- Crop Week Inc would continue to coordinate meeting activities to avoid overlapping of activities.
- All Crop Week activities would be promoted to the public under one umbrella
- CropSphere would have a corporate entity to manage its activities

Disadvantages:

- Associate members would lose control of Crop Week Inc

This Proposal is open for discussion and modification. There will likely be a resolution at the CPW Inc AGM in April 2019 to decide on the future of CPW Inc.

SAGA will need to consider the proposal and how to vote at the AGM.

g) President's Report – Mayson Maerz

In summary, my underlying focus was to ensure we actively pursue the younger U of Sask Agriculture and Bioresources graduates to become members within the Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association. With this in mind, the following activities were undertaken:

The SAGA Undergraduate Award, first passed by membership at this meeting one year ago, has gained considerable momentum. We are in position for meeting our target 2020 for three, \$1,000 Awards. Excellent work by the Scholarship Committee in pulling this together. A key consideration is recognizing undergraduates who excel in both extra-curricular and academic participation. We must be diligent in promotion of this Award and especially the fundraising.

The ASA – SAGA relationship is strengthening. For example, played a significant role in the 2018 Edition of the TeleMiracle BedPush Feb-Mar 2018, assisting in raising over \$43,000 for the cause. Three old SAGA members helped push the bed; we secured room for and funded repainting of the bed; and facilitated repair and storage along the route. Overall, an excellent bonding exercise between Agros and SAGA. As well, three of Executive attended the ASA 2019 Budget Meeting (November).

We continued on with our Cheers with Peers events at Farm Progress Show (Regina, June), Ag in Motion (Saskatoon, July) and Agribition (Regina, November). These outreach events allow SAGA to touch more graduates, young and old, in a relaxed social setting. It should be noted this could not be done without industry sponsorship.

In my absence, Louis (MAL) attended the ASA Graduation Ceremony January 20th, 2018. He was provided with a few minutes to sell the benefits of becoming a member and I recommend we ensure the ASA provides us this timeslot. The Tommy Fraser Memorial Award was also singled out and for 2019 SAGA will present this Award, with a complete background.

I represented SAGA at the Agriculture Graduation Ceremony June 2018, and most recently sat on the Tommy Fraser Memorial Award Selection committee January 3rd, 2019, along with Dean Buhr, ASA President Tyler Crowe, Prof. Tristan Scolrud (Hon. ASA President), and Adrienne Healey (Huskies Athletics rep). An outstanding candidate was chosen.

Social media presence is ongoing and important – MAL Louis and I manage the SAGA Twitter (@saskaggrads) and FaceBook pages. Three learnings: very interesting how both vehicles reach very different groups of graduates, and it is hard to group by age or year. To date we have grown our Twitter following to 805 (350 Jan 2016) and FaceBook to 558 followers. Secondly, social media takes time! Our FaceBook account needs additional focus in the months ahead and as my role changes to Past President I will invest more time here. Finally, we need to explore a new Executive position - Communications Officer - to manage current and expand into other (ex: Instagram, SnapChat, ?) media.

To summarize, it has been both a busy and rewarding year as President. We continue to build our rapport with the ASA which ideally translates into more Life and Annual memberships, and a commitment to keeping our Association running strong.

Comment at meeting: Thankyou to Mayson and Louis who started us on the path to the liason with the students, this will be very rewarding in the future.

h) Past President's Report – Louis Ringdal

Nothing additional to report

i) Vice President's Report – Eric Johnson

I got started in this position a bit late so I thank Mayson and others for getting a good start on finding reunion chairs. All Reunion Chair positions were filled for 2018 which hasn't happened for a few years. Over the past few years, it has been difficult to recruit the 5 and 10 year chairs. Since I am on campus and taught classes over the past few years, I know a number of recent grads making it easier to recruit. As of writing this report, we had 363 Banquet registrations in the system. I want to thank all the Reunion Chairs for a job well done.

Reunion Chairs

- 1949 School and College - James Webster
- 1954 College - Bob McKercher
- 1954 School - Dave Thompson
- 1959 College - Al Short & Vic Surjik
- 1959 School - Barry Raymond
- 1964 College - Les Henry & Carmen Berg
- 1964 School - Fred Bowditch
- 1969 College - Al Hingston
- 1969 School - Grattan O'Grady
- 1979 College - Jim Vancha, Deanne Belisle, Bob Evans
- 1979 School - Virginia Peters
- 1989 College - Ed Hammermeister, Page Newton, and Al VanCaeselee
- 1989 School – Jason Skinner
- 1999 College - Rob Stone
- 1999 School - Clarke Moebis
- 2009 College - Stephanie Dreger
- 2014 College + Diploma - Nikki Burton & Mathew Vercaigne

In the past, the Vice-President has reported on social media activities. The Facebook account has 588 followers. Twitter has grown from 542 followers at this time last year to 798 followers.

I represented SAGA at the 2018 Bean Feed.

I was able to find a replacement for my position although it was a lot more difficult than I thought it would be. Owen Olfert, 75C, retired entomologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, has agreed to serve. We have already begun our search for a 2021 VP and have some leads. If you are interested in serving on the SAGA Executive, please let me know.

MOTION: Accept reports: Blair Cummins/ Bob Rugg- **CARRIED**

7. New Business

None

8. Election/Approval of Executive for 2019

The proposed Executive for 2018 is as follows:

President	Mayson Maerz '83C
Honorary President	vacant
Past President	Mayson Maerz '83C
Vice President	Owen Olfert '75C
Secretary	Raelene Petracek '86C
Treasurer	Dennis Ewanus '70C
Sask. Ag Hall of Fame	Bryan Harvey '60C
Newsletter Editor	Ewald Lammerding '88S
Memberships/Registrar	Vernon Racz '68C

Website	Vernon Racz '68C
Crop Production Week	Keith Head '67C
Banquet/Mixer	Ewald Lammerding '88S
Hockey	Chay Anderson '14C
ASA – SAGA Liason	rep appointed by ASA
College Development Officer	Hamish Tulloch '91C

Members at Large	Irene Ahner '65C
	Louis Bossaer '95C
	Blair Cummins '77S
	Page Newton '89C

MOTION: The 2019 Executive be approved. Bryan Harvey/Madison Englot- CARRIED

MOTION: The 2019 Executive can fill any unfilled positions. Irene Ahner/Keith Head- CARRIED

9. Other Items/Business

none

10. Adjournment

9:30