

## Vice-President Report May 2024 Annual General Meeting

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This report details the actions of the Vice President for the previous year. My first observation was that as Members, we are so fortunate to have such a great group of Staff and Faculty who choose to provide service to the UGFA, and support and protect the mutually agreed upon rights of the Membership.

I attended Senate in October, November, February and April and plan on attending in June to finish out the academic year. The Senate meetings were dominated by the strategic transformation sales pitch, the one-way information giving reports that the University of Guelph is in a financial crisis outlining more cuts are coming, the Ontario Government Blue Ribbon Panel report, the program pauses and un-pauses, the internationalization of UG, which included the blind-side approval of the agreement with The Lovely Professional University of India. Then there was Navitas or say no to Navitas campaign. I met with Senate caucus over Navitas to present a united voice but thankfully, Navitas was put on hold due to the limitation of foreign students into Canada.

Given that the idea of Senate is based on Collegial Governance, I was disappointed at the lack of collegiality. There were numerous program and course additions and deletions. It became very clear that the Senate can easily and almost always, unanimously, decides to bring on new programs or new courses; however, when it comes to program closures and course cancellations, these are railroaded through without consultation, collegial oversight and largely without faculty input.

In the fall, the UGFA hosted the UGFA Teaching Excellence Awards, where I had the privilege of handing out awards to 7 very deserving Faculty.

I attended the annual CAUT defense fund meeting and the November CAUT Council. I participated in the OCUFA Finance workshop where our very own Herb was the highlight; his session was on reading university financial statements. I also attended the OCUFA Policy conference – funding our future, which included discussions on the Blue Ribbon Panel Report and the university system financial crisis. The outcomes of this conference are to be used to guide OCUFA policy in the year ahead.

That is my report.