

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF RETIREES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Administrative Staff Retirees' Association (ASRA) held on **August 28, 2026**, in hybrid mode – in person and by teleconference (Zoom).

1. Opening of the meeting and presentation by the President of the UO and invited guests

The meeting is brought to order at 10 a.m. with quorum having been attained with 24 participants.

Hélène Boivin introduces herself, welcomes all the participants and thanks them for their support of the ASRA.

She introduces the new President of the University, **Marie-Eve Sylvestre, Pierre Thibault**, Chief of Staff to the President, and **Eric Bercier**, Vice-President Finance and Administration. She invites the President to speak to the assembly.

The President thanks all the participants at the AGM for their engagement with the University and for their years of service and their continued involvement as ambassadors of the University.

The President explains that she just returned from Vancouver where she attended the Federal Government announcement concerning the investment to accelerate research in Canada.

The Eddie Goldenberg Research Chair, supported by a 504-million-dollar fund, will be available for a total of 60 new research chairs in universities across Canada. The University of Ottawa will benefit from seven new research chairs thanks to this fund.

The chairs will focus on the fields of health, biotechnology, the environment, climate and the Arctic, as well as advanced materials.

The President mentions that a new team is in place in the UO Administration and that none of the employees have more than two years of experience in their jobs. However, the majority have experience elsewhere on campus. This can be an advantage since students now have new expectations and new anxieties.

The President explains that she plans to focus on several areas during her mandate:

- a) The university's vision leading up to the Bicentenary (200 years) in 2048.
- b) The university « branding » which has not been redone for several years, since it was called « Canada's University »
- c) The revitalization/reform of programs to encourage more student engagement and to create a bridge amongst the arts, the sciences and the humanities.

- d) Establish a clearer process/orientation on the « francophonie » -1500 students have been consulted.
- e) Focus on Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous communities/the Algonquin Nation, with the goal of including the Indigenous perspective on everything that happens on campus and with the Administration. This includes a tuition exemption for Indigenous students/members of the Algonquin nation from the surrounding Ottawa area.
- f) Infrastructure on campus – 2600 new residence beds will be available. A new residence will replace the Brooks residence. Eric Bercier affirms that construction will soon begin.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of the agenda was proposed by the Board of Directors and seconded by Michel Prévost. The agenda is adopted unanimously.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of September 19, 2025

Adoption of the minutes is proposed by the secretary of the ASRA, Anne-Marie Fontaine, and seconded by Louise Pagé-Valin. The minutes are adopted unanimously.

4. A few words from the President of ASRA

Hélène B. welcomes Douglas Clayton, president of the Association of Professors Retired from the University of Ottawa (APRUO) as well as all new retirees participating in the AGM. Next, she thanks the members of the Board of ASRA who work tirelessly and devote themselves as volunteers to ensure the interests of retirees.

Lyse Piché is responsible for communications and writes to members on a regular basis. She promotes all the ASRA social activities by email and posts them on the ASRA website.

Hélène Carrière, treasurer, receives all membership requests for the Association and prepares financial statements with the help of **Michèle Viquerat**.

Lucie Mercier-Gauthier is a member of the Pension Committee and the Joint Committee with Human Resources. She represents the ASRA in order to assert our interests with regards to benefits and the pension, in collaboration with **Louise Pagé-Valin**. In addition, Lucie promotes our achievements to active employees during the workshop *Preparation for retirement* organized by UO Human Resources. She also acts as auditor to validate the accuracy of the ASRA financial statements.

Claude Dufresne: Claude is an essential member who manages the ASRA information systems and the website and troubleshoots on many occasions.

Anne-Marie Fontaine is our secretary and archivist.

André Pierre Lepage is our link with the organization LARO (for photocopies) and he writes perfectly in both French and English.

Pauline Bélanger supports many of our initiatives, in particular the benefits file.

Claire Cayen writes to new members to welcome them and inform them of our services. Claire also manages the scholarship program which has allowed us, again this year, to grant 4 new scholarships to exceptional students in need of financial aid.

The president also thanks the following contributors.

Louise-Pagé-Valin, ASRA representative on the Pension Committee, **Arlette Henry** who helps in planning activities and maintains the link with the APRUO, **Roger Chagnon** who creates the photo albums on our website, **Jean-Marc Dubé** who manages access to the ASRA Facebook page and finally, **Raymond Martel** who helps with the translation and revision of texts.

As for the priorities of the ASRA, the president stresses that the most important matter on which the Board is working are the Health Care Spending Account which prevents access to the federal government dental plan for those with modest pensions. The Board is working to make the various levels of the University aware of this problem. We hope that the University will eventually find a solution.

5. Treasurer's Report

a) Statement of Revenue and Expenses 2025-2026

Hélène Carrière, ASRA Treasurer, presents the financial statements for the year ending April 30, 2026. Michèle Viquerat and Hélène Carrière file the Income Statement as well as the Balance Sheet, which were audited by Lucie Mercier-Gauthier.

b) Projected Budget for 2026-2027

Hélène Carrière presents the Projected Budget for the current fiscal year. The budget is submitted to the assembly by Hélène Carrière. Monique Archambault proposes adoption of the Budget, which is seconded by Louise Pagé-Valin. The Projected Budget is approved unanimously.

Louise Pagé-Valin notes that the balance on April 30, 2026, is rather high (\$41,171) and asks if it might be timely to consider a strategic planning exercise to determine its use. A question arises as to whether there are any advantages in members of ASRA paying membership dues and becoming members, compared to other retirees who benefit from the same level of advantages obtained by ASRA, since the association represents all retirees, not only its paying members.

6. Confirmation of representatives' mandate on the Pension Committee

The mandates of our representatives on the Pension Committee must be renewed each year.

Louise Pagé-Valin is our official representative and Lucie Mercier-Gauthier participates as an observer with speaking rights since 2018.

Louise Pagé-Valin's mandate on the Pension Committee ended on June 30 and the Board of Directors of ASRA took the initiative of renewing her mandate from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

Lucie Mercier-Gauthier's mandate ends on August 31, 2026, and is submitted for renewal from September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027.

The Board of Directors submits a proposal to renew the two mandates. The proposal is seconded by Patrick Charette, Carmelle Jean and Céline Labrecque. The two renewals are approved unanimously by the assembly. The president thanks Louise and Lucie for their excellent work on the Pension Committee.

7. Report on the University's Pension Plan

Louise Pagé-Valin presents her report on the UO pension plan and explains the problem involving the indexation due from previous years. She specifies that the yield of the pension fund is good with a return of 7.2% as of December 31, 2025, and that the future obligations of the pension plan are covered with the accumulated assets.

The report is filed in the official documents of the Association and is also available on the ASRA website for registered members who login with a password.

8. Report on social activities in 2025-2026

Lyse Piché presents a summary of social activities organized by ASRA. Participants mentioned having enjoyed the gatherings.

Various activities are in the planning stages for the Fall, in particular a visit of the Canal locks with Michel Prévost on September 29, to which everyone is invited.

9. Active and Retired Administrative Staff Scholarship Fund

Claire Cayen has coordinated the scholarship fund for the last 14 years. ASRA now has the support of the *Financial Aid and Awards Office* which helps to identify potential recipients according to their financial need. The list of all recipients is available on the ASRA website.

This year, the scholarship program has allowed us to grant 4 scholarships to exceptional students with a financial need. We are preparing to grant another 6 this fall, and the names and faculties will appear on our website.

Since the beginning (2010), ASRA has granted 56 scholarships. The president thanks retirees for their generosity and their donations which have allowed us to award scholarships each year.

10. Election of Board members: four members are ending their mandate

Lucie Mercier-Gauthier presides over the election process.

Four mandates are ending this year: Hélène Carrière, Anne-Marie Fontaine, André Pierre Lepage and Hélène Boivin. André Pierre will not renew his mandate but will continue to attend meetings as a guest.

Lucie asks if there are any new candidates, but no one comes forward.

Hélène Carrière and Anne-Marie Fontaine are willing to renew their mandates for 3 years. Hélène Boivin, who has been president for the last 18 years, is willing to renew for one last year. The three candidates are elected by acclamation.

The president invites anyone interested in attending Board meetings to attend as observers. She also invites participants to think about succession since some mandates end each year.

For anyone who might like to participate but would like to discuss it first, they may contact Hélène Boivin or any other Board member.

11. Final comments from the assembly

A suggestion is brought forward to ask Human Resources to send an email every year to remind retirees to use their Health Credits.

There is a comment about the relevance of a strategic planning strategy since there will be a new ASRA president in one year. It is suggested that this process be considered this year in order to prepare for the Fall of 2027.

Michel Prévost thanks the president for her dedication during the last 18 years. All the participants approve of this gesture unanimously.

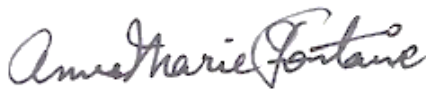
12. Adjournment

The president thanks all the members present in person and those participating online for taking the time to attend the AGM.

A motion to adjourn is proposed by Michel Prévost and adopted unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 12:10 p.m.



Hélène Boivin, president of ASRA



Anne-Marie Fontaine, Secretary-Archivist