

Welcome ODTU Alumni, so nice to be together with you.

We have the Quorum and I open the General Assembly.

Our Agenda was distributed earlier but here it is again.

Following my opening remarks, I will present a progress report as the Founding Chair. We will then present an honorary membership certificate. In the formal section of the meeting, we will hold elections for the Board, Advisory Group and the Audit Committee. We will then discuss and decide on “Annual Membership Dues”; and open the floor for proposals, suggestion, questions.

Allow me to introduce our Board members:

Yalcin Suer –Chair

Haluk Mesci – Vice Chair

Berna Gulmisal – Secretary General

Berker Adiguzel – Treasurer

Zeynep Lulec – Membership Director

I thank every one of them deeply and sincerely as without this group and their dedication, we would not have progressed as we did in such a short time-frame. We have become an excellent team and worked together frequently days as well as nights.

Allow me to elaborate on why ODTU Alumni Association of Canada, a federally syndicated not-for-profit organization, is established. Previously, and for many years, ODTU graduates and their families were getting together in occasional social events, spread across Canada, run by volunteers, communicating and organizing themselves via email or other social media.

We however wanted to unify all ODTU Alumni in all of Canada, under one corporate umbrella, united by our shared values searching for excellence, trying to implement the ODTU ideal of “together, we can change the world.” We have all been a part of this ideal at the university, together we can re-ignite that spirit here in Canada.

We are striving to achieve:

- A strong and consistent corporate voice in Canada that will be heard by all;
- Furthering the reputation of our University and of its graduates;
- To create a strong network among the alumni living in Canada;
- Support for worthy students of our university financially so that they graduate concentrating on their learning rather than earning;

- Helping and mentoring graduates who come to Canada;
- To unite all of us under the same objectives as united, we will be stronger.

I can safely and proudly say that we planned and started such a world-class institution, to bring our community in Canada, its strengths and resources together. There is no such alumni organization anywhere in the world, perhaps with the exception of Turkey.

Since May of 2017, we formed a federal corporation, expanded our reach by establishing representative bodies united under our by-laws in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan. We have a volunteer helping organize in Manitoba. We are of course seeking to expand in other parts of Canada. We reached a membership of about 200 and we are growing daily. We have a new web-site: [ODTU Alumni Canada.ca](http://ODTUAlumniCanada.ca) and it will serve the community in every respect from communication to organizing events to helping provide bursaries to worthy ODTU students. We have full presence in social media.

Here is a note from Tamer Alev, Meral Tekbaş, Adem Aygün, our British Columbia Representative Group:

“As The Regional OAAC Representative Committee for British Columbia, we would like to express our gratitude to the Founding Board for undertaking the job of bringing ODTU graduates living in Canada together.

We send our best wishes for a successful General Assembly and congratulate the newly elected governing bodies of the OAAC. We wish all the success to The Executive Board, The Advisory Board and The Audit Committee.

We are in the process of organizing an event for ODTU graduates living in BC [on January 12th](#) and would like to grow the membership of OAAC in BC.

Warmest regards to all members of the OAAC from the Pacific Coast.”

We also received a long letter from the President of ODTU, Prof Mustafa Verşan Kök.

“Dear Fellow ODTÜ Alumni,

Having celebrated its 60th anniversary last year, our University steers the research, education, social service and business world in our country and worldwide with its 127,489 alumni, 30,213 undergraduates and graduates, and 2,326 faculty members. At this point, we are proud not only of the number of our alumni, but the qualities they have contributed to the world in the last 61 years. According to LinkedIn, 834 ODTÜ alumni live in Canada. 340 ODTÜ alumni living in Toronto area are currently working in organizations such as Microsoft, Cisco, Dell, and Deloitte Canada, as well as in academic institutions such as Seneca Collage and the University of Toronto. In line with ODTÜ’s mission to educate and train citizens of the world, you, our valued alumni living in Canada, contribute to the social development of the countries you live like other ODTÜ

members all over the world, and you steer the industry and technology over there. As ODTÜ President, I am very proud of this ODTÜ spirit that we take with us no matter where we live in the world.

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I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for keeping the ODTÜ spirit alive and maintaining our solidarity. With my best regards from your home, ODTÜ Campus, Ankara.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Verşan Kök

President”

Our By-Laws are available online at our web-site. Please refer to it.

I must add that as a not-for profit organization, no member of any governing body of our association will receive any remuneration whatsoever. Any donation or excess funds from events will go straight to the bursary pool for ODTU students. We already have one bursary committed. You will hear more on this later. A family who was to join us had an emergency and they donated their reception fees to the bursary account.

We have organized seminars, the first one is on January 16, 2018 at the Bloor Gladstone library. We are working on a taxation seminar in February and more are in the works.

The upcoming ODTULU magazine will have a feature interview about our association. The news of our organization was picked up and published in three Turkish dailies.

Thanks to Haluk Mesci, our web-site was developed free-of-charge and we thank Emre Bugahan and Emre Senan in Turkey for their incessant excellence in their voluntary work. We also thank Serdar Yilgoren for providing professional photography services and Turkuaz TV (really Neset Kircalioglu) for supporting our activities by announcing our reception week after week. And of course our volunteers in supporting our activities tonight. Last but not least, we thank Tolga Ay for his help in organizing this event here and the delicious food that he is serving.

At this point, I would like to present a plaque to our friend Miss Nergis Kircalioglu as an honorary member. Miss Kircalioglu, please join me up-front.

**PLAQUE PRESENTATION**

For your information Nergis has provided our first bursary to a worthy student even though she is not an ODTU Alumni. She believes in our cause. Let's acknowledge her for her support.

(Applause)

We also wanted to honour Miss Ayse Melen for her past efforts and based on a decision of the Board, sent a letter of invitation, offering her honorary membership. Unfortunately she is not here today and provided no response to our letter.

We are now moving on to the formal section of our meeting: elections. Per our By-laws, we are going to have the elections with open vote (show of hands) unless there is a proper motion to hold it by closed ballot. In the event there are no other candidate group who would like to stand for election, your existing Board as a group would be pleased to continue for another year, to finish the work they started.

Elections for the Board (by show of hands if possible)

Elections for the Advisory Board (by show of hands if possible)

Elections for the Audit Committee (by show of hands if possible)

Congratulations for those elected.

Next item of business is the annual dues. Your Board proposes a monthly dues of \$2.00. Said differently, the dues will be \$24.00 per year. Any discussion?

Vote by show of hands.

Floor open for Suggestions, Proposals and Questions.

Closing