

All Candidates' Forum Candidate Bios
April 16, 2018

Vice President / President Nominate

David Kaminski



I earned my doctorate in mathematics from the University of Manitoba, and after a brief stint as a scientist for the defence department, I joined the ranks of the math and computer science department in 1989 and have been there since.

My involvement in ULFA didn't really begin until 2010 when I was recruited by Marc Roussel into economic benefits, and got to participate in the round of contract talks then underway which saw a wholesale revision to our salary structure which survives to this day. I did two turns as chair of the economic benefits committee in which I "enjoyed" a varied set of contract talks as chief EB negotiator, before standing as vice-president.

Partway through my preparatory year as VP I was prematurely plunked into the president's seat, and spent more than a year in the role of president. During my tenure from 2015 to 2016, we spoke to government about looming changes to labour relations between university administrations and their faculty associations, and it was during my tenure that we created the local lock-out/strike fund as well as set the stage for joining the CAUT Defence Fund.

In my additional role as the ULFA UAPP sponsors representative, I carried the concerns of the member associations of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations to the provincial legislature's Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future, opposing mooted legislation changes that would have enabled the Cabinet to turn our defined benefit pension plan into a targeted benefit plan, against our wishes.

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Vice President / President Nominate

John Usher



John Usher is Professor of Organization Theory & Strategy and a Research Affiliate of the Prentice Institute for Global Population & Economy. He served ULFA as President, Vice President, and Chief Negotiator / Handbooks Chair between 2008 and 2015, a period that included the 7.3% cut to the University's operating budget in 2013, an attempt by 'senior leadership' to unilaterally impose a "Made on the 7th Floor" study leave policy (successfully grieved), and the Board vote to close the ailing UofL Edmonton campus. He is currently a member of the Handbooks Committee.

Before joining academia, John acquired extensive experience at General Motors of Canada over a ten-year period. For part of that time, he was the Labour Relations Representative for the Oshawa Fabrication & Export Plants, (2750 UAW members / \$404 million operating budget) where-in he administered the Master and Local collective agreements, conducted meetings at the 3rd step of the grievance procedure and negotiated local working conditions demands.

In the non-profit sphere, he has been a Board member for a local micro-finance initiative and participates in both the Vibrant Lethbridge Anti-poverty committee and Chinook Food Connect. He is a former President of the Lethbridge Food Bank. Related to post-secondary academic matters, he served as Vice-President of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations and as a member of the Campus Alberta Strategic Planning Group for the Province of Alberta.

Professor Usher was Dean of the Faculty of Management from July 2002 until February 2004. Prior to coming to the U. of L., he was in the Faculty of Business Administration at Memorial University, most recently as Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Research. Professor Usher served as a faculty member at the University of Alberta from 1988 until 1994. He holds a PhD and MBA from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Usher has held SSHRC Strategic Grants and Standard Grants totaling \$686,220 in addition to grants from the Alberta Rural Development Network, the European Commission: Directorate General for Education and Culture, and the Ministry of Health and Community Services of the

Government of Newfoundland & Labrador. In March, 2018, he served his third year as an Adjudicator for SSHRC Insight grants.

Dr. Usher's Google Scholar citation count is 1211. His 'job-relevant' publications include:

Usher, John M., Syed Hammad Ali and Jeroen Huisman. Canada: Integrating the higher education system of Alberta. Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. 2016.

Usher, John M., "Academic Governance: Past, Present & Future," in Academic Governance 3.0, Chapter 5: 20-24. 2013.

John has developed and delivered seventeen different courses at the Undergraduate, Masters and PhD levels over his academic career. His current favourite to teach is the required BMgt course, *Managing Responsibly in a Global Environment*. To ease the financial burden on his students, he uses a SUNY Open Source textbook (free download) which supports 10 different head-to-head, in-class structured debates on such topics as: GMOs, Social Entrepreneurship, Organic Food, Fair Trade, Sweatshops, International Business Corruption and Animal Rights.