



February 22, 2016

Mr. Peter MacKinnon
Interim President
Athabasca University

Transmitted via email

Dear Mr. MacKinnon

Following your February 10 email announcement regarding 2016 honorary awards, a number of AUFA members expressed concerns about the induction of Mr. Barry Walker into the Order of Athabasca University. As per AUFA bylaws, members petitioned for a special meeting of the membership to discuss this issue. On February 18, AUFA held a special meeting, followed by an electronic vote on the following motion:

“Whereas Barry Walker served as a public member of the Athabasca University Board of Governors during a ten-year period (2004-14), and as Board chair for five of those years (2009-14), and whereas his lack of leadership subjected Athabasca University to poor institutional governance, fiscal mismanagement and depletion of the university's multi-million dollar reserve, illegal political donations, mismanagement of university layoffs, and the failure to appoint a permanent university President or Vice-President Academic during a time of institutional crises; and whereas, in the view of the AUFA membership, Barry Walker's Board performance represents neither outstanding leadership nor “a record of exemplary service to Athabasca University or to the community or society while representing Athabasca University” as is required by The Order of Athabasca University Policy (Board of Governors, Motion #176-12, March 16, 2012) for bestowal of this honour, I move that AUFA call on the Honorary Awards Committee to immediately reverse its decision to induct Barry Walker into the Order of Athabasca University.”

This motion was passed with 83% in favour.

AUFA members are deeply concerned about Mr. Walker's award, and are requesting that the Honorary Awards Committee reverse this decision. I look forward to a positive response from you, on behalf of the Honorary Awards Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Shaw', is written over a white background.

Dr. Lawton Shaw
President, AUFA

cc. Ms. Marg Mrazek, Board Chair