

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE COUNCIL
Minutes
For the Meeting of January 27, 2021
Meeting from 6:00pm via Zoom

Present: C. Trott, G. Mawejje (Chair), S. Peters (Secretary), G. Woodcroft, J. James, J. McConnell, J. Weimer, E. Jones, C. Loewen, H. Kennedy, J. Markstrom, I. Froese, K. Leung, J. Ripley, M. Minor, H. Enns, P. Brass, K. Kupca, H. Holbrook,

Regrets: F. Hasan, B. Duncan, B. Pope, M. Hughes

1. Opening Prayer
The Bishop opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Approval of the Agenda
MOTION: That the agenda be approved as distributed.
J. McConnell / C. Trott
CARRIED
3. Approval of the November 25, 2020 Minutes
MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of November 25, 2020 be approved as distributed.
J. James / J. Ripley
CARRIED
4. Business arising from the Minutes
None
5. New Business
 - a) Residence Building Steering Committee – The Warden sent to Council the timeline of the residence project from its conception to date. He will continue to update it. K. Leung then spoke to the report from the steering committee, which reports on what the committee has done, with a schedule of timing and cost at each stage of the project.
H. Enns noted that there is a break point at each of the stages at which we can pause, or stop, or change direction if needed, and wording to that effect should be in the contract, which is standard procedure.
K. Leung said that there will be times worked in where we can reassess the project, throughout the process.
C. Loewen noted that the committee is not yet ready to say that we should move on to the next big stage. There are a number of other issues, such as carbon emissions, that are being discussed, before we can be ready to move forward. We will have to answer at what point or percentage of donated funds that we have, are we comfortable with proceeding with construction.
K. Leung reminded Council we need to divide this into two phases: design and then construction. They are separate phases.
I. Froese offered that between the steering and fundraising committees could decide on that threshold of fundraising and loans to be comfortable to recommend. That is the work of the sub-committees, to work on it and put something together.
C. Trott suggested that we send Kevin's table to the fundraising committee and ask them to fill in the bottom part.
K. Leung said that the next step is that the committee will meet to consider the suggestions made by Council, and obtain additional input into the construction and design of what is possible and how money can be saved. We are also looking into the funding side with a low-interest loan through the CMHC as a way of financing the project.
 - b) Residence Fundraising Committee – The committee has been meeting. The purpose is to support the Capital Campaign to come up with a plan to approach donors with a proposal for support. They are developing a timeline for fundraising. They need the help of Council as we

- move forward, in building relationships with donors and making sure the campaign is a success. If there is someone the committee should be speaking with, please let them know. Other donors are being identified. They have 20 donors identified so far, they would like to have at least 100 donors. They continue to add names to the list. We are not asking you to ask anyone for money, simply asking for advice and to let them know if there are people who might be of interest to the committee.
- c) Budget Summary – The Bursar presented the budget summary from December. We continue with our minimal operations in the residence and keeping expenses to a minimum. Our last Emergency Wage Subsidy claim was rejected. We are engaging our legal counsel as well as our financial auditors, to appeal the decision. We will keep Council posted as things develop.
 - d) Warden Search Committee – The Bursar presented the report from the Warden Search Committee on behalf of the committee’s chair. The committee will be meeting in early February to review the applications, and on moving forward.

6. Reports from Committees, College Officers and Student Council

- a) Reports from Committees – Council Executive, Development, Finance & Admin. Council Executive met to set the agenda for tonight’s meeting. Development Committee has not met. Finance and Administration has not met since the last Council meeting.
- b) Report from Assembly
Assembly did not meet since last Council. Instead we had a beginning of term reception on Zoom, and farewell to a few of our colleagues who have since retired.
- c) Reports from College Officers and Student Council
 - i) Warden

St John’s College
Warden’s Report to Assembly and Council
January 27, 2021

We have just come from the Christmas break which for the first time in years really was a time of rest and refreshment for me. Without the round of holiday receptions and events to attend, life was much quieter. We were able to attend many more virtual concerts and plays than we have attended before, including all of the ones in Toronto that my wife has been missing!

The University returned to work on January 5, but the first two weeks of January had been set aside for in-person classes associated with the Fall term. I am not sure how many of these classes actually took place under Code Red, and College buildings remained closed. Our Food services and facilities staff continue to work supporting the Residence and the Daily Bread is open for take-out. We have one person in the main office and one person in the Development Office every day in case people need access to our buildings. The remainder of the staff continue to work from home.

I am teaching one course, NATV 2420 “Inuit Literature in Translation”, this term - remotely.

Much of my work since the last Council Meeting has been working with and setting up the two new residence steering committees. In addition, I have done some work visiting via phone and Zoom with donors and Alumni. One of our key activities was the last-minute fundraiser to support the students in residence over the Christmas holidays. Thank you to everyone who stepped up the plate (literally) and helped us to provide meals over the entire holiday for the students.

- 1) Attended Senate, December 2
- 2) Met with the SJC Fundraising Steering Committee, December 3, January 7
- 3) Scholarship Committee, December 4
- 4) Attended virtual service commemorating the Montreal Massacre, December 7

- 5) Met with SJC Residence Building Steering Committee, December 8, 21, January 15
- 6) Led the Native Studied Department Professionalization Workshop, December 9
- 7) Attended Native Studies Department Meeting, December 14
- 8) Attended Rupert's Land News Board, December 15
- 9) Participated in meeting to consider forming a Northern Development Institute, December 15
- 10) Chaired U of M Press Board, December 16
- 11) Attended Provost's Council, December 17
- 12) Attended Senate, January 6
- 13) Met with the Indigenous Representation in University Governance Working Group, January 14
- 14) Attended Deanery Clericus, January 16.

ii) Dean of Studies

Dean of Studies: Report to Assembly/Council January 2021

I was on research leave from July 1 through December 31, 2020. Susan Close was Acting Dean in my absence, and I wish to thank her for her willingness to step into this role during an unprecedented time. Workloads have been heavy for faculty over the past 10 months, as we navigate online teaching, service, and research. Many of us have had to adapt or postpone research activities.

I have been given the unanticipated opportunity to serve on the Royal Society of Canada's COVID-19 Taskforce, which I was asked to join in April 2020. The taskforce has done extensive work to provide evidence-based responses to the pandemic from a number of different perspectives, including renewing the social contract to allow for full economic recovery, the experience of indigenous and racialized communities, mental health, science and misinformation, reforming the long term care system, preserving the pandemic's historical record (on which I've worked SJC Fellow Greg Bak and former UM Archivist Shelley Sweeney), and policy recommendations for reforming public health in the light of historical experience (a working group I chair). If you are interested in learning more about the Taskforce, visit <https://rsc-src.ca/en/themes/rsc-task-force-covid-19>

As we approach one year operating under COVID restrictions, SJC is looking to renew some of the academic programming put on hold last spring. On January **, we held a virtual reception to honour a number of retirements from the College: Barry Ferguson, Dianna Brydon, and Brenda Cantelo (our previous Dean of Studies). We also said goodbye to Adolf Ng, who has left UM. The reception was very well attended, and I want to thank everyone for coming. We had short speeches from Adele Perry, Michael Minor, and myself in appreciation of our retiring Fellows. It was a real pleasure to 'see' everyone again, as it has been more than a year now since our last reception. Normally these take place four times a year.

Plans are in the works for a virtual Marjorie Ward Lecture, tentatively scheduled for MARCH 4, 2021. All of the details are not yet finalized, but please mark your calendars for that date.

The Student Art Competition will continue this year, despite pandemic challenges! Students will submit digital images to the online competition, which form a virtual exhibit created by our Art Fellow, Liv Valmestad. I'm very grateful for Liv and to Amy Craddock for helping us with this innovative adaptation to circumstances. Artwork submission deadline is February 19th, and from February 22 through March 26th you can view and vote on the art via a wordpress site: <https://stjohnsartcompetition.wordpress.com/>

I am working with the Development Office to schedule virtual Soup and Bread lectures, that will be open to alumni as well as staff and Fellows. More information will be forthcoming on those.

Thank you,
Esyllt Jones

iii) Development Office

Development Officer Report to Council
January 2021

Fundraising

- The annual appeal response raised almost \$29,000 – this is a better result that we have seen in a couple of years.
- The Twelve Days of Christmas was used to raise funds for students living in Residence over Christmas and raised \$4,360.
- We received a stock transfer of just over \$50,000 designated to Chaplaincy and the New Residence.
- We have received partial settlement of the outstanding two estates in the amounts of \$100,000 and \$1.8 million.
- Total raised to date is \$133,006 plus the \$1.9mi.

Alumni/Stewardship

- Continuing to visit with Johnians via phone.

Special Events

- Looking at potential alumni on-line events.

Marketing/Communications

- The current issue of In Lumine is with the designer and should be mailed out in February.

Staffing

- Theresa Morgan has settled in extremely well as the Development Coordinator and is taking on more responsibilities.
- Have applied for the Canada Summer jobs. In the past we have been funded 8 weeks during the summer.

Capital Campaign

- Work continues – please see separate report.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jackie Markstrom
20th January, 2021

iv) Dean of Residence

Dean of Residence Report – January 18, 2021

As you may be aware, I resumed my position at the College as of November 30, 2020. Thanks to Ivan Froese, you have been receiving reports on residence operations during my prolonged absence. Please find the current details below:

Regular Semester

The health and safety of our students and staff remains our top priority, and we are continuing with all our enhanced protocols including additional washroom cleaning, individually served meals, mandatory masks in public spaces, and ongoing physical distancing.

We have kept two of our apartments vacant to be used as quarantine space should the need arise. One of our residents went back to her country for 2 months and is due to return in February. Extensive measures have been taken to ensure that she can have an effective quarantine; we have also given her strict guidelines to follow for the safety of all students and staff members.

Currently we have 28 residents, almost all of them international students. We are paying extra attention in vetting students before they are accepted into the residence.

Residence Activity

Since November, there have been a few incidents. The residents involved have been contacted and appropriate measures have been taken. The College continues to be understanding and supportive during these trying times.

Our Chaplain Helen Holbrook have initiated a few virtual activities to help students with their mental health. I personally attended a virtual “tea session” with Helen and a resident and enjoyed an hour-long conversation. Thank you,

Fayaz Hasan
Dean of Residence

v) Chaplain

Chaplain’s Report to St. John’s College Council

Submitted by: The Rev. Helen Holbrook

Date of Submission: January 20, 2021

I have organized my report by categories.

Residents:

- a) I have sent an introductory email to all the residents and I received about 7 responses.
- b) I have met with the Dons and will arrange another meeting with Fayaz hopefully at the end of January.
- c) Coffee with the Chaplain, I have met with one resident and she would like to continue meeting weekly.
- d) I meet with Fayaz regularly.
- e) I am working with the past Chaplain (Andrew) in support of a resident with some long-standing challenges. Rev. Andrew had worked with the resident for some time and will help me connect with the resident.
- f) I made a poster to hang in the Residence hallway.

Student Council:

- a) I attend student council meetings (there was just one before the Christmas break).
- b) I meet with the Senior Stick Breanna weekly
- c) I have met with each council member individually.
- d) I will start working on the annual retreat, if virtual it will be in February but in off site it will be end of March (depends on the restrictions).

St. John’s Staff

- a) Great support from staff, opportunity to meet fellows via on-line, looking forward to seeing them in person one day.
- b) I do not know if there is a need for any kind of debrief or creating a book club or self care activity. Just let me know.

U of M Chaplaincy Group

- a) I have attended group meetings and some educational presentations.
- b) I was a part of an orientation night with new students.
- c) Worked with Edgar to do an on-line memorial (Montreal Massacre – Dec.6).

Programs/Rituals/Services

- a) Tree of remembrance – people (staff, residents, and wider student body) were invited to email their losses and hopes under COVID restrictions.
- b) Walking Group – Invitation to share walks around the grounds or elsewhere, I mindfulness exercise.
- c) St. John's Facebook Page Celtic Prayer – First 15 min prayer ritual posted on Tuesday January 19th. Will post twice a week.

Future

- a) Drop in coffee with the Chaplain – some of the other chaplains are setting up something similar. Set aside 2 hours a month? Not sure what program to use.
- b) Hope to come on campus one day, depends when classes start on campus.
- c) Challenge of making connections on-line, are residents zoom weary?
- d) Out-door gathering if we can have 10 people? Setting up a bonfire roasting marshmallows' etc.? If weather and restrictions permit, end of February?

Glad and thankful that I am here at St. John's!

Respectfully submitted.

Rev. Helen Holbrook

v) Bursar

Bursar's Report to Council January 27th, 2021

Update on CEWS

As was previously reported at the May 20th Council meeting, St John's College was initially shut out of the Canada Emergency Way Subsidy program because we were broadly classified as a public institution. We engaged with CRA directly and had BDO Canada act on our behalf to explain and clarify the nature of our operations to them. Ultimately, we were able to apply, and have been submitting successful claims throughout the summer and into the fall.

However, our most recent claim was denied. A letter from CRA stated they had reviewed our October – November application and have determined we are a public institution for the purposes of CEWS because of our affiliation with the University of Manitoba.

We believe their ruling represents a profound misunderstanding of the nature of St John's College, its governing structure, independence, and our financial and legal relationship with the University of Manitoba. We have taken immediate action and engaged with the College Solicitor and BDO Canada to act on our behalf to reverse this decision. On Wednesday, January 20th we met with our Solicitor and two tax lawyers from Thompson Dorfman Sweatman, as well as two representatives from BDO Canada. They all expressed confidence in our position and support our eligibility within the CEWS program. They will be acting on our behalf to reverse the CRA ruling and restore our standing. They have extensive experience dealing with these matters and we have confidence in their ability to achieve a successful resolution to this matter. Council will be kept up to date as things progress.

Staffing

On November 23rd, Fayaz Hasan received an "Interim Work Authorization" that has allowed him to return to his duties as Dean of Residence while he awaits processing of his Permanent Residency Application. The College is very pleased to have him back in his role. It has been a challenging time for Fayaz, as he has been unable to work for the past 13 months.

Theresa Morgan was hired as our new Development Coordinator and began work on November 16th. She has been a great addition to the administrative team and is settling into her new position. This was a critical hire as we head further into the Capital Campaign, and I know our Development Officer is pleased to have her on board.

And finally, Helen Holbrook was hired as our new Chaplain and started work on November 23rd. Helen has been working with our Dean of Residence to connect with our students in an effort to address any mental health challenges they may be facing as the pandemic continues and we enter the winter months.

vi) Registrar

Registrar's Report
January 2021

The migration to the new website continues. I have received some initial training, along with Amy Craddock who will be my website backup, on Drupal, the new web system.

In February, the University is holding a Virtual Open House which we will once again be participating, this time, thankfully, Fayaz will be joining me. Additionally, we will have our own virtual booth so that means more hours, not sharing space with the other Colleges, and hopefully we will get more direct traffic.

I have also just received information on the Brandon Career Symposium which we have been attending regularly, with the exception of this past year due to COVID. This year the Symposium will also be virtual. I am waiting for more information from the U of M Admissions department to discuss how that is going to work, but I expect we will be participating in that as well.

Sherry Peters
Registrar

viii) Senior Stick

7. Other Business
None

8. Adjournment
MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.
J. James / I. Froese
CARRIED