

# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE ASSEMBLY Minutes

**For the meeting of January 18, 2022 @ 2:30 pm via Zoom**

Present: C. Piotrowski, S. Peters (Secretary), E. Jones, H. Holbrook A. Abra, M. Minor, M. Evans, J. James, M. Benbow, L. Kuffert, D. Watt, I. Froese, M. Dennis-Unrau, J. Weimer (Chair), L. Valmestad, D. Larsen, J. Markstrom, S. McLeod, A. Desmarais, J. Thorpe, S. Teetzel, B. Collins, M. Shwaykosky, A. Perry, K Fowler, J. Amorim-Santos, C. Penner, F. Hasan, J. Thorpe, S. Close, K. Levasseur

Regrets: D. Oliver, B. Hallman, L. Wilkinson, C. Trott, B. Erickson, W. Cariou, G. Bak,

## **1. Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as distributed.

L. Kuffert / C. Penner

CARRIED

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on September 21, 2021.**

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting on September 14, 2021 be approved as distributed.

D. Watt / M. Minor

CARRIED

## **3. Business arising from the Minutes of the September 21, 2021 meeting**

None

## **4. New Business**

- a) Budget summary / financial update– The Warden and Bursar updated Assembly on the operations and financial situation of the College. With the continued closure, there is added financial stress on the residence. We are still appealing the CRA decision on the CEWS. Things are tight but we are working on a plan to move forward with or without the CEWS money.
- b) Membership Committee Vote – The Dean of Studies reminded Assembly that there had been an online vote in December that passed unanimously to elect Jocelyn Thorpe as a Fellow to the College, and we extend a welcome to Jocelyn.
- c) Bringing the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture to St John's College – Jocelyn informed Assembly about the activities of the Centre as It is currently running, and the potential for adding activities using the classroom space of St John's College and with the location of the U of M Press at the College adds to the benefits of moving the Centre to the College.
- d) COVID / College operations – The Warden stated that there is not much more to report other than that all non-essential activity is still remote until after Reading Week. A big thank you to Ian, Marlene, Paul, the food services and housekeeping staff. We currently have minimal staff coming in for a part of a day a week to look after the mail. Our head

of housekeeping, Shirley has retired which lead to the promotion of Marlene and Paul to head housekeeping. Our Assistant Bursar, Nick, is leaving us at the end of January. The Bursar added that if anyone is coming to the College, you are welcome to do so, just please let Ivan and Allison know when you will be in.

- e) Working with the diocese to bring an Afghan family to Winnipeg – The Warden wanted Assembly to know that the Chaplain and the Warden had been contacted by the diocese who is working with a family from Afghanistan. The father had been working for the Vice-President of Afghanistan and his wife was an activist for women’s rights. The diocese is in need of a partner to help sponsor the family to come to Canada. The father is a U of M student. This is not a financial commitment, but it would be more of an institutional and administrative commitment, if this progresses.

## **5. Other Business**

None

## **6. Reports**

### **a) Reports from College Officers**

**Warden** – Please see attached

**Dean of Studies** – Please see attached

**Chaplain** – Please see attached

**Bursar** – Please see attached

**Dean of Residence** – Please see attached

**Development Officer** – Please see attached

**Registrar** – Please see attached

### **b) Report from Senior Stick**

## **7. Adjournment**

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned

I. Froese

By Consensus

## **St. John's College**

### **Warden's Report to Assembly, January 2022**

Since Assembly last met, I was honoured to be formally installed as Warden and Vice-Chancellor on Oct. 7, 2021. Much of my time throughout the fall was dedicated to planning for and participating in events associated with the gradual reopening of the College after the long pause of the pandemic. We were scheduled to be back to normal operations in January 2022, but the emergence of the Omicron variant has forced another delay, which will hopefully be of short duration. Some of my other activities have included:

#### **Academics**

There were two meetings of the Scholarships Committee in the past few months, in which we happily dispersed awards and bursaries to our highly deserving SJC students. The Membership Committee has also been active, and we have welcomed several new fellows into the College. I have been in discussions with the Dean of Studies on ways to revive the in-person fellowship once the College can reopen, while also considering strategies for a more hybrid future that will enable greater participation in academic events. I have also been working with our Chaplain and members of the SJCSA to develop additional supports for our students in the face of the UMFA strike and ongoing pandemic, and attended a retreat with them on Nov. 27.

#### **Theology**

On Nov. 26, the Bishop, the Chaplain, and I met with representatives from Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) at their campus to discuss the continuation of our joint offering of theology courses at SJC. It was a productive meeting, and included some aspirational planning about a renewed Winnipeg-wide theological consortium. The College and Diocese of Rupert's Land have also been engaged in some internal discussions about the future direction of Anglican theological education.

#### **SJC Alumni/Development**

I have continued to reach out to and meet with SJC alumni and donors around Winnipeg and elsewhere. Most notably, Jackie Markstrom and I travelled to Ottawa and Montreal in October, and Toronto in November, to connect with alumni in those cities. Both trips were a great success, and it was wonderful to meet with such a diverse group of Johnnians who all share such love for the College. In particular, I learned how important our alumni think the residence is to the College's identity – even if they never lived there themselves – and how much interest there is in the project for a new residence.

#### **Capital Campaign/SJC Residence**

Per above, I have continued to work closely with our Development team and Capital Campaign consultant, Kat Kupca, on fundraising for our residence project. I have also been engaged in a series of meetings with members of the Building Sub-Committee of College Council to consider ways that our plans for a new residence should evolve given the changed public health, financial, and institutional landscape of the post-pandemic world. In late November, the Bursar and I also

met with representatives from UM Campus Planning and the CEO of UM Properties, to learn more about the future Southwood Development that is now moving forward and will result in significant commercial and residential development directly across the street from the College, perhaps re-shaping our own development plans.

### **Other Activities**

- I represented the College at multiple meetings of Dean's Council, Provost's Council, University Senate, and Diocesan Council.
- I participated in ceremonies planned by the Chaplain to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30, and the National Day for Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on Dec. 6.
- I have started to consult with people on and off campus about ways to advance the College's commitment to Indigenization and Reconciliation. In particular, we are interested in how we can recruit more Indigenous students to live in the residence, and to incorporate Indigenous design and create spaces for ceremony in our new residence.
- I attended the Halloween (in costume!) and Christmas banquets hosted by our residence students.
- Supported by UM, I enrolled in the nation-wide Senior University Administrators Course (SUAC), and have attended all of their initially weekly and then monthly sessions.
- I attended and offered the welcome at the excellent Christmas Jazz Concert in the Chapel on Dec. 9.
- On Jan. 10, the Chaplain and I attended a meeting with the Diocesan Refugee Coordinator about the possibility of the College serving as a Constituent Group to support bringing an Afghan family to Canada as refugees.
- Scholarly: I attended various remote presentations and workshops of the Second World War Research Group, North America, and the National Association of Intelligence History. I was scheduled to present on a roundtable about teaching military history at the American Historical Association annual meeting in New Orleans from Jan. 6-9, 2022, but in view of the Omicron wave my panel opted to transition to the remote AHA happening in February.

## Dean of Studies Report to Assembly January 2022

### Membership

Despite difficult circumstances in the fall term, membership in the College continues to generate interest from faculty and graduate students. Earlier in the pandemic, we had a number of office vacancies due to retirements and a couple of departures. I'm pleased to tell Assembly that we are now 'full' again at the College, after welcoming a number of new Fellows in the past few months. Many of our new Fellows are now 'moved in' although not yet spending much time in person at the College due to public health restrictions and the UMFA strike.

You will recall that November Assembly was cancelled due to the strike. We held an electronic vote on the membership of Prof. Jocelyn Thorpe (Women's and Gender Studies/History, CCWOC) as Fellow. As Sherry Peters indicated in an email to Assembly members in mid-December, Prof. Thorpe has been elected as Visiting Fellow (for one year, after which she will become a Senior Fellow). A warm welcome to Prof. Thorpe.

### College Events

For the past nearly two years, academic programming has been limited at SJC. Our community in the past has been based upon frequent in-person opportunities to meet – to eat and drink together (formally through events like receptions, and informally in the SCR), learn about each other's research, and conduct College business. Much of this has been impossible for some time.

I have been aware of the impact of pandemic fatigue on our Fellows and staff, and have not planned many 'zoom' events, outside of Assembly and occasional other meetings. After so much time passing, however, it's important to re-group. In particular, I regret the lost opportunity to hear about the research of some of our Visiting Fellows, and those new to the College. I'm hoping that we can begin to do that this term.

To that end, I am exploring best practices for hybrid events, and looking for the most simple but effective technologies to help us to host hybrid talks and functions, even after the pandemic has loosened its grip on us. I hope to emphasize the positive opportunities for engagement through virtual connection, but also encourage in-person interaction as people become comfortable with it. The goal here is to enhance accessibility over the long term, and to help support the College by creating an effective hybrid event infrastructure for non-member room bookings and catering. I'd be happy to hear advice from you about how best to host effective hybrid programming. Please stay tuned for event announcements over the next few weeks, such as the return of lunchtime 'Soup and Bread' lectures, and the introduction of readings and talks in a later afternoon timeslot (which for the moment I'm calling 'Wine and Words.')

The one event we have hosted consistently throughout the pandemic is the annual Marjorie Ward Lecture. I hope to have information on this year's event in the next few weeks.

### Student Art Competition

We will again be having a Student Art Competition. It is in the early planning stages, and as soon as we have a poster, it will be circulated to members of Assembly and the SJC community.

**Dean of Studies position**

I'd like to let everyone know that I will be leaving my position as Dean of Studies on July 1, 2022. As an infectious disease and health care historian, the pandemic has had a significant impact on my research program and research demands. For nearly two years, I have been a member of the Royal Society of Canada's COVID-19 Taskforce. This continues to be rewarding and engaging work, but it is also time-sensitive and requires ongoing commitment.

Upon being awarded a two-year Humanities Research Professorship effective July 2021, I decided not to immediately resign my role as Dean of Studies because a new Warden was coming on board. In July 2022, it will be a good time to make a transition to a new Dean of Studies. Warden Allison Abra will have more to say about the selection of a new Dean of Studies in the coming months.

I've loved this role, the supportive nature of SJC, and the opportunity to serve.

## **January 2022 Report to St. John's College Assembly**

### **Residents**

I met with residents individually and facilitated a weekly meditation group (Friday at 11:30 am). Currently due to restrictions, I have started to meet on-line and suspended the meditation group. Hopefully the meditation group can start up again in February.

### **Student Council**

The last meeting was December 7<sup>th</sup>, and plans were to meet the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>. The council will be changing its meeting time to accommodate everyone's new winter schedule. The retreat went well, and it was great to meet the council members in person. There are plans for another retreat (end of March) hopefully at Birds Hill Park!

### **On-line services**

Offer Celtic Daily prayer on Tuesday and Thursdays. Just returned to posting the prayer on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Chapel Services**

National day against violence against women Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>: U of M chaplaincy group members took part in this remembrance, and it was posted on the St. John College U tube channel. Big thank you to all staff, and students who participated.

Chapel meditation: Suspended till February 2022, Communion Service (every Monday) suspended every till February 2022.

New programs under consideration once the University is open to in class learning

- Bible based Discipleship group

- Theology on Tap

### **University of Manitoba Chaplaincy Group**

Working with Edgar on developing a Spiritual life tool kit. Also, the group may put on another COVID day of remembrance in March.

The Spiritual service will be relocating to U of M union centre (5<sup>th</sup> floor), where there are offices and space to hold small services. It is hoped I can facilitate a labyrinth session when the university is open.

### **Healing Garden Project**

We were awarded some funds from the Anglican Foundation. I have started planning and will create a budget. It is hoped we may augment the funds in the future. I will make a detailed report in February.

### **Wechetowin (people helping people)**

Anglican Indigenous group Wechetowin gave St. John's some welcome cards for our residents. They are willing to give us some more when we run out. Still hoping for a sharing circle maybe in the Spring – late April, depending on restrictions.

### **Theology**

Had a fruitful preliminary discussion at CMU with interested parties. This included Allison, Bishop Geoff, and I. Allison can summarize what was discussed and what the next steps are. We intend to meet again at CMU possibly in February or March.

### **Chapel Fund Raiser**

Jazz Christmas evening – Robert Burton and Jazz music students. Date: December 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Successful community event. It is hoped we can do this again next year. We broke even and it was well received.

### **Food for the Journey**

Was intending to start but due to restrictions I hope to have a session in March of 2022. It would be great to live stream the event.

### **Overall**

It was great to see more people around the campus the past few months. However, with the 4<sup>th</sup> wave (Omicron) plans for a full opening were stalled. I hope we may return to a full opening maybe in February. If this occurs, I will organize a de confusion center in the foyer of the Esyllt's office. Where during the first week



of the opening 10 am to 2 pm the office door will be open. It will serve as a reception area with coffee and snacks, information, and directions for those finding themselves on campus for the first time.

Submitted by Rev. Helen Holbrook SJC Chaplain

## **Bursar's Report to Assembly January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### **General Operations**

Prior to the holiday break and the onset of the Omicron variant, the College was beginning to show some evidence of a gradual return to somewhat normal operations. In the General Office, we had a daily, rotating compliment of staff that hovered around 60% of our normal staffing levels. The Daily Bread was open for regular business hours, and from time to time, had a line-up of customers which was an encouraging reminder of something we look forward to becoming a regular occurrence again in the future. We also had several catered events being held at St John's, students were using designated study areas, fellows were using their offices a bit more, and we were positioning ourselves to welcome more students into the Residence in January.

Although these encouraging signs have been impacted by this latest wave and our momentum has been stymied and put on hold, we hope that once this latest wave crests and the public health situation improves, we're able to pick up where we left off.

In the meantime, we have returned to working remotely for the most part – we have one staff person at the College each day so that we can receive mail and packages and assist with whatever needs our Residents may have. Food Service and Housekeeping staff continue to serve students in the residence, but we've asked them to return to limiting their hours as much as possible.

### **CRA Update**

Our CRA appeal relating to our eligibility within the CEWS program is ongoing. We remain confident in the merits of our case and are communicating regularly with our lawyer regarding next steps in the process.

### **COVID Update**

Our College community has now experienced our first series of cases since the start of the pandemic. This was inevitable given the transmissibility of Omicron, and we're grateful that none of the cases thus far have been serious. People are isolating according to public health guidelines, and we continue to make every effort to limit cases and provide a safe place for people to live and work.

### **Staff Update**

After 20 years of dedicated and exemplary service at the College, and positively impacting the lives of 1000's of students in our Residence, Shirley Mooyman has retired from her position as Housekeeping Supervisor. We've had to postpone her retirement event for the time being, but we wish her all the best going forward and thank her for her many contributions to St John's. She will be missed.

Paul Cano (who has been working with Shirley in Housekeeping) and Marlene Valdes Acosta (who has worked in Food Service for many years), have agreed to take on new roles as Head Housekeepers. We are excited to be able to elevate them to these positions and I'm very confident they'll do a great job moving forward.

Our Assistant Bursar, Nick Procyshyn has accepted a position with End Homelessness Winnipeg as their new Director of Finance & Operations. Nick has been with the College since November of 2019. We will miss Nick and are sorry to see him go, but also thank him for the valuable work he has done, particularly over these challenging last two years and wish him nothing but every success in his new endeavour.

## Dean of Residence Report – January 11, 2022

### 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.

With the emergence of the new omicron variant, we are asking students to remain vigilant as always. We have had 3 positive cases of covid in the residence since the new year. We have immediately made arrangements for the affected students to maintain safety within the residence, for them and others. We utilized our quarantine apartments to isolate them and have kept in touch with them every 24 hours. All 3 students seem to be in the last stages of their recovery.

Currently we have 36 residents, 27 of them being international students.

### Residence Activity

No notable incident in the residence so far.

There are some maintenance projects we hope to focus on this semester. For now, we are waiting to issue those work orders to avoid having too many repair persons enter the residence.

We have temporarily stopped organizing events within the residence because of covid. We hope to resume such activities once we can safely host them.

Thank you,

Fayaz Hasan  
Dean of Residence

Development Officer Report to Assembly  
January 2022

**Fundraising**

- To date raised: \$162,138
- The fall appeal has resulted in close to \$30,000 in donations. We have yet to receive those made through the UofM.
- There is an outstanding amount of approximately \$200k to come in from one of the estates.

**Alumni/Stewardship**

- Continuing to make phone call and email connections to alumni/donors.
- Developing a stewardship plan to ensure we are connection with our donors in a meaningful way.

**Special Events**

- We looking at hosting some virtual alumni reunions over the next couple of months.
- Exploring the possibility of a virtual Lunch and Lively with delivered lunch for local.

**Marketing/Communications**

- An e-newsletter will be out sometime in January.
- Planning for an issue of In Lumine to be in the mailbox by March 2022.

**Staffing**

- We have applied for a Canada Summer jobs position.
- Jasmine our volunteer is studying remotely and unable to come into the office.
- Sidney, our WorkStudy student is helping Theresa with content for social media, the e-newsletter and a stewardship project.

**Capital Campaign**

- Meeting weekly with the consultant, Kat Kupca.
- Allison continues to meet with prospective cabinet members and donors.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jackie Markstrom

12<sup>th</sup> January, 2022



# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

ESTABLISHED 1866

## Registrar's Report January 2022

I continue as Acting Awards Clerk. A couple of opportunities have come up in this role that I want to share with you. The first is that I had received notice from the UM Student Technology Fund that there were funds to help students purchase a new or refurbished laptop. Advisors from every faculty were asked to contact only five students so I reviewed the scholarship and bursary applications and selected five students with high need and whom we weren't able to give a bursary or scholarship to. I do know that a couple of them were able to get a new laptop, or a new to them laptop for which they were ecstatic.

I also want to thank all who contributed to the Holiday Hamper, which is the other opportunity I wanted to mention. The student we provided the hamper for is an International Student in her fourth year of nursing, with three small children. They greatly appreciated the hamper. And I personally, was moved by the generosity of the Fellows and Staff of the College. It is something I recognized when I came in to interview for the position of Registrar, and it is so much of what makes the College a special place to be.

The UM is once again having an online open house on February 24. We will have our virtual booth as a part of the event. I believe the video Fayaz and I put together for the October open house will be available again. And we will be there to have online chat sessions with potential students.

And finally, the Brandon Career Symposium will once again be online this year. We will have a dedicated web page with information for interested students and possibly a video interview as well.

Sherry Peters  
Registrar