

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE ASSEMBLY MINUTES

For the meeting of March 11, 2024 @ 2:00 pm Room 201 and via Zoom

Present: L. Wilkinson (Chair), S. Peters (Secretary), D. Brydon, A. Riziki, A. Perry, M. Naylor, I. Froese, M. Bowman, R. Turnbull, K. Block A. Abra, J. Weimer, S. Close, K. Markstrom, H. Holbrook, M. Benbow, J. Markstrom, D. Larsen, L. Valmestad, R. Thomas, S. Teetzal, J. Dueck, J. Aymeric, M. Dennis Unrau, L. Kuffert. G. Bak

Regrets: A. Desmarais, D. Oliver, J. Thorpe, G. Friesen, M. Minor, M. Evans, C. Piotrowski, D. Watt, J. Smith, S. Carleton, C. Penner, A. Vovchuk,

1. Land acknowledgement

A. Abra opened the meeting with the land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as distributed.

J. Weimer / A. Abra

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on January 16, 2024.

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of January 16, 2024 be approved as distributed.

J. Weimer / R. Thomas

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the Minutes of the January 16, 2024 meeting

None

5. New Business

a) Elect chair for upcoming year – L. Wilkinson has agreed to stay on as chair for the fall term and will need an interim to replace her for the Winter term. MOTION from Assembly Executive: That Lori Wilkinson be re-elected Chair of Assembly for the fall term of the 2024-2025 academic year.

CARRIED

b) Motion from Membership Committee – MOTION: That Gregg Olsen be approved as a Retired Fellow.

CARRIED

c) Elect new member to Finance & Admin Committee – L. Kuffert has agreed to be considered for Chair of the Finance & Admin Committee but needs to first be appointed by Assembly to the Committee

MOTION: That Len Kuffert be appointed to the Finance and Admin. Committee.A.

Abra / J. Weimer

CARRIED

- d) Financial Update – The Bursar updated Assembly on the financial status of the College and informed Assembly that the budget for the upcoming fiscal year is going to Finance and Admin. and will be brought to Assembly for approval for the May meeting. Council will review and set the parameters for the Budget at their meeting on March 20. We are still recovering from revenue losses during COVID. Measures were taken to minimize our losses but there was still an impact on our budget.

- e) Theology Update – At the last Assembly meeting, R. Turnbull had introduced a big picture plan to the College and introduced Assembly to WECAN. The Diocese is planning to sign a three-year contract with them for a licentiate program, with a projected fifty students in the network and St John’s College would contribute a few students as well. The financial cost of the contract is being covered by the diocese. The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Canadian Mennonite University is being re-upped and reviewed. In addition to the two classes already offered through the College, we are looking at offering two more courses, a proposal for which will be brought to Assembly at a later date. For approval today, R. Turnbull has circulated the syllabus for a course to be offered in the Spring on eco-theology that Ryan is already teaching through Thornloe University through Laurentian. We create our own course number, charge our own tuition, it is taught hybrid for anyone locally who wants to take it, or they can attend online across the country.
 MOTION: That Assembly approve cross-listing Thornloe University class “THEO3900 - Eco-Theology” with the St John’s College Class “Integral Ecology and Theologies of Solidarity” taught by Dr Ryan Turnbull
 R. Turnbull / H. Holbrook
 CARRIED

- f) Update on student recruitment and data analysis – M. Naylor updated Assembly that we are now up to 700 members. We attended the UM Open House in February. Marissa has also connected with Kristin in Recruitment who is sending potential and incoming students to the UM, information about the College. The Registrar and Dean of Residence are hosting online open houses to talk with incoming students and introduce the College and Residence to potential students.

- g) Fellows Handbook and future events – The Fellows Handbook has been officially updated and has been emailed to Fellows and is available on the website. Please pay attention to the colour coding regarding activities around the College. And a reminder that the Marjorie Ward Lecture is tonight at 5:30 pm in the Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre.

6. Other Business

None

7. Reports

a. Reports from College Officers

- Warden – See attached
- Dean of Studies – See attached
- Development Officer – See attached
- Bursar – See attached
- Dean of Residence – See attached
- Chaplain – See attached
- Registrar – See attached

b. Report from Senior Stick – No report

8. Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

R. Turnbull

CARRIED

St John's College

Warden's Report to Assembly, March 2024

Since Assembly last met, discussions have been ongoing between Administration and the University about a potential partnership on building a new residence. Most notably, the Bursar and I represented the College at a presentation about the project to UM's Major Capital Projects Committee. We have also been working towards developing the 2024-5 budget, which this year includes a Covid Impact Assessment being conducted by the Bursar and some ongoing financial challenges owing to the College residence still not being full. With that in mind, recruitment of residence but also day students continues to be a major priority, and the admin staff have been implementing a number of new and creative strategies that I am optimistic will be successful. Fundraising is therefore also a key priority for the College right now, and the Development Officer and I have been meeting locally with alumni and supporters, and travelled to Edmonton and Calgary from Jan. 28-31. Finally, I was very pleased this month to launch "Feeding Fellowship," monthly lunches for six fellows and staff to further cultivate collegiality and community.

Highlights of Other Recent Activities

- On Jan. 25, I attended the welcome event for the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture's new Writer-in-Residence.
- On Jan. 26, I attended a meeting of the working group revising ordination processes for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC).
- On Feb. 10, I attended Food for the Journey, where Rev. Wilson Akinwale spoke about the Black Anglicans Network.
- Along with members of the admin team and other volunteers, I worked with staff from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and Desautels Faculty of Music to revive the fundraising concert for Sistema which had not been held since before the pandemic. I also ran point on the event at the College on Feb. 11, which was a great success.
- On Feb. 12, I served as a judge for the National Public Speaking Championship at St. John's Ravenscourt School.
- Also on Feb. 12, I offered the welcome and then attended the revived Wilmott Lecture in theology.
- On Feb. 14, I attended the Soup & Bread presentation by Dr. Kent Fowler.
- Along with the Registrar and MCO, I have been working with representatives from St. Paul's College and the UM Registrar's office on updating how students affiliate with the College through the University's Aurora portal.
- I continue to work with the Bishop and DDD Ryan Turnbull on potential revisions to the College's theology program.
- We have begun preliminary discussions with the Diocese about housing part of its archival collection in the College.

- I have been part of the planning of this year's Art and Music Competition along with the Dean of Studies and Art Committee. Voting on the artwork is happening now in the DBC!
- I continue to serve on the Advisory Circle for the Emmanuel Mission Learning Centre at Holy Trinity Church.
- I continue to represent the College at meetings of Dean's Council, Provost's Council, University Senate, Faculty of Arts Council, and Diocesan Council.

Dean of Studies Report to Assembly January 2024

Soup & Bread Lecture Series

Our first soup and bread lecture of the term was on Feb 14. Kent Fowler presented on some fascinating research he is conducting on ancient fingerprinting. The next lecture will be in March (date and time TBU).

SJC/Faculty of Arts grad/undergrad Symposium

Sherry and I have sent out a call for papers for the upcoming Faculty of Arts grad/undergrad symposium. The responses are still coming in, but we plan to hold this event in the afternoon on Thursday, March 14, 2024. More specific details to follow.

Fellowship Roles and Responsibilities

The SJC Fellow's handbook is ready! Please read through the guidebook, especially the section on roles and responsibilities of fellowship. If there are any questions, I would be happy to answer them. Our fellowship attendance at events has certainly improved since last year but we would still like to see greater participation in college events, especially convocation, soup and bread, and the Marjorie Ward Lecture. I would like to draw your attention to the events section of the manual, which is colour-coded to indicate events where fellow attendance is mandatory, encouraged, and optional.

Events in the Winter Term

The two big events coming up this term are the **Art and Music Competition** (Friday, March 22 from 3:30-5:30) and the **Marjorie Ward Lecture** (Dr. Marcia Anderson will be speaking on Indigenous medicine in Manitoba on Monday March 11 @ 5:30pm). Please be sure to mark these on the calendar now as we are hoping for a strong turnout from all members of the SJC and broader community.

Membership Committee

We have received one more application for fellowship since our last assembly meeting and the Membership Committee has voted to admit the following applicant:

Retired Fellow position

Gregg Olsen is a professor emeritus in the sociology department. Please see the attached CV and write-up for more information on Dr. Olsen's work.

Visiting Fellow Term position

Additionally, we welcome back **Dr. Rhonda Hinthier** as a visiting fellow. Dr. Hinthier joined us as a visiting fellow in 2020 but the covid-19 pandemic limited her participation in college events and the use of an office so she will return to SJC as a visiting fellow while on research leave until summer 2024.

Development Officer Report to Assembly
January 2024

Fundraising

- To date raised: \$84,000. This is the lowest amount we have ever raised since I started at the College in 2009. At this time of the fiscal year, we have typically raised \$250,000. This has an impact on College programming.
- Working with Marissa and Allison to write an appeal to cover operating costs. This will be targeted at some major donors as well as people who give regularly. Fellows and Staff will receive a copy and we ask that you please consider a donation.

Alumni/Stewardship

- Continuing to visit with Johnians in person, phone calls and emails.
- Met with alum/donors in Edmonton and Calgary at the end of January. Low turnout but good visits.
- Getting lists from the UofM to reconnect with alum from the 90s.

Marketing/Communications

- In Lumine will be mailed out within the next couple of months.
- E-Newsletters are emailed out every other month.
- Working with Marissa on several communication projects including In Lumine, e-newsletter and updating our Willpower website.

Staffing

- After careful review we decided not to apply for the Canada Summer jobs this year.
- Several new volunteers in the Development Office are helping us connect with alum who we have lost touch with.

Capital Campaign

- Nothing to report.

Other

- Have been asked to present on leaving a bequest to interested members of the St. Andrew's Woodhaven congregation in April.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jackie Markstrom
4th March, 2024

Bursar's Report to Assembly March 11th, 2024

CRA Appeal

The College continues to wait for the final payout from CRA of approximately \$350,000. I have had recent discussions with our Appeals Officer who has forwarded our file up the chain for final approval of our individual claims which were subject to audit. He does not anticipate any opposition to our submissions, and at this point we are simply waiting for it to work its way through the bureaucratic levels of CRA.

COVID Impact Report/Financial Planning

While we await the final payout of our CEWS claims, I am working on a high level overview that will illustrate the financial impact COVID had on the College finances, which will include overall loss of revenue, measures taken by the College to offset those losses, and how much of a gap still remained after taking into account the partial salary and wage subsidies provided by the CEWS program. This will provide a clear picture of where the College is at and how best to move forward as we begin the process of developing the 24-25 operating budget.

Budget Development

Development of the 24-25 operating budget will soon be underway. The Finance & Administration Committee will be meeting and making a recommendation to Council regarding budget parameters for administration to use when constructing the detailed budget to be presented at the May Assembly meeting for approval.

Overall Operations

There are many encouraging operational indicators that give cause for optimism. Membership numbers are positive, student enthusiasm and engagement is high, and our vastly improved marketing and communication strategy is highlighting the College across campus and elevating our visibility. The Daily Bread Café and our Catering service are both doing very well and are busier than they have been in quite some time.

Our Residence is made up of quality students who are engaged and making contributions to the SJC community - we simply need more of them. The whole administrative team, led by our Marketing & Communications Officer and the Dean of Residence, are putting all our resources into recruiting students to live at St John's so we can restore this final piece of our operational framework and get us back to the financially sustainable levels we enjoyed prior to the pandemic.

Dean of Residence Report – March 2024

Residence Recruitment

I have continued to be in touch with rural high school guidance counsellors, ICM, the International Centre, and Student Case Management around the continued availability of Residence rooms for the Winter Session, and to recruit for the Summer 2024 and Fall 2024/Winter 2025 Sessions.

On February 15, I again attended ICM's Online Housing Open House and advertised the benefits of living in St John's Residence to the 50 students who attended.

I have scheduled eight Online Open House sessions between March 5 and April 16, and will offer individual open houses for any guidance counsellors who request it for their school. If you know anyone potentially interested in Residence please share these sessions with them. Sign-up is at:

<https://umanitoba.ca/st-johns-college/residence/open-house>

The impact of the recent federal changes to immigration visas for international students remains an area of concern, but in collaboration with Marissa Naylor, we are doing everything we can to diversify our Residence population with a renewed focus on rural Manitoban students.

The Residence has recently launched two recruitment programs for new/returning residents. The Loyalty Discount program offers a discount (Year 2 – 3%; Year 3 – 5%; Year 4 – 7%) to students who stay with us for longer than one year; the Recruitment Reward program offers a \$200 cash reward to anyone who refers a new resident, payable when that resident has been with us for one term (Summer/Fall/Winter).

Summer Session

I am optimistic that it will once again be a busy Summer Session. I have begun reaching out to conference partners who have previously booked with us, to ask if they are interested in booking for this Summer. Travel visas continue to be an issue here as well – I recently negotiated a contract for 20 students on exchange from Mexico staying with us for a month, but this has been put on hold pending further information about the recent federal government changes that now mandate visas for Mexicans travelling to Canada.

Residence Activity

The Residence Council continues to offer an exciting slate of events to our residents. Recent activities have included a trip to Flying Squirrel Trampoline and a well-attended Paint Nite and board game night events. The Dons' team have likewise continued their monthly community-building events with Paint Nite and movie night events.

Applications for Summer 2024 and Fall 2024/Winter 2025 Dons are due on Friday, March 9, and several residents have expressed their interest in applying. Panel interviews will be held mid-March, so that training for both cohorts can begin before residents break for the summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Bowman
Dean of Residence

March 2024 Report to St. John's College Assembly

On going Programing

Morning Prayer BCP Every Tuesday: 9:30 am to 10:00am

Communion Service every Wednesday at 11:30 am

Celtic Daily prayer Thursdays. 9:30 am to 10:00 am

Meditation every Thursday 12:30 pm

Individual spiritual care visits ongoing

Stations of the Cross

March 28th at 12:30 pm. Booklet will be left at the back of the chapel.

Spring to Life Service

April 3rd at 12:30 pm with Lutheran and Mennonite chaplaincy.

Food for the Journey April 27th

Details to come, March 23rd proposed food for the journey cancelled due to diocesan council meeting.

Note

I am now half time till end of June at Holy Trinity and my hours have changed to Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Submitted by Rev. Helen Holbrook SJC Chaplain



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

ESTABLISHED 1866

Registrar's Report
March 2024

Fifteen students attended the "How to apply for Scholarships" Workshop on January 23. The workshop was recorded and is available to students to watch from our website. I was pleased with the turnout and the questions asked. I am planning to do another one at the end of May for the July 31 applications.

The Arts symposium will be on Thursday, March 14, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the CCR. We have four students presenting their research, undergrads and grad students, from anthropology, archaeology, history, and English. It will be an interesting afternoon.

In partnership with Jocelyn, we have set aside the Senior Common Room for a Writing Retreat Day the last Tuesday of each month. I was not able to be there in February, but I hope to be more active with it this month. It is open to Fellows and students. Coffee and muffins will be provided. You don't have to come for the whole day, it is meant to expand Jocelyn's writing room hours once a month, in a comfortable location with a few extra perks tossed in.

The career workshops are underway. No one showed up for the first workshop, but we do have 3 students who have said they will attend the second (at the time of writing). I do believe this is a matter of awareness of the workshop as well as a student engagement issue. Definitely a learning experience. I will discuss it with Trevor from Career Services if it is worth offering again next year.

Marissa and I attended the University's Open House on February 22. Thanks to the new promotional material created by Marissa, our booth has never been that busy. There was a constant flow of students for most of the day.

Marissa, Matthew, and I will be attending the Brandon Career Symposium, April 22-23.

Sherry Peters
Registrar