

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE ASSEMBLY Minutes

For the meeting of March 17, 2021 @ 2:30 pm via Zoom

Present: C. Trott, E. Jones, B. Duncan, S. Close, S. Peters (Secretary), I. Froes, M. Minor, L. Valmestad, F. Hasan, H. Hobbrook, J. Markstrom, D. Watt, R. Thomas, M. Evans, M. Benbow, J. Weimer (Chair), D. Oliver, D. Carr, K. Fowler

Regrets: B. Collins, G. Bak, A. Perry, D. McCance, C. Penner

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as distributed.

D. Oliver / I. Froese

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on November 18, 2020.

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting on November 18, 2020 be approved as distributed.

D. Oliver / M. Minor

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the Minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting

None

4. New Business

- a) Residence Rates and budget. MOTION from Assembly Executive: That Assembly defer the approval of the residence rates and the budget until the May meeting.
The Bursar stated that we do not have enough information from the University as to the re-opening, etc. to prepare a budget. We will continue to operate on not spending money. By the next meeting we should be able to have a budget ready.
CARRIED
- b) Wardens Search – Assembly was informed of the timeline of when the search committee would be making the decision and the steps to approval.
- c) Motion from Membership Committee – MOTION from Membership Committee: That Assembly extend the fellowships of Caroline Piotrowski, Anne Lindsay, and Shelisa Klassen for one more year, and the 2020-21 year not count against their 7-year term.
CARRIED
- d) Diversity among Fellows discussion – The Dean of Studies reminded Assembly that she had sent out a document a few weeks ago to start the conversation around creating diversity and equity within the Fellows of the College. Are there any suggestions or ideas of how we want the College to look? As well as suggestions on how to recruit fellows from groups that have been underrepresented.
K. Fowler: Suggested that we look at our Doctoral and Post-Doctoral students, as to when they may be eligible for Fellowship because there is a

great diversity among our grad students. Could we also consider opening space to Doctoral students before they become ABD. That could be a discussion at the Membership Committee.

C. Trott said that there would be a need to change the by-laws to allow Doctoral students to become Fellows earlier, but that wouldn't be difficult to do. We can also offer them study space in the Carrel Room 127. So there are two levels of working with Graduate Students. Additionally, we need to think about people who are in our departments, and we need to think about how we support them, so that they are not a "token" member.

E. Jones asked that each Fellow think about who, from their department, might be interested in coming to the College as a Fellow, and how we might be able to provide support to facilitate their coming over, such as ways to support Indigenous scholars from Fine Arts.

D. Watt agrees that way to think about this is to deliberately think about what makes us unique and what we have to offer. Are there other things like programming that we could offer.

D. Oliver said that the adjunct Fellowships are a great way to expand who we connect with and bring them into the community. Perhaps we could use this to attract a group of people as a group of Adjunct Fellows as a way to bring in a concentration of study into the Fellowship as a way to at least stimulate more faculty coming.

S. Close very much supports equity and diversity at the College. We should think about some kind of programming that addresses this such as lectures to show that the College is dedicated to promoting equity and diversity.

K. Fowler has been given the means to start a program that allows for the recruitment of African students who are completing their Master's Degrees and will bring them to Winnipeg for short workshops and digs. They can stay in the SJC Residence and a College that can support them academically.

This could be one of the programs.

- e) Micro-credentials – The College does not currently run any academic programming since the Theology program closed. We can have an emphasis in programs and we've always had that in Canadian Studies and we had strong Canadian Studies programming for some time. Senate passed micro-credentialling. This is a perfect opportunity for the College to build programs and reassert ourselves in an academic sense, and there are three levels. A letter of Participation which consists of a series of workshops. Then there would be the certificate and diploma that would require more or less academic coursework. This is something we can think about. We would have to run the logistics through the Faculty of Arts. This would not count as a part of the teaching course-load, unless it is already a course you were going to teach for your department anyway. Faculty would get service recognition for it. We need to have a discussion of whether we want to pursue this?

E. Jones likes this very much because it provides an opportunity to invite people into our college. This would be a way to involve grad students. Additionally, would it be possible to raise funds to provide funds to a Doctoral student to be the coordinator for something team taught, or to purchase course release.

M. Minor said it sounds really positive and is willing to support and was thinking along similar lines to having someone coordinate and do the administration.

H. Holbrook said there are also opportunities in spiritual care and bereavement education within the micro-credentialing. A way to connect with Social Work, Psychology, and Ethics.

C. Trott will have a conversation with K. Fowler to talk about the program he mentioned in the previous item as a way to get things started. He would like Esyllt, Helen, and Michael to pool ideas and start thinking about how we can go about building this. These certificates do have to go through the Faculty of Arts, but they do not have to go through Senate.

5. Other Business

None

6. Reports

a) Reports from College Officers

Warden – See Attached

Dean of Studies – See Attached

Chaplain – See Attached

Bursar – See Attached

Dean of Residence – See Attached

Development Officer – See Attached

Registrar – See Attached

b) Report from Senior Stick – See Attached

7. Adjournment

By Consensus

St John's College
Warden's Report to Assembly
March 17, 2021

Members of Assembly received my last report to College Council dated January 27. Since that time, I have continued to teach one course on-line and represent the College at community and University functions:

- 1) Attended the Winnipeg Foundation Agency Annual Event, January 28.
- 2) Co-chaired the Anglican-Mennonite Dialogue, January 28
- 3) Attended Senate, February 3
- 4) Attended Vancouver School of Theology lecture offered by Amy-Jill Levine, Feb 5
- 5) Attended Diocesan Council, Feb 6
- 6) Chaired U of M Press Board, Feb 9
- 7) Attended WAG/Qaumajuq event with Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, Feb 10
- 8) Consultation with President on qualities for new Provost, Feb 11
- 9) Attended Provost's Council to receive EDI Report, Feb 11
- 10) Attended Indigenous Representation in University Governance Committee, Feb 11
- 11) Attended SJCSA fundraiser Magic Show, Feb 12
- 12) Two Fireside Chats with the Warden, Feb 16 and Feb 18
- 13) Attended Board Meeting for Rupert's Land News
- 14) Attended Carleton University Conference on Inuit Relocations, Feb 25
- 15) Attended Senate, March 3
- 16) Participated in Marjorie Ward Lecture, March 4
- 17) Attended Indigenous Representation in University Governance Committee, March 9
- 18) Phone Calls with Major Donors and Alumni, March 8, 10
- 19) Attended Provost's Council, March 12
- 20) Attended Native Studies Department Meeting, March 16

Since Council has established ad hoc committees on fundraising and a building steering committee, I have been taking part in the regular meetings of both of these.

Dean of Studies: Report to Assembly/Council March 2021

Marjorie Ward Lecture

The lecture, delivered by Prof. Brenda Child (Univ of Minnesota) was quite successful. There was a high level of interest in the event, and a lot of registrations, although actual attendance was about the same number as the lecture usually attracts. I'd like to thank Amy and Theresa for all their support on promotion and with ensuring the security of our Zoom event. If you missed it, you can view a recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSswFhL1-Do>

The Student Art Competition continues this year, despite pandemic challenges! Students submitted thirty incredible pieces for the competition. You can see these in a virtual exhibit created by our Art Fellow, Liv Valmestad. Please visit it and vote for the 'People's Choice' prize – the competition is open until March 26th. <https://stjohnsartcompetition.wordpress.com/>

Diversity and SJC Fellowship

Since the last Assembly, I sent out a message to Fellows (with the help of the Membership Committee) encouraging them to share their thoughts with me about the future of the SJC Fellowship, given the opportunity we have to renew the College. I received a few messages with ideas and support, and I appreciated those responses. This has been included in the Assembly agenda for discussion.

Programming and Budgetary challenges

The pandemic has interrupted a significant amount of academic programming at the College, although we have maintained key elements (such as the awarding of student scholarships, and the Marjorie Ward Lecture) and of course our shared governance procedures. As we go forward, there are really two challenges: we don't know when we are going to be able to return to our normal ways of interacting and building community; and, we are uncertain of the budgetary resources we will have.

Financially, the good news is that the academic budget at SJC is funded partially by endowments. It will still be possible for us to maintain some activities, even with financial insecurity and quite possibly a budgetary deficit that may last for a while. The College has slightly delayed the presentation of its annual budget, because of fiscal uncertainties, but as soon as we have some solid information for planning, I will be developing an Academic Programs budget for the coming year for Assembly approval.

At the same time, I do have a number of concerns about potential cuts to programming. I will continue to monitor the situation, and bring issues to the Finance and Admin committee for discussion as needed. We may be looking at the necessity of fundraising or other innovations in order to be able to continue to have activities such as the term receptions, Soup and Bread lectures, travel and research support funds, and so on. I welcome your thoughts on these matters.

March 2021 Report to St. John's College Assembly

Residents

March 20th Event: During lunch in the Daily Bread Café, residents will gather, and I will lead them in therapeutic art. It is hoped this will foster community and provide the residents with an opportunity to meet me. Covid restrictions will be observed.

Student Council

Facilitated an on-line retreat on March 6th. Went well, served to build community and engage in some spiritual practices.

On-line services

Offer Celtic Daily prayer on Tuesday and Thursdays. During let offer a Lenten reflection every Wednesday. There will be a Good Friday stations of the cross meditation in the chapel. It will be filmed on Thursday April 1st. May do something for Easter.

University of Manitoba Chaplaincy Group

One year anniversary of COVID ceremony on March 23rd. Time to be confirmed but a poster will be sent out.

Overall

Sense of hope in the air with the announcement from Government about vaccines (promise to vaccinate all adults end of May). Also, the good weather has brought some promise of increased freedom to walk around and connect with people outside. There is some weariness with on line world for students and staff so all are looking to a September opening of the campus.

My Hope

Possibly start a drop in outside gathering in May but will work with Fayaz and Ivan to see if this is possible.

Submitted by Rev. Helen Holbrook SJC Chaplain

Bursar's Report to Assembly March 17th, 2021

Update on CEWS

When this program was first launched in the spring of 2020, 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 Oct – Nov 2020 claim was denied. A letter from CRA stated they had reviewed our application and 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. Assembly will be kept up to date as things progress.

Financial

To say this budget year has been a challenge is to state the obvious. This has been compounded by the interruption in our eligibility for the CEWS program. Since our denial, we have been prohibited from receiving the following claims:

Oct-Nov \$35,978.07

Nov-Dec \$42,744.29

Dec-Jan \$56,629.07

Jan-Feb \$47,372.83

Total \$182,725

Our goal has remained the same – to keep our discretionary spending to an absolute minimum, maintain as many students in our residence as we can, and to house them safely, and to keep our staff employed. We continue to maintain that goal and are actively working to increase our numbers in the residence beginning in the summer session and continuing throughout the fall, with an eye on being at full capacity for the 2022 winter term.

Operations

As vaccines become more widely available, case numbers remain low (and continue to, we hope), we are working to position ourselves as best we can to be ready for an increase in residence occupancy as well as activity in the College itself. Our goal over the next few months will be to increase our numbers steadily and safely in residence. There are still many unknowns and we will need to make sure we are able to adapt as circumstances change, but for the moment our target is 50% for the summer, 75% for fall, and back up to full occupancy for the start of the winter term. This matches the messaging that the university just announced regarding opening back up and resuming in person classes. A hybrid of remote and in person beginning in September, and then a full resumption of in person classes for the winter term.

Budgeting

As information regarding what we can expect from an operational perspective has become clearer, we are now able to begin work on creating a 2021-22 draft budget. More than any other year, forecasting what we can expect financially will be a significant challenge.

Assumptions that we normally predicate our budget on won't be applicable for 2021-22 but we will do our best to adjust accordingly in order to give the College its best chance for a successful year financially. Our goal will be to bring that budget to the May meeting of Assembly.

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.

Dean of Residence Report – March 10, 2021

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.

Currently we have 27 residents, almost all of them international students. We are paying extra attention in vetting students before they are accepted into the residence. We are focusing on summer bookings now. A new short stay group called Wawatay Program is booked for late July to August. I have contacted some of the other groups from past years, but nothing has been confirmed yet due to Covid-19.

To further our recruitment initiative, I am finalizing a comprehensive list of high schools in Manitoba to promote the College to future students.

Residence Activity

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our meal service procedures were changed. Majority students have been taking their meals to their rooms in order to avoid clusters in the dining room. With the Covid restrictions somewhat lifted recently, we are having a lunch event for the residents on March 20th at the Daily Bread Café. Chaplain Helen Holbrook will be present during the lunch and provide art supplies for residents to enjoy. Residents feeling isolated is a concern and I think this will be helpful. Safety measures will be observed during the event.

Thank you.

Development Officer Report to Assembly
March 2021

Fundraising

- To date raised: \$2,667,857. This includes three significant bequests. There is likely another \$200,000 residue from one of the bequests and it is anticipated this will be received towards the end of this year or early 2022.
- This is the most we have ever raised in one year.
- Chaplaincy appeal being mailed.

Alumni/Stewardship

- Continuing to visit with Johnnians via zoom, phone calls and emails.
- Developing a stewardship plan.

Special Events

- Zoom Fireside Chats with the Warden were held on the 16th and 18th February. We had alumni from different areas of the country attend. They reconnected with the college and each other.
- 4 more Fireside Chats are being planned for April. This time each slot will focus on a different decade – 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and sticks, vice-sticks, student council from 2005 to present.
- Theresa helped with the technology side of the Marjorie Ward Lecture

Marketing/Communications

- The current issue of In Lumine is being mailed.

Staffing

- Applied to Canada Summer jobs for a grant for the 2020 summer student. Likely will find out in May if we have been successful.

Capital Campaign

- Meeting with the consultant, Kat Kupca, on a weekly basis.
- A steering committee has been established to work on the fundraising benchmarks.
- Digging deeper into the database to review the potential for major gifts.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jackie Markstrom

10th March, 2021



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

ESTABLISHED 1866

Registrar's Report March 2021

I continue as Acting Awards Clerk. Students are being reminded that the next deadline for applications is April 1, which is coming up quickly.

On February 18, Fayaz and I, participated in the University of Manitoba's Virtual Open House. This was in place of the usual Open House, previously Info Days. We had our own virtual booth this time. Overall, I would say this was definitely not a great event for us, though we did speak to a total of five (5) students who were very interested in joining the College. It is hard enough to get students to stop by our booth when we are there in person bribing them with chocolate. That anyone popped in to chat digitally, I think is pretty good. Admissions reported that most attendees did not go in to the chats but rather watched the presentations. So should we be doing this again, I am signing us up to give a video presentation.

And speaking of video presentations. We are signed up for the Virtual Brandon Career Symposium this year. Essentially, we will have information on the symposium's website. However, Fayaz will be doing a 5-minute interview with the organizers which will be up on the website as well. Excellent marketing for our residence.

The migration to the new website continues. I am in the process of building out the pages, adding in content, photos, links, etc. Our site will be up I believe March 23.

Sherry Peters
Registrar

Assembly Report – March 17th

By: Breanna Duncan

Elections

- Have been reimagined and initiated due to the nature of pandemic, and limitations to acquiring 15 undersigned members, as support for the nomination form. Instead we are requiring a nomination form and a statement of interest for all applicants.

Past Events

Consent Culture Workshops

- The Consent Workshop aims to de-construct rape culture through consent education, resources, and policy advocacy.
- UMSU hosts these presentations to student groups, ours happened February 9th, very informative was the consensus and feedback from the council

Council Retreat

- We planned a successful Council Retreat for Reading Week, to foster synergy and community!



Council Retreat Part II

- Helen hosted us for an interactive and engaging Council Retreat!

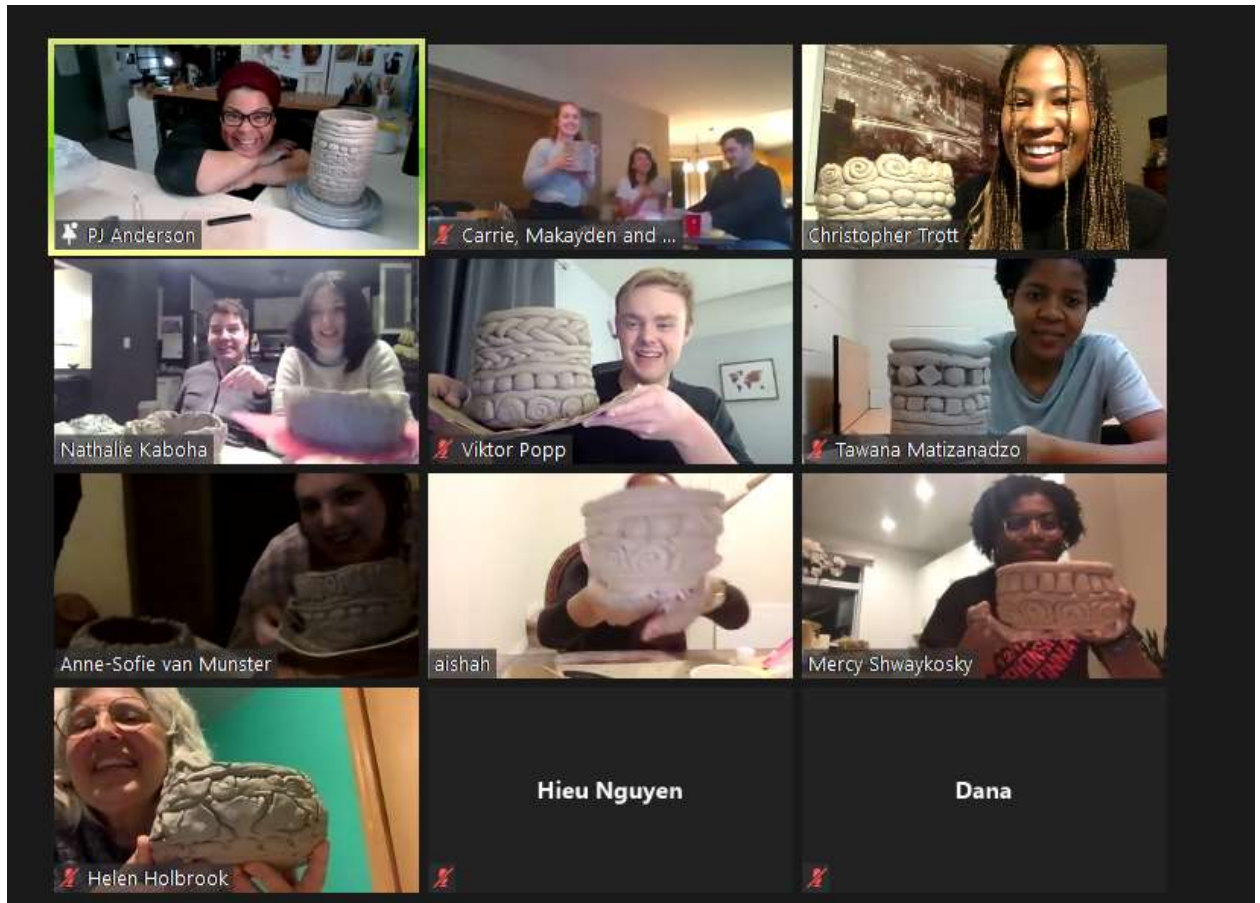


Programmer Events

- Zoom Magic Show



- Pottery Night
 - o We hosted a Pottery Night, that sold out as well! A picture from the event is included below!



Community Outreach Events

- Valentine's Bake Sale

- Founded more than 100 years ago and located in more than 330 communities across Canada, the Canadian Mental Health Association has a crucial mission, advocating and providing resources for the 1 in 5 people in Canada who have a mental illness, and for all 5 in 5 of us who have mental health. Thank you for helping us sponsor them in order to provide tailored programs, services and supports that help all Canadians thrive.
- We raised \$500 in support of Canadian Mental Health Association
- Included below is a picture of some of the council members doing contactless deliveries!



Sport Representative

- Yoga Night



- Winter Running Series on Instagram Live
 - o Was a great informative workshop, that also provided a forum for students to ask questions!
- Winter Running Group
 - o Unfortunately, not much interest from students

Upcoming Events

Council Appreciation Dinner

- We are planning a Council Appreciation Dinner to celebrate the year and look back on our achievements as a council

'Zoom' Graduation

- Fully immersive graduation, completed with the traditional aspects including toasts, Fellow of the Year, Valediction, and Changing of the Sticks Speeches
- To promote interaction, we are also including prizes, comedy, magic, and games in order to somehow commemorate our graduates and make the event more memorable and interactive
- We have the traditional grad gifts, to give to our graduates, and looking into delivery option alternatives
- April 10th, the time, during this day, is still tentative and pending availability of key contributors

Virtual Paint Night in Support of Canadian Cancer Society

- With the support of our volunteers and donors, the Canadian Cancer Society improves and save lives by taking a comprehensive approach to their work against more than 100 types of cancer. CCS funds research provides services to those living with cancer, advocates on important cancer-related issues and educates and empowers people to make healthy choices.
- The Community Outreach team of SJCSA is hosting a virtual Paint Night on Friday, March 19th from 7:00-9:00pm in support of the Canadian Cancer Society.
- Tickets include access to the Zoom link and painting supplies. There are two options available: \$20 ticket with supplies picked-up, OR \$26 with supplies delivered.
- The painting is Sunset Over Water, expertly instructed by a local artist!
- Register at: <https://go.rallyup.com/cancersocietypaintnight?DW7GTU>

Sustainability Initiatives

- Hosting a Day without Disposables Competition on our Instagram!

Mental Health Workshop: Me

- David Ness from the Student Counselling Centre will be joining with the St. John's College Community to discuss mental health and its importance and to share practical strategies for being as mentally healthy as possible.... even during the Covid-19 pandemic. Attendees may join with their video on or off for this session.
- Registration on EventBrite <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/being-mentally-healthy-what-this-is-and-how-to-stay-there-or-get-there-tickets-146491739737>
- The event is free, and everyone is welcome to attend!

Thanks,
Breanna Duncan

Senior Stick
St. John's College Student Council



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