

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE COUNCIL  
Minutes  
For the Meeting of January 25, 2023  
Meal served at 5:30 pm, Meeting from 6:00pm Room 108

Present: G. Mawejje (Chair), S. Peters (Secretary), H. Holbrook, A. Vovchuk, G. Woodcroft, K. Fowler, M. Bowman, J. Markstrom, I. Froese, J. Weimer, A. Rampton, A. Abra, L. Wilkinson, J. Ripley, C. Loewen, A. Desmarais, J. James, B. Pope

Regrets: J. Dueck, K. Levasseur, L. Alexandrin, J. McConnell

1. Opening Prayer  
H. Holbrook opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Approval of the Agenda  
MOTION: that the agenda be approved as distributed.  
G. Woodcroft / A. Abra  
CARRIED
3. Approval of the November 23, 2022 Minutes.  
MOTION: that the minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2022 be approved as distributed.  
L. Wilkinson / A. Abra  
CARRIED
4. Business arising from the Minutes  
None
5. New Business
  - a) Budget Summary and Operations Update – The Bursar updated Council on the few staff changes over the past few months. Our first term has continued very well, particularly in food services and catering and is on pace with operations pre-pandemic. Numbers are currently down in the residence but are on the rise. Getting people back on campus is a challenge across the university. Budget parameters for the next year will be set soon by Finance & Admin and will be brought to Council.
  - b) Call for Honorary Degree nominations – The Warden requested that should Council members know of someone they believe should be honored with an honorary degree or fellowship by the College, please pass them on to Sherry at [sherry.peters@umanitoba.ca](mailto:sherry.peters@umanitoba.ca).
  - c) Residence Project Update – Council will remember that in November Council passed a motion for Administration to continue a three-pronged plan to physically renew the College. We continue to work on this plan. In December, Administration was approached by the University of Manitoba. A few years ago, a housing report identified a housing shortage. The University commissioned a new report and once again a housing shortage was identified, and it was suggested that the University partner and collaborate with the Colleges rather than be at cross-purposes when it comes to housing. They presented the building of a 1000 bed residence that would be run by St John's College, St. Paul's College, and University College. While this is all very preliminary, the University is planning to pay for this. What our financial interest or arrangement might be has yet to be determined. St. Paul's College is not interested in this project. The University is still interested in pursuing this with St John's College. The idea of the collaboration is good and advantageous, but we have to figure out if this can be done while safeguarding the identity of the college and our operations. This isn't changing our overall vision of the three-pronged plan though it potentially revises the residence portion. Discussion in Council focused on the necessity of protecting the College's identity.

**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 – No report  
Finance & Admin – Will be meeting soon to discuss the upcoming budget.
- b) Report from Assembly – Assembly's agenda was the same as Council's.
- c) Reports from College Officers and Student Council

- i) Warden – Please see attached
  - ii) Dean of Studies – Please see attached
  - iii) Development Office – Please see attached
  - iv) Dean of Residence – Please see attached
  - v) Chaplain – Please see attached
  - vi) Bursar – Please see attached
  - vii) Registrar – Please see attached
  - viii) Senior Stick – Please see attached
- Save the date – Grad dinner will be Saturday, April 1

**7. Other Business**

None

**8. Adjournment**

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

B. Pope.

CARRIED

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

### **Warden's Report to Council, January 2023**

#### **College Renewal/Capital Campaign**

At the November meeting of College Council a motion was passed granting Administration authority to continue developing plans and a fundraising strategy for the physical renewal of the College building. This would include a renovation to the residence, an expansion of our food service areas, and redevelopment of the third floor of the College. The motion calls for an official update at the March meeting of Council. In pursuit of these plans, we have since met with our project manager at UM's Architectural and Engineering Services, and with representatives from Colliers Project Leaders who could serve as advisors as we determine the costing and phasing of the project. In December, the Bursar and I also had a meeting with the UM CFO/Comptroller and Associate Vice-President Administration about student housing on campus and potential collaborations with the University on aspects of this project.

#### **Teaching/Scholarship**

In late November, I published an article on the peer-reviewed gender history blog *Nursing Clio*, based on research from my current book project on women secret agents, and as part of their series on "War and Maternity" inspired by events during the War in Ukraine. The article can be found here: <https://nursingclio.org/2022/11/29/her-heroine-mother-maternity-and-british-secret-agents-in-world-war-ii/> In December I completed a book manuscript review for Johns Hopkins University Press. The course I am teaching for the History Department, "History of Britain from 1485," continues over into the Winter term.

#### **Highlights of Other Recent Activities**

- On Nov. 21, I attended another strategic planning session towards the development of the UM Reconciliation Action Plan.
- On Nov. 22, the Development Officer and I attended the Ignatian Society Celebration at St. Paul's College.
- On Dec. 6, I participated in the service commemorating the National Day for Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.
- On Dec. 21, I represented the College at the first meeting in many years of Inter-College Council, which per our 1970 Agreement brings together the Warden of St John's College, the Rector of St. Paul's College, and the President of the University of Manitoba twice a year to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- I attended a number of our regular events around the College, including Soup & Bread, Food for the Journey, a residence banquet, and the second annual Christmas Jazz Concert.
- I served on the search committee to hire a new assistant bursar, and we are pleased to welcome Beatriz Martins to the SJC Admin team.
- I continue to sit on the Ministry Development Working Group for the Diocese, and will be presenting our findings to Diocesan Council this month.

- I continue to represent the College at meetings of Dean's Council, Provost's Council, University Senate, Faculty of Arts Council, and Diocesan Council.

Respectfully submitted by Allison Abra

## Dean of Studies Report to Assembly January 2023

### Membership

We welcomed three new fellows this term!

#### Visiting Fellow positions (1-year term)

**Dr. Shayna Plaut** (238 SJC) earned her PhD from the University of British Columbia in 2014. Since relocating to Winnipeg in August 2017, she has been the lead researcher and project manager for several research projects with strong provincial and municipal policy implications. She served as the Project Manager and Community Researcher for Assisting Renters, a project that brought together the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Manitoba and two professors at the University of Manitoba – Drs. Sarah Cooper and Jesse Hajer. They designed a mixed-methods research project to learn what is working, what's not and what can be better about Manitoba's Rent Assist program. After a year of data collection and analysis, and the dawn of COVID pandemic, they released the report May 2020, through a virtual launch. As the CBC and the Provincial Government both announced in April 2022, the report has helped (re)shape some of Manitoba policy around tax credits and rent assist.

**Dr. Julia Smith** (236 SJC) is an Assistant Professor in Labour Studies at the University of Manitoba. She earned her PhD in 2016 from Trent University and she is a research affiliate at the Centre for Human Rights Research. Her work focuses on the intersection between labour relations, gender, and class distinctions and she currently has several manuscripts awaiting publication, including a volume she is co-editing with Lisa Pasolli called *Rethinking Feminist History and Theory: Reflections on Gender, Class, and Labour*.

**Dr. Jacques Aymeric-Nsangou** (244 SJC) is post-doctoral fellow of the Swiss National Science Foundation, working here at the University of Manitoba with Dr. Kent Fowler. He earned his PhD in 2015 from the Archeology University of Geneva. He published a recent manuscript on ancient fortification practices in Senegal.

### Soup & Bread Lecture Series

We are just in the process of confirming speakers and dates for the winter 2023 term. The posters will be emailed to the fellows as soon as those details are available and I hope to see many of the fellows at these events.

### Art & Music Competition Update

We will be holding the annual SJC Art Competition again in March 2023 but this year we will be collaborating with the Faculty of Music to hold a concurrent contest in musical performance. The call for art went out on Friday Jan 13 and we will put all submissions on display in early February. The final judging will take place on March 17 (tentatively 1-3pm but this will be confirmed), along with a reception and a musical performance by the finalists in the music competition. This will be the first time we have coordinated with music and it promises to be a great event so please note this in your calendars.

### Start of Term Reception

The start of term reception will take place immediately following Assembly on Tuesday, January 17. I look forward to seeing you all there!

**Marjorie Ward Lecture**

A potential speaker has been approached to deliver the Marjorie Ward lecture this year and we are waiting on confirmation. The lecture will likely take place in March and we may try to coordinate this event with the KC Adams art exhibit, as both the art exhibit and the lecture will focus on Indigenous themes. More information about dates and times will be provided within the next few weeks.

Development Officer Report to Council  
January 2023

**Fundraising**

- To date raised: \$430,790.
- The fall appeal was sent out late and to fewer people which resulted in fewer donations of just over \$11,000. We have yet to receive those made through the UofM.

**Alumni/Stewardship**

- Continuing to make phone calls and email connections to alumni/donors.
- Planning a trip with Allison to Toronto/Ottawa for reading week – 20<sup>th</sup> February.
- Planning a trip to Vancouver/Victoria with Allison towards the end of April.

**Special Events**

- The next Lunch and Lively will be either the end of March or beginning of April.
- The Johnian Circle luncheon will be in June.

**Marketing/Communications**

- An e-newsletter will be sent out before the end of January.
- Planning for an issue of In Lumine to be in the mailbox by April 2023.

**Staffing**

- We have applied for a Canada Summer jobs position.
- Edmund has settled in well to the position of Development Coordinator – please say hello to him if you see him!

**Capital Campaign**

- Meeting weekly with the consultant, Kat Kupca.
- The project is being redefined.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jackie Markstrom  
12th January, 2023

## Dean of Residence Report – January 2023

### Residence Projects

In December AccurateDorwin completed routine window maintenance in 21 rooms that required attention.

I'm working on creating a database-based Residence Management System that exists in the University's cloud-based Microsoft Office ecosystem. An email-based package notification system will come online in the next few weeks, hopefully alleviating confusion for residents who've received a package delivery notification from their vendor but have not yet received a paper notification slip (currently delivered by Dons once per day). I'm hoping to have the database system ready and tested for the opening of 2023-2024 applications this spring.

The Registrar and I are in the early stages of creating an updated video to advertise both the residence and college online. As the Brandon Symposium has been cancelled for this year, this video will allow us to participate in the "web symposium."

In preparation for the next U of M Open House on February 23, the Registrar and I are in the final stages of designing printed materials to advertise the college and residence and will have these materials professionally printed by Vistaprint in the first weeks of February.

### Winter Session

As of January 17, we have accepted 7 new residents for the Winter session. One had previously indicated his intention to attend for only the Winter session, while 5 were new applications, and 1 was a swap between family members. Including the sibling swap, we had 3 withdrawals at the end of the Fall session.

There are currently 39 residents for the Winter session, leaving significant space for new applications. I expect a few more applications to trickle in over the next few weeks as ICM students receive student visa approvals.

The next ICM Virtual Open House is on February 21 via Zoom.

### Ukrainian Refugees

On December 23 we bid farewell to our final Ukrainian refugees who were part of the Department of Families contract. 4 refugees remained in residence over the holiday break while awaiting January housing arrangements.

At Lori Wilkinson's suggestion Ivan Froese and I met in December with senior team members at both MANSO (Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations) and New Journey Housing to discuss St John's Residence as an option for refugees and other newcomers seeking temporary accommodation. MANSO and New Journey Housing continue to offer the residence to their clients as a temporary housing option, but we have had no update. My takeaway from our conversation with both agencies was that UNHCR sponsored refugees receive insufficient funding from government (approx. \$1200/mo for all expenses vs. our monthly rate of \$1571) to make St John's Residence a feasible option for most refugee claimants.



## **Residence Activity**

The Residence Council hosted a well-attended Christmas Banquet on December 9 but has otherwise struggled to get off the ground. However, there have been some encouraging signs since the beginning of the Winter session with the Dons and Residence Council taking a group eighteen of residents skating at the Forks on January 13 (which is nearly half our residents!) The Dons team is excited to keep up this momentum and will be hosting outings to Bisons hockey and basketball games in the next few weeks.

I've partnered with the Residence Council to provide every resident their choice of an item of St John's College branded merchandize (hoodies, baseball shirts, v-necks etc.), split between the Residence Council levy and the Residence programming budget. There's been good uptake thus far and it's been nice to see residents wearing SJC branded clothing around the residence.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Bowman  
Dean of Residence

## **January 2023 Report to St. John's College Council**

### **Preamble**

Overall, student participation is low in Spiritual care programs, student clubs, and council's activities. Social anxiety is high. It is hoped that maybe in a year that interest could increase. I will be attending an online national college group on January 31<sup>st</sup> and I hope to compare notes with my peers across the country.

### **Residents**

Just getting settled in.

### **Student Council**

Will start planning the next retreat in February. Will have a date set by next week.

### **De-confusion Centre**

Did have one on January 12<sup>th</sup>, I Did get a chance to have a great sit-down chat with students.

### **Winter programing**

Meditation every Friday 11:30 am to 12 noon

Wellness Group – twice a month starting January 25th located in the spiritual care centre of the university (5<sup>th</sup> floor university centre)

Anglican Service twice a month. Two students are interested in baptism, and I am leading a service. Anyone else is welcome to join.

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

I visit the group weekly and will co facilitate the wellness group with Deacon Michelle.

Submitted by Rev. Helen Holbrook SJC Chaplain

# **Bursar's report to Council January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## **College Operations**

### **Food Service**

Catering and DBC sales remained steady for the second half of the fall term, although as always things were a little quieter as we approached the holiday break and classes ended.

### **Residence**

Our contract with the Provincial Government for us to provide housing to Ukrainian refugees expired at the end of the term. Their program has transitioned to much shorter stays for the Ukrainians which no longer fit with the housing model of our residence, so we did not extend the contract with them for the winter term.

Over the holiday break, University College Residence experienced a failure of their emergency sprinkler system that caused major water damage in a large portion of their building. I was in communication with UM's Director of Housing and offered to assist should they need to move any of their students into our residence. Ultimately they managed to find space for everyone in their own residences, but they are now at 100% capacity and are directing any new applicants they get to St John's. We've been slowly increasing our numbers since then and are now over 40% capacity. We hope this continues as we gradually build our numbers back up.

In December, the Warden and I met with the Associate VP Admin and the University Comptroller to discuss details of the newly update SCION Report on Campus Housing which included possible opportunities for partnership and collaboration. This will be an ongoing discussion and was a very positive meeting.

### **Staffing/Administration**

At the end of November, Gabriela Melo regretfully submitted her resignation to pursue a new opportunity with the WRHA. Gabriela was a great addition to the SJC Admin team and we are thankful for all her contributions.

We were extremely happy to be able to hire an excellent candidate, Beatriz Martins, to be the new Assistant Bursar just before the holiday break. Beatriz has a wealth of experience and expertise that she brings to this position and we are very happy to have her.

Also, Edmund Opoku-Agyeman began as our new Development Coordinator in November and has been a great addition as well. The College has always been fortunate to find great people who want to work at St John's and this trend continues.

The Warden and I have been working on a job description for a newly created Communications position that we hope to hire as one of our UM staff members in the coming months. Details will follow.



# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

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## Registrar's Report January 2023

In addition to regular updates of the College website, I am currently working on streamlining the Scholarship and Bursary application process. We now have the capability of creating webforms which we are already using for residence applications, and you have used in replying to the Convocation invitation. Using a webform for the applications will ensure that all application information is complete before submitted, and legible. I expect it will also make it easier to distribute to the Scholarship Committee. It is my plan to have the April 1 application ready for testing by the end of January, and available to the students by mid- to late-February.

Thursday, February 23 is the UM Open House. As always, we will have a booth at this event in the MPR or University Centre. If you know of anyone in high school who will be attending through the Open House, be sure to have them drop by our booth and let us know you sent them!

Sherry Peters  
Registrar

# Senior Stick Report

## 2023 SJCSA Events

We will be holding our first SJCSA meeting of the year on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> where we will discuss Programming and Community Outreach events. I will share updates on these events once they become available

## St John's Graduation

We have created a Grad Committee within SJCSA and will be holding weekly meetings to discuss and execute tasks that need to be done for the event. I have reached out to the Pavilion in Assiniboine Park as our venue for the Grad Dinner and I have been able to book the timeslot of 6pm-1am on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. I have signed the contract and put down a deposit so this date is secure. We will notify the College once tickets are available.