

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE COUNCIL  
Minutes - Amended  
For the Meeting of September 28, 2022  
Meal served at 5:30 pm, Meeting from 6:00pm Room 108

Present: A. Vovchuk, H. Holbrook, P. Dupuis (BDO Canada), A. Rampton, G. Woodcroft, J. Ripley, J. Weimer, I. Froese, M. Bowman, K. Fowler, L. Wilkinson, L. Alexandrin, J. McConnell, A. Abra, J. Markstrom, G. Mawejje (Chair), A. Desmarais, B. Pope

Regrets: S. Peters, C. Loewen, J. James, J. Dueck, K. Levasseur,

1. Opening Prayer

G. Woodcroft opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as distributed.

M. Bowman / J. McConnell

CARRIED

3. Approval of the May 18, 2022 Minutes.

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2022 be approved as distributed.

A. Rampton / J. Ripley

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the Minutes

None

5. New Business

a) Welcome new Council members – The Chair of Council welcomed Council to the new academic year, and gave a special welcome to the new members of Council.

b) Audited Financial Statements and Auditors Report – P. Dupuis of BDO presented the audited financial statements to Council. MOTION: The Finance & Administration Committee recommends Council approve the 2021-2022 Audited Draft Financial Statements.

J. James

CARRIED

c) Financial Update – The Bursar thanked Council for their support through the pandemic and informed Council that the College is essentially running operations as normal which means we are getting back to our normal revenue. Our residence is at 70% capacity including a number of Ukrainian refugees staying with us, and our catering numbers are well up as well. Additionally, the Bursar informed Council that there had been a deposition in the CRA appeal, and it went well, and administration is providing follow-up information. No decision has been made yet, however.

d) Appoint Auditors – MOTION: The Finance & Administration Committee recommends Council re-appoint the auditing firm of BDO Canada for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

A. Rampton

CARRIED

e) Residence Project – The Warden reminded Council that at the previous meeting, Council had passed a motion empowering Administration and the Building and Fundraising committees to investigate a full renovation rather than a new build of the residence. We feel that based on these investigations that a renovation and addition of the residence and food services is feasible and more advantageous than a new build. The addition would give us everything the new build was to give us. We would move the kitchen out of the residence into what is now the Daily Bread Café, and then build out the café and re-configure the tunnel connecting the residence to the College. It could also be a multipurpose space for displaying our art collection, and meeting space. The next phase is to find someone to manage this project. This project manager could also be linked to the renovation of the third floor of the College which is presently being investigated. The Bursar and Warden stated that the renovation would be a significant overhaul of the

residence while keeping the existing structure. It was recommended administration contact Colliers Project Management as their values align with the College's and want to work with organizations who want to work toward Reconciliation. In terms of fundraising for renovation rather than a new build, alumni and donors have been very receptive to the shift and are supportive.

**6. Reports from Committees, College Officers and Student Council**

- a) Reports from Committees – Council Executive, Development, Finance & Admin.  
Council Executive met and set the agenda for tonight's meeting.  
Development – Nothing to report.  
Finance and Admin – Met and reviewed the audited financial statements.
- b) Report from Assembly – On behalf of the Chair of Assembly, the Dean of Studies reviewed the discussions of Assembly.
- 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

**7. Other Business**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

J. McConnell

CARRIED

## **St. John's College Warden's Report to Council, September 2022**

The moment we have been planning for and eagerly awaiting for since I became Warden a little over a year ago is finally upon us: along with the University, the College has returned to in-person teaching and regular operations for Fall term. It has been wonderful to have so many people back in the building, especially our students. We are also glad to be able to provide a temporary home to a group of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine as they transition into life in Canada. The Daily Bread Café is busy, room bookings and catering contracts are plentiful, and our community is enjoying the usual round of College events that take place this time of year (BBQs, receptions, Matriculation, etc), but which have been at reduced scale or cancelled altogether during the pandemic.

### **Residence Renewal/Capital Campaign**

Per the motion passed by College Council at the May meeting, the admin staff and I have spent the summer working with our Building and Fundraising Sub-Committees and other partners to explore the possibility of a renovation of the College residence rather than a new build. We now believe we have an exciting path forward for a major renovation to the residence and an addition that would upgrade and expand our food services. We are in the process of figuring out next steps for the project with respect to building and fundraising.

### **Theology/Diocese of Rupert's Land**

We are pleased to be once again offering a course on Indigenous Christian Theology at the College this fall, as part of our arrangement with St. Margaret's Church and Canadian Mennonite University. I have also continued as a member of the Ministry Development Working Group, charged by the Diocese to consider the future of the Diocesan Ministry Developer position (previously partially funded by SJC) and education and training more broadly. We have met several times over the summer in order to create and circulate a questionnaire assessing needs in this area across the region. I was also pleased to serve as speaker and discussion leader, along with our former Dean of Studies Esyllt Jones, at the at the Diocese of Rupert's Land and Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod Anglican/Lutheran Residential Study Conference in June 2022.

### **Teaching/Scholarship**

In July I presented material from my current book project at the North American Society for Intelligence History conference. I also drafted an article this summer for a peer-reviewed history blog that is forthcoming soon. This fall I am pleased to be teaching the course "History of Britain from 1485" for the UM History Department, where I was also recently appointed Adjunct Professor. On Sept. 19, I had the pleasure of participating in the dissertation defense for (now) Dr. Lindsey Peterson, one of my former students from the University of Southern Mississippi.

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

- In May I represented SJC at the Head of Anglican Colleges meeting and Collegiate Way International conference.
- In June I represented the College at UM President Benarroch's Installation, as well as multiple Convocation ceremonies and the Graduation Pow Wow, and am grateful to the fellows who stepped in for ceremonies where I was unavailable.
- I completed the Senior University Administrators Course (SUAC) last Spring.
- Over the summer I was enrolled in UM's 11-week Indigenous Literacy Summer Institute.
- We had a number of lunches and gatherings with alumni over the summer, most notably the very successful Donor Appreciation Luncheon for the newly established Johnian Circle in late May.
- I served on the hiring committees for an events coordinator/faculty assistant to replace Amy Backhouse while she is on parental leave, and for a new Dean of Residence. We are pleased to welcome Hong Nguyen and Matthew Bowman to these roles – both have been great additions to the College.
- I met with Mark Kinzel regarding the Kuwala Christian Girls School in Malawi about possible partnerships with SJC.
- Discussions are ongoing with relevant stakeholders about a redevelopment of the third floor of the College building, including the Library. We had a very productive meeting about the path forward on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 Council September 2022**

### **Membership**

Assembly passed the following nominations for fellowships at the college:

- Micheline Hughes: Visiting to adjunct
- Francois Jordaan: Extension on visiting term for another year
- Caroline Piotrowski: Visiting to Senior
- Julia Santos Amorim: Extension on visiting term for another year
- Sarah Teetzel: Visiting to Senior
- Jocelyn Thorpe: Visiting to Senior
- Melanie Unrau: Extension on visiting term for another year
- Jamila Ghaddar: Adjunct to visiting

### **SJC Committees**

The committee membership roster has been updated and circulated at the start of term. At present, we are looking for a new Chair of Assembly, but all other positions have been filled and we are looking forward to a productive year! The scholarship committee met this week on two occasions to award the long list of scholarships and bursaries we give out to students, which was a fun process. The generosity of our donors allows for many students to receive financial assistance through those scholarships and bursaries, and it is always a delight to be able to hand out these awards at convocation in November.

### **Opening of Term Reception**

We had matriculation, the first assembly meeting of the term, and the start of term reception on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turnout, considering this was our first series of in-person events after the return to campus.

### **Other Business**

We plan to start organizing the Soup and Bread lecture series shortly, which will commence in October. We also have received one more application for fellowship, which will be considered by our membership committee and then approved at the next assembly meeting.

## **September 2022 Report to St. John's College Council**

### **Residents**

Throughout the summer I met individually with a few residents, and we continued with the meditation group. Over the summer a few residents did help with the healing garden. Also, I did have a few conversations with the Ukrainian Refugees.

### **Student Council**

Just started up with meetings (Mondays 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm). Council retreat is on November 12<sup>th</sup>

### **De-confusion Centre**

I set up an information centre (with coffee and baked goods) in the Quiet room Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Overall, over 100 students visited the centre. It was great to see so many, and they took various pamphlets etc. Hopefully some will join the college. I am thinking of having a couple of days in January for the Winter session.

### **Fall programing**

I am starting a variety of programs which include the following:

Celtic Daily prayer on Tuesday and Thursdays. 10:00 am to 10:15 am

Meditation every Friday 11:30 am to 12 noon

Drop by Art Sept 26 , Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> , 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>

Labyrinth – Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – once a month

Wellness Group – twice a month September 21<sup>st</sup>, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> located in the spiritual care centre of the university (5<sup>th</sup> floor university centre)

I am hoping I can get a sense of what students are interested by presenting them with a variety of activities.

### **Healing Garden & Lunch and lively**

During the summer we hired a student to work on the weeding, direct volunteers, and water the plants. September 22<sup>nd</sup> Dana Wood will present on Lunch and

lively on Indigenous knowledge and the healing garden. On the same day, Rev. Vince Solomon will lead a ceremony in the healing garden.

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

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

### **National Day of Reconciliation**

On September 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a one-hour time of silence in the Chapel. I will be placing banners listing the locations of Manitoba's residential schools, candles, and shoes. Over the one-hour period, all are welcome to the Chapel.

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

I continue to connect with the Anglican Indigenous group Wechetowin and the SJC student council would like to pack bags in October (they go to shelters and hospitals.) I am working out the details with Rev Tanis.

### **Save the Date – Chapel Fund Raiser**

Jazz Christmas evening – Robert Burton and Jazz music students. Date: December 8<sup>th</sup> 2022, 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Includes reception afterwards.

### **Food for the Journey**

Hopefully we will have one the end of November.

### **Overall**

Students and staff are excited and overwhelmed by in class education. It was a bit of a shock to see a busy campus life again. However, I am grateful!

Submitted by Rev. Helen Holbrook SJC Chaplain

## **Bursar's Report to Council September 28th, 2022**

### **College Operations**

The fall term marks the first full return to campus with a resumption of in person classes since the shutdown two and a half years ago. It is a welcome sight to see so many students in the hallways of the College, and classrooms occupied once again. It's also been great to see so many of the Fellows back at the College up on the second floor, and teaching in St John's classrooms. Things are almost beginning to feel normal. However, we are still mindful of ongoing COVID cases and taking precautions such as continuing to follow the mask mandate in place at the University. The return, which started gaining palpable momentum over the summer, has had a very positive impact on our overall College operations.

### **Residence/Summer Conferences**

During the summer, we averaged approximately 25 regular students in the Residence, and had several groups staying with us such as the Wawatay Group and Math Camp. In July and August we were very happy to be able to engage in a contract with the Province of Manitoba and the Department of Families to provide housing for a large number of Ukrainian Refugees. 70 rooms at the end of July and beginning of August, dropping down to 50 at the end of August, and now continuing with 30 for the entirety of the fall term. This was a welcome development from both a financial/operations perspective as well as something we as a College feel is perfectly in line with the sort of charitable work and community outreach we are well positioned to provide. The arrangement has worked out well and we're glad to be able to help in some small way. In addition to the 30 rooms allocated for the Ukrainian Refugees, we have about 40 regular students in residence. Processing of international student VISA's and study permits are significantly backlogged at the moment, and this has impacted applications both for us at the College as well as with other residences on campus. We anticipate this will be resolved by the start of the winter term.

### **Food Services**

Our Food Service operations have been extremely busy, and we are thankful for that. In addition to our increased activity due to higher numbers in the residence, we launched a new catering website at the beginning of July and people have been taking full advantage of it. Since its launch, we've received 127 catering orders. Also, the Daily Bread Café is getting busier every day.

### **Financial/Audit**

All of these increases in activity at the College, and our ability to resume providing services to students and the University campus in general, has had a positive impact on our finances and a return to normal operations. Last spring, the College received authorization from Council to re-designate \$600,000 from the Sinclair Trust to Operating. This was in anticipation of our operational needs while we navigated



through what we hoped was the final stages of the pandemic and the university closure. Due to our increased activity over the summer both in the Residence and in Food Service, we've only had to draw \$400,000 into operating, and are hopeful we won't need to access the remaining \$200,000. If our current levels of operations continue, we should be back to a position where the College is fully self sufficient once again.

The annual College audit occurred in June, and draft financial statements were presented to the Finance & Administration Committee on September 21<sup>st</sup>, and has recommended their approval by Council at its September meeting.

## **CRA**

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, examinations for discovery depositions took place in our ongoing appeal with CRA over our rejected CEWS claims. It was a lengthy process and a long day, but our lawyer was very pleased with how it went and felt it overwhelmingly supported our position and our case. He feels strongly that the Crown Counsel should be recommending to their client, CRA, that they settle in our favour, and that if it goes all the way to trial we will prevail. However, these facts don't guarantee our appeal will be accepted, so we are awaiting next steps with cautious optimism.

## **Staff Update**

Congratulations to Amy Backhouse on the birth of her son Cole! Amy will be on maternity leave until December 2023. In her absence, we're very happy to have hired Hong Nguyen on a temporary basis to take over Amy's role. Hong worked previously at the RBC Convention Centre and the Manitoba Club and has done an excellent job in the two months she's been here.

Also, we had mixed emotions over our Dean of Residence, Fayaz Hasan, deciding to take on a new position in Brandon and leave St John's. Fayaz had been considering a move to Brandon for some time, so we knew this was a possibility. We are thankful for all the good work Fayaz did for the College and know that he will remain an engaged alumni.

We are also very pleased to have been able to hire Matthew Bowman as his replacement. Matthew was recently ordained a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Rupertsland, and is currently a Ph.D candidate at the University of Toronto. Matthew's involvement in student governance at Trinity College has provided him with a valuable understanding of the College ethos, and a keen awareness of the challenges facing students today which will serve him well in his role as Dean as he works to support our Residents.

Theresa Morgan resigned her position as Development Coordinator. We thank Theresa for the work she did for St John's, and we're currently in the process of hiring her replacement.

## Dean of Residence Report - September 2022

I officially began as Dean of Residence on August 24. It's been wonderful getting to know the St John's community, and I'd be remiss were I not to thank the General Office team for their warm welcome and ongoing assistance in helping me get up to speed. A special thank you to Ivan Froese and Gabriela Melo for jointly shouldering the responsibilities of Dean of Residence in the interim between the departure of Fayaz Hasan and my arrival.

### Residence Projects

A few routine maintenance projects were completed over the summer.

Several rooms and two apartments received new furniture from Kern-Hill including new twin mattresses (20 rooms), queen mattresses and frames (2 apartments), and 6 desks.

Physical Plant replaced desk light fixtures in 16 rooms and Accurate Dorwin conducted routine window maintenance in 28 rooms.

### Ukrainian Refugees

Since mid-July the College has been honoured to partner with the provincial Department of Families in hosting Ukrainian refugees in the residence. We initially provided 70 rooms; in late August this reduced to 50 rooms; and from September 1 until the Winter break we've contracted for 30 rooms. Occupancy has hovered between 21 to 32 refugees, and as of this writing (September 14) stands at 25. The Department of Families has provided a case manager who handles the day-to-day check in/check out of refugees, with myself and the Dons team assisting with logging keys and access cards in her absence.

### Regular Session

The residence continues to recover from lower numbers caused by the pandemic. For the Fall session we currently have 37 students, with an additional 3 or 4 waiting on delays in visa processing but hoping to join later in the term or for the Winter session. The residence is 62% international students with 54% being first year students.

Province/Nation	Students	Province/Nation	Students
Bangladesh	2	Nigeria	4
China	1	Ontario (London, Minaki)	2
Ecuador	1	Pakistan	1
Egypt	2	South Sudan	1
Gambia	1	Uganda	1
Ghana	4	Ukraine	1
Hong Kong	1	USA	1
Malaysia	1	Wasagamack First Nation	5
Manitoba	7	Zimbabwe	1

## Summer Session

The Summer session had 26 students, along with 25-30 Ukrainian refugees.

## Residence Activity

For the Fall Session the Dons are:

- Tawananyasha Matizanadzo (Senior Don)
- Chernou Hamidou Diallo
- Raihanah Rahim
- Jasmine Wood

It's been an exciting few weeks adjusting to everyone being on campus again, and figuring out how things were done before COVID. The Dons have been an invaluable source of institutional memory in beginning to get everything back up to normal speed.

The Co-President of the Residence Council is Bryan Oforikuma. Elections for a second Co-President, Financial Director, Communications Director, Yearbook Editor and 4 Hallway Representatives are being held on September 23. The annual Welcome Back banquet is on September 29.

The first House Meeting was well attended. We discussed the Residence Contract as well as sexuality and consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Bowman  
Dean of Residence

Development Officer Report to Council  
September 2022

**Fundraising**

- We are currently costing out the possibility of an outside organization developing and mailing out the Annual Appeal.
- Funds raised to date: \$328,717.

**Alumni/Stewardship**

- Continuing to visit with Johnians.
- Allison and I will be travelling to Toronto to meet with an alumni on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.
- We will be travelling with Alumni Relations, UofM, to Vancouver and Calgary from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> October and again to Toronto on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Special Events**

- Lunch and Lively is planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> September with a blessing ceremony of the Healing Garden followed by lunch and a speaker who will share her knowledge of the various plants grown in the garden.
- We are revisiting the idea of a Residence Banquet for those who lived in Residence during the 1980s. This was being worked on when Covid struck.

**Marketing/Communications**

- Working on an e-newsletter.

**Staffing**

- We were thankful to receive a Canada Summer jobs grant and hired Sharaina Cottick for the 8 weeks. She was an excellent help and we extended her position through the fall/winter term at 5hrs a week.
- Theresa Morgan resigned from her position here at the College. She has obtained a stewardship position at the University of Manitoba.

**Capital Campaign**

- Working with Katarina Kupca on the Capital Campaign.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jackie Markstrom  
22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2022



# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

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## Registrar's Report September 2022

I continue as Acting Awards Clerk and the first round of applications have come in. This year we had 504 applications from 109 applicants.

"Welcome to the Herd" the UM orientation event, formerly known as Parents Program, was held in person on Saturday, June 18. Much thanks to Abby Vovchuk and Sharaina Cottick for working the recruitment table.

Welcome day was in person on Tuesday, September 6. Again, much thanks to Abby and Sharaina for joining me.

Jumpstart was held on Friday, September 9. There was a great turnout. Fantastic food thanks to our food services, wonderful entertainment thanks to a young man from Ukraine staying in our residence who sang, and fun activities planned. I want to personally say well done to our SJCSA on organizing this event.

The beginning of term barbeque was held on September 14 in partnership with St. Paul's College. This year it was held at St. Paul's College in the Belltower Café and was free for all members of both colleges.

Sherry Peters  
Registrar



# ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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## COUNCIL REPORT September 14, 2022

### SJCSA EVENTS SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

- SJCSA hosted Jumpstart on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> in Room 108. The event was successful with approximately seventy-five total participants. We had live music at the beginning and end of JumpStart performed by Ivan (he is a Ukrainian refugee currently residing at the College). Daily Bread Café served dinner, which was chicken on baguette, Danishes and mini cheesecakes. For activities, we organized a group Bingo and then more individual games such as Cards against Humanity, Uno and Janga. For the Bingo, we had three rounds (one line, two lines and blackout). The prize for Round 1 was a \$25 gift card to the Bookstore, Round 2 was a \$50 gift card and Round 3 was a \$100 gift card.
- Our meeting schedule for the term will be Mondays at 4:30pm going forward and we are still in the process of filling vacant positions.

### UPCOMING SJCSA EVENTS

We will be having a Grand Reopening for the SJCSA Lounge which will be held on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. We have ordered pizzas from the Daily Bread Café. After this date, the Lounge will be open to all St John's members to study and hangout.

## CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE COUNCIL

Council has provided some feedback regarding Jumpstart and what we think should be changed or considered for next year:

- Room 108 was good to host JumpStart but next year we would like to book the Daily Bread Patio instead as we might get more participants if they are passing by
- Maybe play some soft background music after the live music is finished performing

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**END OF REPORT**