

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE ASSEMBLY Agenda

For the meeting of March 10, 2025 @ 2:00 pm Room 205 and via Teams

- 1. Traditional Territories acknowledgement**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the meeting on January 21, 2025**
- 4. Business arising from the Draft Minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting**
- 5. New Business**
 - a) Lease line update
 - b) Chair of Assembly
 - c) Financial Update
 - d) Update on recruitment and marketing
 - e) Office allocation discussion
 - f) Call for Honorary Degree nominations
 - g) Upcoming events
- 6. Other Business**
- 7. Reports**
 - a. Reports from College Officers**
 - Warden
 - Dean of Studies
 - Development Officer
 - Bursar
 - Dean of Residence
 - Chaplain
 - Registrar
 - b. Report from Senior Stick**
- 8. Adjournment**

St John's College

Warden's Report to Assembly, March 2025

It has been a busy few weeks at the College, with many great events and progress made on various projects. We have been laying groundwork for some planned renovations and upgrades to the College buildings, including the Cross Common Room and library/third floor spaces. We have been engaging with the University on these and a range of issues, particularly a potential revision to our lease line to accommodate a new science building on A Lot. We have also been enjoying internal events like Soup & Bread, Feeding Fellowship, and the exhibition of the pieces for the annual art competition, and look forward to the Marjorie Ward Lecture with Brian Dobie and the performances and judging for the Music and Art Competition.

I also want to acknowledge here that our Chaplain, Helen Holbrook, will sadly be leaving the College at the end of the term for a full-time position in hospital chaplaincy. In her five years at St John's, she has been an incredible member of the admin team and offered support and spiritual care across our community. She has made such a difference in the lives of so many of our students, and I myself have really valued her guidance when the College has navigated challenging times. Thank you so much, Helen, and we will miss you!

Teaching and Scholarship

The British history course I'm teaching for the History Department continues to go well. I completed a book manuscript review for Manchester University Press, and have been writing the conference paper I will present at the Society for Military History annual meeting later this month.

Highlights of Recent Activities

- On Jan. 22, I attended the welcome event for the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture's new Writer-in-Residence, Sonja Boon.
- On Jan. 23, the Development Officer and I attended a book launch at McNally Robinson for SJC alum, Dr. Bob Hawkins.
- On Feb. 23, I attended a book launch for honorary fellow and former Chancellor, Bishop Don Phillips, held at the College.
- On Feb. 24, me and other College staff met with Chris Whitmore from the search committee for a new Bishop to discuss SJC's role and concerns in that process.
- On March 4, I attended a Soup & Bread lecture with Lisa Alexandrin.
- On March 5, the Dean of Studies and I hosted a Feeding Fellowship lunch with new SJC fellows.

- I am part of the program review team for a master's degree in the UM Law School, and have been attending various meetings associated with that process in the lead-up to the site visit later this month.
- The Development Officer and I have had a number of meetings and meals with alumni and supporters since Assembly last met.
- The Registrar and I have been working with the UM Registrar's Office and St. Paul's College to update the process by which students declare affiliate college membership in the new Aurora.
- 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, Arts Faculty Council, and Diocesan Council.

Dean of Studies Report to Assembly March 2025

Soup and Bread Talks

On March 4, Dr. Lisa Alexandrin delivered an inspiring talk to a full house entitled, “Living Archives: Yugofuturism or Sufi Eschatology in Bosnia?” Next up in the Soup and Bread series is Dr. Ryan Turnbull who will present on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at noon in the Senior Common Room. The title of Ryan’s presentation is “The Ambiguous Lives of Doctrine: Adam, Theology, and Colonialism.”

Marjorie Ward Lecture

The annual Marjorie Ward Lecture is scheduled for March 11, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Robert Schultz Theatre. Brian Dobie, a Johnian who retired as the Manitoba Bisons football head coach on January 31, 2025, after nearly 30 years leading the team, will present a lecture titled, “Reflections on the Future of Football in Canada.” The event will kick off with appetizers and informal chatting at a pre-talk tailgate in the Galleria starting at 5:00 PM. A light reception will follow the talk. Please invite your friends to join us on March 11.

Student Art and Music Competition

Please drop by the Daily Bread Café to check out the wonderful art submissions, which will be on display until the competition winds up on April 7. All fellows, staff, and students are invited to attend the music finals in the College Chapel on Monday, April 7 from 12:30-1:30 PM. An awards ceremony will immediately follow in the Daily Bread Café to announce the people’s choice winners of the music and art competitions, as well as the recipients of the art awards selected by a panel of judges.

Fellows Offices in the College

We have completed the space audit with the goal of finding working space for all the new visiting fellows and drop-in shared space for adjunct fellows to use. While there are many pieces to the puzzle, we hope to provide space for everyone by the summer.

Wednesday Walks

The walk and walleye Wednesdays have had a modest turnout and will continue throughout the warmer weather. If you are up for a walk, please meet at the Daily Bread Café at 12:30 to depart together.

Student Connections

The poll fellows completed regarding their interest in casual meetings with St. John’s College students showed a strong interest in having a few events. Dates and times will be set in conjunction with the SJCSA this week.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Teetzel on March 4, 2025

Development Officer Report to Council
March 2025

Fundraising

- To date raised: \$256,000.

Alumni/Stewardship

- Continuing to visit with Johnians in person, phone calls and emails.
- Attending the What's The Big Idea podcast in Brandon. We are hosting a Johnian get together prior to the UM evening event for alum in the Brandon area.

Marketing/Communications

- In Lumine will be mailed out within the next month.
- E-Newsletters emailed out last week.

Staffing

- After careful review we decided not to apply for the Canada Summer jobs this year.
- Karis Park was our development assistant funded in part from the WorkStudy programme from September to end of February. She was a great help to the office.
- Prepared a job outline for the position of Development Specialist. This is a full time position as I move to part-time in the summer.

Capital Campaign

- Nothing to report.

Other

- Working on the Development Plan for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jackie Markstrom
4th March, 2025

Bursars' Report to Assembly March 10th, 2025

Operations/Financial Update

Food Service

At the end of the 3rd Quarter (December 31st), revenues were up 23% over the same period last year, and we've managed to hold expenses to levels similar to last year. This has been achieved by diligently keeping food cost percentages low through careful meal planning and doing our best to eliminate waste while still maintaining the quality of meals delivered. This applies to Catering and the Daily Bread Café as well. Also, staffing costs are being carefully monitored.

Residence

For Residence, revenues are up 52% as of the end of December, and expenses have increased by only 6%. This is due to the increased occupancy rate of 65% that has been holding relatively steady for the fall academic term.

Budget Preparation

Planning for the 25-26 Operating Budget will begin shortly – Finance & Administration will make a recommendation to College Council to set the parameters at its next meeting, and then the detailed budget will be reviewed and approved by Finance & Administration for final ratification by Assembly at its May meeting.

Audit/Year End

We are already anticipating the end of the fiscal year (March 31st) and continuing the work necessary to begin preparations for the audit (normally to take place in the 2nd week of June). It's been great having Beatriz Martins back full time in her role as Assistant Bursar, while also continuing to have Sharaina Cottick working 2 days/week.

Building Projects/Improvements

The College continues to explore the possibility of renovating the third floor of the College to improve the efficiency of how office space is used, and to improve the library and study areas for students. We are also exploring some potential upgrades to the Cross Common Room including new doors and built in audio visual capabilities. These are all progressing through AES and funding resources continue to be explored.

Dean of Residence Report – March 2025

Winter Enrollment Update

As of March 5, we have 65 people currently in the Residence, with applications for Summer 2025 coming in nearly every day.

ICM Partnership and Housing Guarantee

On February 18, I again participated in ICM's Online Open House, which was attended by 25 potential ICM applicants. I have also concluded consultations with ICM's marketing and recruitment team and am pleased to announce that we have partnered to offer a Housing Guarantee of 30 rooms (with the potential of 10 further rooms) to incoming ICM students for Fall 2025/Winter 2026 until June 15, 2025. As part of the Guarantee, application fees are waived (applicants must enter a referral code on our application) and St John's Residence will be the prominent option on the ICM Accommodations webpage. The Guarantee is actively being pushed by ICM's recruitment partners in Vietnam and China (among other markets) via their parent organization Navitas.

Brandon Symposium

The Registrar, Marketing and Communications Officer, and I will be in Brandon on March 18 and 19 for the Brandon Career Symposium, which is always a great opportunity to advertise the Residence to domestic students considering attending U of M.

Residence Life

The Registrar, the Chaplain, and I partnered to offer Stories of Solidarity, a collective puzzle art initiative held daily in the Cloister from February 24 to 28. Participants were given a letter-sized puzzle piece and given the opportunity to "fill it in" in whatever way felt meaningful to them, with the goal being to foster a sense of solidarity, belonging, and home amidst societal turmoil and constantly shifting international student visa/study permit situations this academic year. Several residents came out to take part, and it was great to have conversations with the many non-resident students who showed up – with College cookies being a favourite part of the experience. The puzzle is currently on the windows of the cloister, and I am in the process of creating a digital replica.

Residence Renewal Applications, Summer Conferences, Don Applications

Renewal applications for Summer 2025 and Fall 2025/Winter 2026 will go out at the end of this week (March 7), and Don applications in the next week or two. If you know anyone in need of housing or conference space over the summer, please send them my way! I'm always happy to show new folks around the Residence and answer questions about what we're able to offer.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Bowman
Dean of Residence

March 2025 Report to St. John's College Assembly

Position at St Johns

Update – I will transition to full time work as a spiritual care provider at St Boniface Hospital. My last day at St Johns will be Saturday April 5th. (Taize service).

My hours may be affected over the next week due to a Allied health strike at the hospital. Spiritual care is an essential service and my schedule could change over night depending on contract negotiations.

Weekly Programing

Weekly services

Suspended

U of M Spiritual Care

Spiritual care team meeting - A good discussion on the topic of commuter campus, challenges of hosting events but some patterns have arisen:

Events should be drop in

Events should occur in high traffic areas.

De Stress Event

I am hoping to host one more event, date TBA – making a mosaic coaster.

Taize Prayer

We added another date, next on April 5th at 4 pm.

Student Council

On March 15th I will host a retreat for student council

Individual visits with students

I continue to meet with a few students.



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

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Registrar's Report
March 2025

Scholarships and Bursaries

I continue to work on the new application form for scholarships and bursaries, and along with our Marketing and Communications Officer, updating the website with the new changes. I will be hosting a "How to apply for scholarships" workshop for our members on March 26, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in room 201 and the application will open officially on March 31.

Recruitment

February 20 was the UM Winter Open House which was well attended by high school students from around Winnipeg and Southern Manitoba. Our booth was busy for most of the day with a lot of interest in membership.

The Dean of Residence, our Marketing and Communications Officer, and I will be travelling to Brandon for the Brandon Career Symposium from March 17 – 19.

Other

The week of February 24 – 27, the Chaplain, Dean of Residence, and I, hosted a Stories of Solidarity week: a collective art project to support students in this time of uncertainty. Set up in the Cloister, students were invited to fill a paper puzzle piece with their own form of self-expression using art supplies of paper, pencil crayons, stickers, etc. so that we may find solidarity in our diversity. All puzzle pieces were scanned and then put up on the window in the Cloister. There are some beautiful pieces, and it was a wonderful time to connect with students and find some peace and support.

Sherry Peters
Registrar