ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
ASSEMBLY
Minutes

For the meeting of March 17, 2015 @ 10:00 am in Room 206 St John's College


Regrets: S. Close, S. Alward, R. Thomas, D. Watt, H. Graham, E. Millions, D. McCance

1. Approval of the Agenda
   C. Trott/B. Ferguson
   CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on January 20, 2015.
   C. Trott/B. Peeler
   CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting
   a) Honorary Degree Nominations
      MOTION: That Assembly move into closed session.
      C. Trott/B. Hallman
      CARRIED
      MOTION: That Assembly move out of closed session.
      C. Trott/J. Markstrom;
      CARRIED
      In closed session, it was approved agreed to award Bishop Mark L. MacDonald the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa), and Ms. Shirlee Anne Smith the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Canon Law (honoris causa) at the annual Convocation ceremony on November 1, 2015.

   b) Set Residence Rates – The Bursar presented the 3.9% increase due to rising costs.
      MOTION from the Finance and Administration Committee: That Assembly approve a 3.9% increase in the residence rates for 2015 – 2016 year.
      CARRIED

   c) Update on planning the 150th Anniversary
      The Development Officer informed Assembly that a series of events are being planned including the Western Canadian Studies Conference, for alumni to attend.

4. New Business
   a) Nominate new chair for upcoming year – E. Jones has agreed to be chair of Assembly for another year, as nominated by C. Trott. B. Ferguson seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made.
      CARRIED
b) Budget for 2015/2016 – The Bursar presented the proposed budget for 2015-2016. MOTION from the Finance and Administration Committee: That Assembly approve of the budget for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year. CARRIED

5. Other Business
a) B. Ferguson raised the issue of the location of the Faculty Secretary. Room 241 is becoming open, and proposes the moving of the Faculty Secretary into that office, so that faculty may make better use of her. The Warden noted that he is aware and needs to make a few adjustments, and that the Awards Clerk’s time is divided between the Fellows, Dean of Studies, and primarily Awards. The SJC Faculty Association has agreed to help assess the needs of the Faculty. The Warden noted that Administrative support is not only Diana DeFoort, that the other staff of the College provide administrative support to the Fellows.

6. Reports
a) Reports from College Officers

St John’s College
Warden’s Report to Assembly
March 10, 2015

It seems that the term has flown by. My most notable activities since the last Council have been trips to visit Alumni and Donors in Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo (February 18 to 23) and then a second trip to Toronto, Peterborough and Ottawa (March 4 to 9). We had the honour of presenting The Hon. Thomas Berger with the Doctor of Canon Law degree that had been conferred at Convocation in the fall. It is always a great pleasure to meet with our Alumni and hear their reminiscences of their time at the College. One of the things that continue to amaze me is the number of Alumni who recall how the College went out of its way to do something different for them so that they could achieve their goals. It is something we can be proud of. While the groups of Alumni we meet are small, they are incredibly enthusiastic and eager to hear the news of the College.

My other activities in this time period include:

1) Participating in a SSHRC Partnership Grant review.
2) Attending the Theology Reading Group (January 26,
3) Participating in the 150th Anniversary Committee Meeting
4) Attending Bible and Breakfast (January 31)
5) Attending a meeting with the University of Winnipeg and members of the cooperative on revisioning the M.Div. program at the U of W (February 2).
6) Continuing to work with the Theological Education Commission as they prepared their final report.
7) Attended the Decolonizing the University workshop (February 6)
8) Joining the Children Rising Mentorship students for lunch on February 7.
9) Participating in the discussions on restructuring University Chaplaincy services (February 10)
10) Met with representatives of Indigenous Theological training organizations and the Theological Education Commission.
11) Gave a tour of the College to the Faith Lutheran Church confirmation class (February 28).
The Warden added that The Dean of Residence, J. Bouchard, has handed in his resignation. The job posting will be available for circulation soon. The Warden has also received the report from the Theological Commission which will go to Council next week. Based on a Student housing study and the yearly wait lists for residence space, we are approaching them for a declaration of support for a new residence.

Dean of Studies

March 17, 2015

Report to Assembly: Dean of Studies
Our Winter schedule is well under way and it is a busy time around the college.

Upcoming Lectures:
We are about mid-way through our scheduled Soup and Bread Lectures and Brown Bag Lunches at St. John’s and everything is going smoothly thanks to Junior Fellow, Jade Weimer who is coordinating the Soup and Bread series and Retired Fellow, Rod Clifton who is organizing our Brown Bag series.

Soup and Bread Lectures: January to March 2015
Wednesday, January 28th. Lisa Alexandrin “Images of the Prophet Muhammad: Historical Considerations”

Tuesday, February 3rd Erin Millions, “Exploring Emotion, Empire, and Material Culture in Metis Children’s Letters from School, 1850s and 1860s”

Wednesday, March 4th Murray Evans, “Coleridge’s Sublime and Julia Kristeva’s ‘This Incredible Need to Believe’”

Tuesday, March 10th Anthony Waterman, “What do we mean by ‘genius?’ The example of Paul Samuelson.”

Wednesday, March 11th Jade Weimer, “Teaching Religion in Academia”

Brown Bag Lunch Lectures: January to April, 2015
Tuesday, February 24–The Rev’d Jamie Howison, “Jazz as Resilient Lament: Coltrane Speaks the Blues”


Tuesday, March 17–The Right Rev. Linda Nicholls, “Can Anglicans talk to others or do they need to talk to themselves first? The Right Rev. Linda Nicholls is Suffragan Bishop in the diocese of Toronto and will be visiting SJC.

*Wednesday, March 18 – Dovie Thomason, “TBA”. This special wine and cheese event will be held in the SCR from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our 31st Annual Marjorie Ward Lecture a complete success. Andre Lewis, Artistic Director to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, spoke about the history of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and his own career path from student, to international performer to celebrated artistic director in his presentation, "Reaching Your Potential." We had an audience of approximately sixty people, so that was a good turnout. College Fellows and invited guests joined Mr. Lewis before the lecture for a gourmet dinner in the Cross Common Room and audience members were invited to a post-lecture reception in the Galleria. The food at both events was superb and we thank Ian Park and his staff from Food Services for doing such a fine job. Many other people worked behind the scenes to make the evening a success and we thank Amy Craddock, Jackie Markstrom, Jill Stafford and Elnora Wiebe for their efforts. In particular, Diana DeFoort should be recognized for her organizational skills and attention to detail. She helped to keep the whole project moving forward. Finally, thank you to all who were able to attend the Lecture.

Student Art Competition: The art committee, consisting of Susie Fisher, Susan Close, Heather Graham, Elizabeth Alexandrin, Krista Barclay and Ian Park, is hard at work organizing our 2015 St. John's College Student Art Competition. The judging took place on Thursday, March 3rd and we wish to thank our three judges: Susan Close, Acey Rowe and Liv Valimestad for their expertise. The artwork will be on display in the Daily Bread Café from Sunday, March 8th until Sunday, March 29th so please drop by and check out the submissions. The results of the competition will be announced on Thursday, March 26th at 2:00 p.m. in the Daily Bread cafe at the reception catered by Ian Park's Food Services. We thank all committee members for their efforts and a special thank you to Diana for assisting with advertising and to Ian for displaying the art and hosting the reception for us. Mark the 26th on your agenda.

Saturday, March 21, 2015. St. John’s College Grads’ Farewell Dinner and Dance. The St. John’s College Students’ Association is holding their Grad Farewell Dinner and Dance at Bergmann’s on Lombard on March 21st. The evening will feature a dinner at 6:30 which is followed by the Valedictory Address, the Changing of the Sticks and the Presentation of the Fellow of the Year Award. Our St. John’s College students put a great deal of effort into the evening and we wish them every success with the Grad and with their future plans.

End of term reception: Wednesday, April 8th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please join us on April 8th for our end of term reception good food and good conversation.

Chaplain

Chaplain’s report to Assembly, March 2015

This semester has been a full one as some new initiatives have begun, while others continued from last semester or came to an end:

- I hosted student council in my home for a community-building games night, which went well
- Numbers remain low for weekly midday prayer and meditation
- I’ve been hosting a dinner & discussion group each Wednesday evening which has been going well. All- or nearly all- are African students. They are eager to talk about what it means to be minorities in a white, straight, male-dominated church.
- The counselling intern’s schedule is full as we approach the end of semester; I will apply to have another intern in the fall
• I did a two-day workshop on mental health first aid with the counselling department over reading week. I will be doing further chaplaincy training at Victoria Hospital full time for May-July.
• Together with some students, chaplaincy hosted a Nigerian Afrobeats band at the beginning of March as a way to celebrate our African students and draw them into the community. It went very well, as students of all backgrounds - including Nigerian Muslim northerners and Christian southerners - danced together in the galleria. These included several of Ian's staff, who hope we can do more cross-cultural celebration again next year. This concert was made possible by a special grant from St. Benedict's Table.
• We have a grad student from Pakistan whose funding has been cut and who is now without a place to live. If you have any ideas for where he could stay even short term, please let me know.
• The final Bible & Breakfast of the year is March 14 with Rev. Dr. Jane Barter Moulaison, religion chair at the U of W. She will be speaking about the book of Romans and the first century philosophers.
• We're hosting our annual “Journey into Holy Week” service on March 29 at 3pm in the chapel with the Friends of the College choir. It will be a meditative choral service of light, much the same as last year.
• During exams, I'm planning to have the labyrinth out and available for use in the quiet room, so students can have a place to quiet themselves. This will include instructions for use.
• We'll end the year with an Easter celebration at my home for the students who participated in our discussion group

Bursar

Bursar's report to Assembly March 17th, 2015

The flooring project for the Galleria is scheduled to begin March 18th, and take approximately 5-7 days to complete. All of the work will be performed in the evening to minimize the disruption.

The Assistant Bursar & I have been spending most of our recent time preparing the budget, and looking towards the year end. Also, planning for the summer session and projecting our occupancy levels in the residence has been a priority. Our biggest customer, extended education and their international programs are not as popular as they once were, and home stay is a cheaper option compared to residence. As such, our summer numbers may be lower than in previous years. Should this trend continue, the college will have to explore other options so that we can generate enough revenue to keep the residence fully operational in the summer months. Currently the summer is still profitable for us, but we need to monitor demand to ensure that we don’t suddenly find that particular revenue stream disappearing, or get caught off guard.

Administratively, there are two major projects fast approaching: With the resignation of our Dean of Residence, a hiring committee will need to be formed to fill that position. The transition will also require a lot of that work to be filled by myself and other members of the admin staff. Secondly, we will be starting a strategic planning process in April. We’ve sourced a very effective facilitator who will guide the college and its constituent groups through the process. More information for the college community, and how they can be involved, will be sent out soon.
Dean of Residence

Residence Projects
At the moment we have no major projects in the residence right now. We recently switched around a few of the common areas to utilize the space better and replaced the pool table. We also turned a common room that wasn’t used into a dons office so they have more privacy as well as it gives them a safe space to meet with students.

Regular Semester
We are currently at capacity with a small waitlist of mostly ICM students. We had 4 students leave us in the fall due to dropping out of school or moving to different living accommodations. We have since filled the rooms with new applicants. IEP has 23 rooms contracted with us and we are starting to make plans for the summer session.

Summer Session
We are currently getting applications for the summer session and we are in talks with IEP for their summer schedule. We are hoping to offer a complete meal plan for our summer guests since there is nothing like it offered on campus right now.

2015-2016 Academic Year
Returning students have until March 31 to get priority registration for residence next year. We have 7 applications so far and I’m expecting around 15 by the end of the month. We have 5 first year applications now and that number is sure to rise as U of M housing will have a waitlist next month.

Residence Activity
With the decrease in IEP numbers we have more students who are here for the full 8 month school year. This has led to a stronger community and our events have had larger turnouts. I’m hoping that this will have a positive impact on our recruiting efforts for September 2015. We are working closely with the residence student council to streamline our programming efforts.

Development Officer

Fundraising
- Currently sitting at just over $150,000 raised.
- The Fall Campaign breakdown: Overall response rate of 5.2% (last year 4.4%) total raised $26,111 (last year $26,784). Response rate was higher than last year but dollars raised slightly lower.
- We have a grant application with Cropo Foundation to cover the cost of the Chapel light bulbs.

Alumni/Stewardship
- Continuing to call/visit with donors on a regular basis.
- Chris and I visited with alum and donors in Vancouver/Victoria from the 19th-22nd February and Toronto/Peterborough/Ottawa from the 3rd to 8th March.

Special Events
- The last "Lunch and Lively Conversation" was very well received by Alumni/donors. The next one is scheduled for April
• Bach’s Birthday – A Tribute to Retired Fellows will be held on 19th March and will feature a concert in the Chapel followed by a reception in the Senior Common Room.
• The Curry Cook-Off is scheduled for 20th March in the Cross Common Room. Tickets are $10 and all proceeds donated to the William Norton Scholarship in Human Geography
• 150th Anniversary Celebrations: Bernie and I are working on the format.

Marketing/Communications
• The next issue of In Lumine will be out in June/July.
• Suggestions for stories/articles are appreciated.

Staffing
• Currently have one volunteer coming in on a regular basis and one part-time student helping with the database.

Misc
• Continue to attend UofM External Relations and Donor Relations Department meetings.
• Jill and I are holding a planning morning on the 18th March to review the year and start planning Development Office activities for 2015/2016.
• Will be doing a full programme evaluation after the 31st March, 2015.

Librarian
No report

Registrar
No report

b) Report from Senior Stick
No report

c) Reports from College Committees

7. Adjournment
C. Trott / J. Dean
CARRIED

The official copy of the minutes is signed by the Chair and Secretary and kept in the Registrar’s Office

Chair_________________________ Secretary_________________________ Date____________________