



QUEEN'S COLLEGE

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Office of the Provost

To: Trustees of the Corporation of Queen's College

From: Rick Singleton

Date: October 06, 2020

Subject: Provost's Report

This report provides highlights of activities since our meeting on May 14, 2020, as well as overall progress on our programs and activities, with specific attention to the impact of the global pandemic and the Fall Semester of the Academic Year 2020 - 2021 at Queen's College.

We are now settled into the most unusual fall term. Fall 2020 Semester is different for all. And, thanks to the support, cooperation, patience and flexibility of all, we are doing reasonably well.

Response to COVID-19 Global Pandemic

At Queen's College, our main directives for planning, response and recovery from the global pandemic interruptions will come from the Government of Canada and the Government Newfoundland and Labrador as interpreted by Memorial University of Newfoundland. MUN has initiated its emergency operations centre (EOC) <https://www.mun.ca/covid19/> as outlined under the [emergency management plan](#). Planning is focused on minimizing potential exposure while preserving academic and research integrity, and facilitating administrative and academic continuity. MUN has an oversight committee that communicates with all units of the University. I am included in the communication and consultation structure.

A Briefing Note included in the materials for this meeting described current Queen's initiatives and adjustments to COVID-19.

In addition to the current practical and operational issues, COVID-19 seems to have triggered many organizations to give significant consideration to their Mission, Vision and operations. For Queen's, the timing is good to examine how it can best achieve its

mandate in the future, and even consider and maybe clarify its mandate as interpreted from its Vision and Mission.

Profile of Fall 2020 Semester Programs and Enrolment

- Total enrolment of 126 students;
- All courses are on line in our degree programs.
- We are offering eight degree courses and two in shared with Tyndale for PAONL students.
- Two Vocational Development Seminars
- A new Academic Development Seminar
- A weekly student forum
- We are offering twelve Associate Program correspondence courses.
- We offer our Diploma in Theology and Ministry program by weekly on-line sessions
- We have six scheduled times of community prayer per week.
- We have four Days of Awareness
- The space refurbishment project was completed with installation of wall hangings.
- Convocation is being planned for November 25, 2020.
- Fifty-two students will graduate from their respective programs;
- Our 2020 graduates reflect the Queen's College mission and ministry in the 21st century. Our graduates include lay people, deacons, priests, a bishop, an executive archdeacon, Pentecostal pastors and a SA officer. We have representatives of six denominations: Anglican, Moravian, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Salvation Army.
- Student Enrollment by Program
 - Master of Divinity 7
 - Master of Theological Studies 17
 - Master of Theology 9
 - Bachelor of Theology 4
 - Bachelor of Theology (D& M, C&G) 18
 - Associate in Theology 23
 - Diploma in Theology and Ministry 29
 - Diploma in Theology and Ministry (RC) 5
 - Continuing Studies 14

Total 126

We had 52 graduates in 2020.

16 new students in Fall 2020 Semester

- 8 in Degree programs
- 1 in Associate
- 7 in Diploma

Academic

We continue to do our academic planning based on our 2017 Curriculum Review. While COVID-19 will have some impact, most of our academic courses are already delivered on line and by webinar, so it will not necessarily impact course offerings. The need for courses will continue to be examined. We may need to adjust the course offerings to ensure we sustain efficiency while having adequate variety for students to complete their programs. We may need to set a minimum number of students in elective courses. This will require close monitoring of course selection and adequate academic advising.

At Queen's, we are fortunate to have made such advances in our webinar real time and asynchronous course delivery, thus we will be able to offer on line courses. We will need to give special attention to the practical aspects of our programs, such as community placements and internships. *Pastoral training and practice* and *Faith-based learning community* are two essential pillars of our programming. The other two pillars are *Theological Education* and *Spiritual Development*.

We are pleased to have eight students in Supervised Parish Internships in the Fall 2020 Semester. We are very appreciative of the cooperation of parish clergy who are providing field supervision and intern support teams.

Right now, we are working on our Winter 2021 Semester Program. We are uncertain of final arrangements for courses and activities on campus and / or on line in the winter.

Accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is being pursued. ATS, like all organizations is slowed down considerable due to COVID-19 limitation on site visits. Dr. Bell and I are working on materials for full accreditation candidacy. This venture is leading us to examine our operations, processes and standards quite closely, and it gives opportunity to flag matters that will need closer attention. We are pleased with the efforts by faculty and students to improve research methods and academic writing during the Winter Semester. We look forward to sustaining that effort and continuing to improve. We have taken steps to address our processes for academic evaluation of students and faculty; this is an important component within ATS Accreditation Standards. Our Academic Development Seminars and student support and coaching are intended to target these areas.

Our two non-degree programs are important to Queen's College mission and mandate. Our Associate Program enrolment is strong and will continue to be a stream to prepare people for ministry in the Church. It is also important to note that many people, who get a taste for the study of theology through the Diploma and Associate programs, continue move into the degree programs.

The enrolment in the Volunteer Training Program in winter 2020 was strong and encouraging. It illustrates the number of people willing to offer themselves as volunteers and their insight on the need for training. We are pleased that some have decided to pursue further studies in our degree and non-degree programs.

The Discipleship and Ministry Program in Cyprus and the Gulf continues to be strong. They have had some decline in enrolment, partially due to COVID-19. This initiative is a wonderful outreach venture for Queen's College. We have done considerable work

Pastoral Training and Practice

COVID-19 is causing major disruption to the practical components of all programs at colleges and universities as measures to control contacts to prevent spread of the virus continues. Most colleges are looking at ways to reconfigure the design of programs by adjusting the sequence of courses and practicums. At Queen's, we had to postpone our Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) for the summer. We are pleased that we could

organize and offer the Supervised Parish Internship Program (SPIP) in the Fall 2020 Semester. We have eight interns across the province.

Equipping people for ministry requires more than academic programming. We have practicum components built into all our diploma and degree programs. We continue to encourage clergy and suitable lay people to build their competencies to supervise pastoral trainees. This strategy is becoming more important, especially for situations where individuals will not be on campus for courses. We look forward to more growth in this area, as we build strong support teams and student cohorts in their areas and local faith communities.

We appreciate the support for clergy and others who offer supervision and support to our students.

Spiritual Development

COVID-19 has brought challenges and discoveries to our efforts and emphasis on spirituality as the core of our program and essential to the joy, resilience and effective ministry of those preparing for pastoral roles in the Church. Using on line resources and networking we are endeavoring to lead students into practices and routines that will allow them to have a strong prayer life and skills to help others. We continue to require students to have a spiritual director, and we make them accountable to pursue spiritual guidance. We have monthly on-line days of awareness. We have daily office at scheduled times, we continue the practice of contemplative community prayer once per week. Our Chaplain, Fr. John Courage, has been a wonderful guide and support for our students and faculty members. He has taken on the lead role with revising and enhancing the Vocational Development Seminars, as well as coordinating on line prayer times, scheduling presiders and preachers, and coordinating spiritual direction for ordination stream students.

Community

Community life, as we knew and experienced it, is quite different this year. On line efforts to gather for prayer and community connections are appreciated ... but certainly different than the experience of community that evolves when we gather daily on campus. In the fall of 2020, we have a wide array of students and faculty members: some are full-time and some are part-time; some are in ordination stream but most preparing for fuller lay ministries. We have Anglican, Pentecostal, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, United Church, Baptist, Moravian, non-affiliated Christians, and Buddhist students with us this semester. We are pleased to sustain weekly on-line Community Gatherings for Mid-day Prayer and Sharing ... Tuesdays at noon.

Our community is strengthened by the support of the Bishops and clergy. We are blessed to have clergy support and participate as resources and presenters in our Vocational Development Seminars. We especially appreciate parish clergy who have been very supportive and welcoming in facilitating parish internships as they adjust to many other demands in this time of COVID-19. We are pleased that our students recognize that they are not an isolated community, but part of broader and deeper community of faith.

We make efforts to connect with the broader community through a monthly newsletter and occasional updates to students, alumni/ae, parishes, clergy, benefactors and friends. We have worked to enhance our presence through social media.

Budget

Our Financial Statement is included in the Meeting Materials. The Chair of Finance Committee will review it.

Current Initiatives

It had been my plan to complete my term as Provost on July 31, 2020. I have now agreed to stay on as provost until May 01, 2021. Our current initiatives will primarily focus on planning to maintain a stable program. In the short term, this will require ongoing monitoring of COVID-19 restrictions, program design options for the Winter 2021 Semester. It will also require engagement with officials at MUN, our faculty members and students to ensure we are considering and responding to matters of relevance and importance. For the longer term, the *visioning* initiative of Corporation is of vital importance. It will be an opportunity to establish clarity on the direction of Queen's College for the future. It is an opportune time for such an exercise, as the College is strong ... thus the focus can be more about the mission of Queen's than survival.

Closing

I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the numerous people who collaborate, participate and support our work at Queen's. Our students are wonderful individuals who bring joy and excitement to the College and the Church. Our faculty members generously teach, coach, mentor, challenge and guide our students in academic, spiritual and pastoral formation. Our Leadership Team, Dr. David Bell our Dean, Fr. John Courage our Chaplain, and Dr. Carmel Doyle our Director of Student Programs enrich Queen's by their presence, example and attention to detail that sustains the 179 year old spirit and character of Queen's College. Ms Dana Bishop continues to be a wonderful support and asset to the College. She keeps us all in order and is cheerful while doing it.

Finally, I thank the Trustees of the Corporation of Queen's College for the support of the College and our initiatives to make theological education available and relevant in the Church and beyond.

Respectfully,

Rick Singleton