



MASSEY COLLEGE  
*in the University of Toronto*  
4 Devonshire Place,  
Toronto Ontario Canada M5S 2E1

MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

March 27, 2020 | 4-6pm

By Zoom / Teleconference

Present:

Aubie Angel, Joshua Barker, Alan Broadbent, David Cameron, Tim Casgrain, Nathalie Des Rosiers, Paul Gooch, Edith Hillan, Seshu Iyengar, Jennifer Jenkins, Barbara Sherwood Lollar, John Massey, Raymond Massey, Beverly McLachlin, Sarianna Metso, Julian Posada, David Robertson, Jonathan Rose, Brian Silverman, David Smith, Liz Smyth, Olivier Sorin, Craig Thorburn, Peter Tovell, Alissa Trotz

Regrets:

Colleen Flood, MERIC Gertler

Staff:

Joyee Chau, Emily Mockler

**Welcome and remarks from the Chair**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. She delivered the Land Acknowledgment Statement. She then called upon Don of Hall Julian Posada to introduce the Don of Hall elect, Seshu Iyengar. The Board congratulated Seshu on his appointment and welcomed him to the Governing Board.

The Chair then delivered the following remarks:

*The 2019-20 academic year is one that will definitely occupy a unique place in Massey's history. We welcomed a new principal; we celebrated with the campus the centennial of the iconic Massey Family benefaction – Hart House – and we encountered COVID 19 the virus that has reshaped our world and our community. We have acquired a whole new lexicon on one side "covidots" and "virus rebels" - and on the other caremongering and communitarism.*

*Masseyites have given great examples of the latter – and I highlight five:*

- *Ryan Doherty for calling to the community for help in getting a French translation for his initiatives to assist in navigating COVID-19 and the health care system;*



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- *Journalism Fellow Alum Richard Warnica for call for Masseyites to share their experience;*
- *Alum Angela Schwarzkopf for [a live streamed performance](#) of Contemplation – described by one of her Massey colleagues as the performance she would have presented at the Juno Awards ‘if the zombie apocalypse hadn’t happened.’*
- *Junior Fellow Shane Saunderson for his invitation to join in a night of virtual trivia*
- *And last, but certainly not least, Senior Fellow (and alum) Colleen Flood, our board member and Chair of the Risk Committee - for her service to the College – and the country through her hourlong chat with CBC’s Michael Enright on Sunday Morning March 15 (Ethics, the law and a public health emergency).*

*Over the next few weeks, we will hear more about how the College through its virtual presence will support and build community.*

*Principal Des Rosiers and her staff have faced the unprecedented challenges with humanity, dignity, creativity and grace. Our Junior Fellows and our staff were faced with unforeseen and complex circumstances that generated a tremendous amount of stress. Classes were moved online; labs were closed; summer plans cancelled. There were layoffs and contracts were cancelled. We owe the Principal and her staff an enormous debt of gratitude as they managed difficult and fluid situations. The Executive Committee and the Risk Committee is meeting weekly with the Principal. The Chair and members of the Finance Committee are working closely with Bursar to respond to this very fluid situation. I thank the members of these committees and all members of the board – especially Vice Chair Craig Thorburn for the support and advice provided.*

*Finally, we have a challenging road ahead – financially and psychologically as we move into a recovery mode. There will be more bumps but let us look at this as an opportunity to further build a community that is welcoming and inclusive.*

### **Approval of Agenda**

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the agenda be approved. **CARRIED.**

[The Agenda can be accessed here.](#)



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### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the meeting held on January 31, 2020 be approved. **CARRIED.**

[January 31 minutes can be accessed here](#)

### **Business Arising**

No business arising.

### **Report from the Don of Hall**

The Don of Hall applauded the College's administration and wider community for the support provided to the Junior Fellows at this difficult time. He reported that there are great levels of concern, anxiety and uncertainty among the student community and thanked the Principal Des Rosiers and Elena Ferranti, Director of Student Life for their proactive response in updating the college's policies to meet the needs of the college community, and by ensuring transparency with the Junior Fellowship in every way possible. The Don then reported on the array of JCR activities. He expressed his confidence in the resilience of the Massey community to meet the current challenges and expressed his good wishes that the community would be able to congregate again soon.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** Don of Hall be thanked and congratulated for all he did in his role over the past academic year be approved. **CARRIED.**

### **Report from the Principal**

#### **1. Responding to the COVID-19 Emergency**

The Principal reported that she has been working closely with the Executive Committee, the Risk Committee and the University of Toronto to respond to COVID-19. She reported:



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- i. cancelling all public facing events from March 13<sup>th</sup>;
- ii. closing the College to all visitors from March 16<sup>th</sup> ;
- iii. from Thursday, March 19th, closing kitchen operations, and putting some members of staff on temporary leave
- iv. providing meals for Resident Junior Fellows who must remain at the College. Some International students are not able to or are concerned about returning to their home countries remain at the college. Their meals are provided by an outside caterer, but they will not benefit from cleaning or porter services;
- v. providing refunds to the Junior Fellows who have elected to leave, and creating an emergency travel fund to those Junior Fellows who need assistance in getting home to families, within Canada and abroad;
- vi. asking administrative staff to working remotely wherever possible;
- vii. adapting Massey to an online world and strengthening community bonds through a variety of online platforms including the Massey Dialogues available on the [Massey Youtube Channel](#).

## **2. Resolution for Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for Massey College library renovations**

The Principal submitted a motion that the Governing Board of Massey College approve an application to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for the renovation of the Robertson Davies Library Rare Book Collection. This application represents an opportunity to access funds to enable the College to install temperature controls to protect the rare books and to undertake other renovations in keeping with the principles of accessibility and the architectural significance of the building.

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Massey College Board approve an application to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for the renovation of the Robertson Davies Library Rare Book Collection. **CARRIED.**



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### **3. Communication from Junior Fellow in regards to Anti-Black Racism at Massey College**

The Principal reported to the Board that two Junior Fellows submitted letters to her that they wished shared with the Board. The letters describe how instances of anti-Black racism led to their decisions to leave the College. The Board was deeply concerned by issues raised by the Junior Fellows. The Board had a serious, frank and candid discussion of the issues the letters raised. The Board directed the Principal and the Chair to thank the Junior Fellows formally for the courageous letters; to create a Committee to help the College deal pro-actively with the issue of anti-Black racism; to have the Principal report at every Board meeting on actions taken on this issue; to provide anti-bias training for every member of a committee of the Board, including committees to select members of the Junior and Senior Fellowship and the Quadrangle Society and to put in place training for all employees. The Board is committed to building a College community that is inclusive and welcoming.

### **4. Staffing**

The Principal reported that Catherine Fowler will be joining the College on 30 March as the Director of Advancement.

#### **Report from the Chair of Quadrangle Society**

The Chair reported that this year, for the first time, the selection process for members of the Quadrangle Society was aligned with that of the Senior Fellowship. The recommended slate was brought forth to the Governance and Nominating Committee and presented to the Board by individual ballot. The Chair noted that advancing the diversity mandate is a priority and a goal of the recruitment activities of both himself and the Principal.

#### **Report from the Representative of Alumni**

The Co-President reported on the activities of the Association, noting that some have been put on hold. He highlighted a number of activities including progress on revising the constitution, international chapters, building closer working relationships with the Junior Fellow's House Committee and enhancing the Alumni's presence on social media.



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### **Report from the Governance and Nominating Committee**

The Chair reported on the activities of the committee and the Senior Fellows' selection subcommittee. He spoke of the need to hold the diversification of the Senior Fellowship as a priority and encouraged all members of the Board to assist.

He reported to the Board, for its information, that the terms of members of the Senior Fellows and Quadrangle Society's Selection Subcommittees would now be year-long, rather than limited to the duration of adjudication and deliberation (generally January to April). He explained that this change came about as result of the need, under exceptional circumstances, to be able to appoint new members of the Quadrangle Society and Senior Fellows at 'off-cycle' times of year. He noted that it is expected that the Principal would be the one to bring new potential members to the attention of the relevant committee.

He stated that the subcommittee to appoint a new member of the Board would report in the in-camera session.

### **Report of the Finance and Audit Committee**

The Chair introduced his report noting that disruption caused by the virus necessitated revising initial year-end projections and the 2021 budget. He invited the Bursar present a number of scenarios for the impact of the COVID-19 virus. The Chair reported that he will be calling on the Board in the next few weeks to approve a budget once this fluid situation becomes clearer.

### **Report of the Risk Committee**

In the absence of the Chair who is attending a critical COVID-19 meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Board presented the report. He informed the Board that the Committee has been meeting weekly with the Principal and is working closely with the Executive Committee to support the College.

### **Other Business**

Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** the Massey College Board thank Emily Mockler who is the administrative support to the Governing Board.



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**In Camera Sessions**

Two in camera sessions, one with the Principal attending, and one without were then held.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm