

Press Release for the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches [Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary] for a meeting held on April 26, 2011

The Board of Governors met at the Seminary Facilities in Hamilton, Ontario on April 26, 2011. Present at the meeting were Archie J. Bax, Hank Kampen (Treasurer), Rev R. Aasman (Chairman), Barry Hordyk, , Dr. Andrew J. Pol (Secretary), Rev. Willem B. Slomp, Rev Eric Kampen, Rev John VanWoudenberg, Lammert Jagt, Rev John Ludwig and Karl J. Veldkamp (Vice-Chairman/Corresponding Clerk). Regrets: None. The Principal, Dr. G.H. Visscher also was present. The meeting was opened by Rev R. Aasman with the reading of Luke 24:1-12 and prayer.

Minutes & Agenda

a. The minutes of the Board meeting held on March 24, 201 were, with amendments, adopted. The agenda for the meeting was settled.

Correspondence of Note

a. The finalization and publication of the press release for the March 24, 2011 meeting was confirmed. No other incoming or outgoing correspondence since the last meeting.

Meeting with Dr. Lester Ruiz of the Association of Theological Schools

In connection with determining the readiness of the Seminary to continue its self study and complete the candidacy requirements of the Seminary to become a member of the Association of Theological Schools (“ATS”), the Board received Dr. Lester Ruiz of the ATS. Dr. Ruiz was visiting the Seminary as follow up to the delivery of a readiness report previously submitted by the Seminary. His visit included separate discussions with the Faculty, students, support staff and the Board. In an open conversation with the board the following elements were canvassed and discussed:

- i. The “economic equilibrium” of the seminary: the model of its funding, its reliability and its sustainability. It was evident that the federational model and support was atypical amongst the members of ATS and the faithful and regular support of the supporting member churches was gratefully described and noted;
- ii. Future challenges foreseen for the seminary; Whatever future challenges may lay in store for the seminary, it was recognized that the challenge of maintaining clear and consistent adherence to the reformed confessions, i.e. the three forms of unity, is not diminishing;
- iii. Evaluation and assessment: the process of working with ATS will include frank assessment as to the articulation of clearly defined “learning outcomes”. The intention is to describe conclusively the intended learning outcomes for courses being offered. The focus is on educational effectiveness and not on bureaucratic success;
- iv. Mutual benefits: it was recognized that the process would provide self discipline and structure to an overall review of the seminary’s operations and governance. Concurrently

Dr. Ruiz noted that the Seminary could also be a helpful and respected member of ATS due to its distinctive nature, theological basis and history; and

- v. Policies and Procedures: the existing governance material by way of the bylaws, the policies and the handbook, was seen as very good substantive start to ensuring that our governance and procedures were properly documented and procedures were in place to ensure compliance.

Receipt of Reports-Material Agenda Items:

- a. **Finance and Property Committee – from the bequests received from estates over the past year**, \$30,000.00 has been allocated to capital improvements. As the operating costs are well and properly funded by both the Canadian and Australian churches, following due consideration it was determined that such funds would be held and designated for “Institutional Development”, with needs identified in due time. Such bequests are very gratefully acknowledged.
- b. **Senate** – Upon the recommendation of the Senate, the Board agrees to switch the academic program into two semesters of equal length: the first semester commencing in September and ending in late December and the second semester beginning in early February and continuing to the end of April, early May. There would be a short January semester which will allow for concentrated or elective type courses.
- c. **Principal** – in connection with relief of the Principal relating to his tasks, and recognizing the added responsibilities brought on by the ATS accreditation process, it was agreed that Josh Walker, a Ph. D. student at McMaster University and a member of the Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church in Hamilton, would be retained as a teaching assistant to teach freshman Greek for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- d. **Conference Report** – Dr. A.J. de Visser provided a written report on his attendance at the 2011 Gospel Coalition Conference held in Chicago, IL area. It was considered and reported to be a most worthwhile attendance.
- e. **Governance Committee** – It was noted and recognized that there was a need for a suitable form for Professors who are installed as ministers of the Word, and are from outside of Canada. This will be considered by the committee. A clarification with respect to the language of the operating bylaw as it relates to the duties of the Senate was reviewed and clarified. This will require submission for approval at the Synod to be convened in 2013, D.V. .
- f. **Review and Accreditation Committee** – The readiness report was confirmed as being delivered to ATS. The Board considered various matters that may need focused attention during the final steps of accreditation. It was affirmed that the ATS accreditation was intended to assist and strengthen the

Seminary and will not be at any cost or compromise to the basis and purpose of the Seminary as set out in its incorporating statute and bylaws.

g. **Church Polity Instructor** – It was apparent that an instructor in church polity would be required for the 2011-2012 Academic year due the unavailability of Dr. N. Kloosterman. The Senate will, in discussion with the Principal, make a proposal to the Board to enlist a local minister for this task.

Next meeting of the Board is tentatively scheduled for September 8, 2011 d.v.

Press Release and Closing

The completion of the Press Release is delegated to the Vice Chairman in consultation with the Executive and the meeting was closed with prayer and thanksgiving.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed Churches ,
Karl J. Veldkamp, Vice Chairman/Corresponding Clerk