

Press Release of the Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary held on January 11, 2018.

Opening and Roll Call.

The chairman, Rev. R. Aasman, led in opening devotions. All governors were present with the exception of Rev. J. Slaa who was absent with notice. Both Dr. J. Van Vliet as Principal, and Dr. A. de Visser as acting Principal, were present since Dr. J. Van Vliet is going to be on full sabbatical this coming semester. Sr. Leanne Kuizenga was present as requested to take the minutes of the meeting.

Memorabilia. Information was shared about the personal circumstances of emeriti professors, as well as widows and families of professors. Concerns and reasons for thankfulness were brought before the Lord in prayer.

Minutes and Agenda.

The minutes of the meeting held on September 7, 2017 were approved. The agenda for the meeting was established.

Decisions, Reports, Agenda Items.

1. In September 2017 the Board took the following decision: to appoint an ad hoc committee to study how CRTS could use the possibilities and potential of technology within the context of distance education with a primary focus on serving our supporting churches, as well as their mission works, in the best possible way without sacrificing the integrity and quality of training for the ministry. This committee, with representatives from Australia and South Africa, had its first meeting via Zoom on Dec. 6. Its proposal of a more detailed mandate was accepted by the Board which covers six basic areas to be further investigated: primary focus – the needs of the churches, secondary focus – the needs of mission work, accreditation, pedagogy, technology, integrity and quality of program.
2. Dr. G. H. Visscher informed the Board that it is his intention and desire to retire from the ministry and from fulltime service at the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary as of the summer of 2020. The Board accepted Dr. G. H. Visscher's request for retirement with thanksgiving for all the years he has served at the seminary. The Board discussed the process of appointing a new professor of NT studies. A search committee was appointed for that purpose.
3. The One-Page Strategic Plan of 2017 was approved and a discussion was held on exploring ways to make this Strategic Plan known to the churches.
4. Another Satisfaction Survey will be administered to the churches.
5. The Board accepted the recommendation of the Academic Committee (AC) and approved the trial implementation in Semester 2 of a proposal to further the spiritual formation program with a focus on prayer development.
6. Dr. T. Van Raalte submitted a finalized proposal, via the AC, regarding the possibility of 2nd-year students to receive preaching consent. This was a key thrust that arose out of a strategic planning meeting in 2014. The Board adopted it and directed Dr. T. Van Raalte to submit this proposal to a church so that it can be dealt with following the ecclesiastical route: local church to classis to Regional Synod to General Synod. The concluding recommendation is that General Synod mandate the Committee for Pastoral Training Program Funding (administered by Guelph-Emmanuel) "to continue with its present mandate by funding one full-summer internship for each

M.Div. student of CRTS who aspires to ministry in the CanRCs, whether the internship occurs after the second or third year of a student's studies at CRTS."

7. Revs. J. Ludwig and R. Aasman reported on visits they had with the three staff members.
8. The Board adopted a recommendation by the Finance and Property Committee to appoint "DBK Accounting" as auditors.
9. A report on lecture visits to CRTS on Nov. 9-10, 2017, and reports on the attendance of faculty members at various conferences were received with thankfulness.
10. The Board approved a "Memorandum of Agreement" drawn up by the Foreign Student Bursary Fund Committee of CRTS and Deputies Curators of the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa (FRCSA) regarding financial support for theological students of the FRCSA who plan to come to CRTS for their training for the ministry. The Board agreed that the Foreign Student Bursary Committee has the authorization to make changes to the Memorandum as needed and to accept students from South Africa should any apply for funding.

New Business.

1. 50th Anniversary of CRTS. The Senate is working on a commemorative volume edited by Dr. C. Van Dam and Dr. J. Van Vliet. They hope to have it available for Convocation 2019. The Board appointed a committee to find other ways to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of CRTS.
2. The date of the next Board Meeting was set for September 6, 2018 at 1:00 pm.

Press release and Closing. The completion of the Press Release was delegated to the vice-chairman in consultation with the Executive and the Principal. Peter Vandersluis closed the meeting with prayer.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary,

Rev. J. Ludwig, Vice-chairman/Corresponding Clerk



