

“The whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts.”
Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*

Memorandum

To: John McLaughlin, Interim Dean, University of St. Michael's College Faculty of Theology
Susan Wood, Dean, Regis College

From: David Sylvester, President, University of St. Michael's College
Thomas Worcester, President, Regis College

CC: The Regis College and University of St. Michael's College Communities

Date: November 29, 2021

Re: Mandate to Begin Certain Aspects of the Implementation of the Regis St. Michael's Federation

On October 20th, an MOA between Regis College and the University of St. Michael's College (USMC) was approved by the respective institutions' governing boards, setting the legal framework to create a single, world-class graduate theological enterprise from the rich resources which both institutions bring to the table. The Oversight Committee established by the MOA “oversees and monitors the implementation and operations of the Federation,” and (in consultation with the governing bodies) “matters related to annual budgeting, adoption of or changes to the mission statement of Regis St. Michaels,” but importantly “shall not undertake matters within the purview of the Joint Academic Council.” That is, while overseeing the overall implementation of the federation, the Oversight Committee respects the relative autonomy of the faculties of theology, and recognizes that these faculties—with the Deans at their heads—have the expertise and perspective necessary to implement a number of the changes called for by both the MOA and the complementary Implementation Memorandum.

As representatives of the Oversight Committee, and as the chief administrators of both Regis College and USMC, the Presidents are explicitly empowering and encouraging the Deans, via this memorandum, to begin work on a number of pivotal implementation matters before the appointment of the single Dean of Regis St. Michaels anticipated for July 1, 2022. Until the appointment of the Regis St. Michael's Dean, the current Deans should collaborate in the spirit of this federation to attend to the shared needs of the joint faculty. Some specific matters the Deans are mandated to undertake, in order of priority, are:

Mission:

- Draft a joint mission statement for the single federated theologate accompanied by a strategic plan and timeline;
- Explore a new name for the federated theologate.

The Deans are encouraged to consult widely with the faculty, staff, and students to undertake this project. Funds and institutional resources will be made available to support this endeavour (e.g. to hire an external consultant/facilitator), but the funds must be allocated to the project before January, 2022.

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Academic & Curriculum Planning:

- Work to begin to align course schedules, curricula, and degrees into a single harmonious offering of the new federated theologate.
- Staff the federated theologate’s needs as far as possible from current human resources, rather than adding new employees.

Joint Faculty (Academic) Council:

- Begin to determine how current committee structures (membership, committee structure) of the Regis Academic Council (or Regis Faculty Committee) and USMC’s Faculty Council can be aligned for the “Joint Academic Council” called for by the MOA.
- Explore formal delegation of powers from the Regis Academic Council to the Regis St. Michael’s Joint Academic Council, if required.

Budgeting:

- Develop a joint budget for the 2022-2023 academic year, with the assistance of USMC and Regis College staff

The Deans may also be asked to offer feedback and advice on other implementation matters, such as shared spaces, facilities, and operations as the work of implementation progresses.