

## The Council of Knox College and Salmond Hall (Incorporated)

### Recommendation

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That Assembly consent to:

- (a) alteration of the name 'The Council of Knox College and Salmond Hall (Incorporated)' to 'The Council of Knox College and Salmond College (Incorporated)'; and
- (b) the said Council's constitution being amended to reflect such name change including the alteration of the title 'Master of Salmond Hall' to 'Master of Salmond College.'

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### Report

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#### 1 Membership of the Council

- 1.1 During the course of 2004-05 membership of Council has changed, with four resignations and two new appointments.

#### 2 Student Accommodation

- 2.1 The Council is very pleased to report that, once again, both Knox College and Salmond Hall were 100% full. The two institutions provided accommodation to almost 400 students.

#### 3 Knox College

- 3.1 The rate of returning is the highest experienced by any of the University of Otago residential colleges. Both 2004 and 2005 were years of academic, cultural and sporting success. The first issue of an annual magazine, Knoxonian, with wide distribution has been published. A new undergraduate scholarship has been established.
- 3.2 Chapel services are held on Sunday afternoons and play a large part in the life of the College. The College is fortunate to have the skills of a number of accomplished musicians, including the Fleming Galway Organ Fellow and the Choral Scholars, who participate in each service. Attendance has been high, averaging sixty to seventy-five at each service, one third of the College.
- 3.3 The Master of Knox College is an Assembly appointment. The position and performance of the Master of Knox College, Mr Bruce Aitken, was reviewed by a committee under the convenership of the Rev Dr Graham Redding of Wellington. The review committee's recommendation was that the position of Mr Aitken as Master of Knox College be renewed for a further term of seven years, subject to annual performance review by the Council of Knox College and Salmond Hall.

#### **4 Salmond Hall**

- 4.1 The years 2004 and 2005 were both very successful in the life of Salmond Hall. A wide range of social, cultural and sporting activities was enjoyed by residents. Academically the year was a success. A new wing has been opened, named the Macalister Wing. The Rev Helen Harray continued with the role of part-time Hall Chaplain in 2004 and 2005.

#### **5 The Council's Financial Situation and Property**

- 5.1 Increased costs experienced by the Council in its multi-million dollar operation continues to necessitate the annual increase of accommodation fees at both Knox and Salmond. The Council would find it very difficult to operate without the generous allocations of income from the Synod of Otago and Southland to Knox College and the Church's continuing support of the Hewitson Library.

#### **6 The Hewitson Library**

- 6.1 The Library has had a very productive two years. The Library's mission is to make this under-used resource more accessible to its stakeholders, members, users and the wider Church community. Mr John Timmins was appointed Librarian in April 2005 in a full-time capacity and has been most successful. Throughout the period the Library staff was stable with a total of 3.08 full-time employees. Major projects included the continuation of the retrospective cataloguing project.
- 6.2 Towards the later half of 2005 a considerable effort has been expended on securing a more viable financial future for the Library. Work in this area has included the development of sustainable budget for 2006-2007; closer co-operation with the Church's financial team; the re-launching and development of the *Friends of Knox College Library* and the creation of an endowment for the benefit of the Hewitson Library.

#### **7 The University of Otago**

- 7.1 Towards the end of 2005, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Skegg, indicated that the University was reviewing the naming of its halls of residence due to the fact that the colleges and halls at Otago offered a much deeper experience than most of their counterparts in other centres. It was submitted that the term 'college' implied a community of an academic nature and seemed a more appropriate description of the Otago establishments rather than the term 'hall'. Towards the beginning of 2006 a formal communication from the University was received by the Chairman of the Council inviting the Council to consider changing the name of Salmond Hall to Salmond College. The Council debated this issue on two occasions and then agreed to the name change accordingly.
- 7.2 The Council's constitution stipulates that any changes to it may only be effected with the consent of the General Assembly. Due to the name change of Salmond Hall to Salmond College, the Council's name, as well as any other references in the constitution to Salmond Hall, should be altered appropriately. Accordingly, the Council petitions the Assembly for its consent.

**G.B. Petersen**

Chairman

