John Alexander Weir, K.C.

John Weir joined the Faculty in 1921 as a lecturer and became its first professor. By 1926, he was Dean of the Faculty. He remained Dean until his premature death in 1942.

Dean Weir carried the administrative burden of running the Faculty virtually single handedly while assuming an enormous teaching load. During the twenty years of his stewardship, Dean Weir established a tradition involving both the study of law as an academic pursuit and close co-operation with the practising bar. Former students describe him as “an outstanding teacher” with a “profound knowledge of the law”, and a “master of the hypothetical case and Socratic method”. He was respected by students and contemporaries as a scholar of the first rank.

The John A. Weir Memorial Law Library is a permanent reminder of the contributions of this great lawyer and scholar to the development of the Faculty of Law.

Dean John A. Weir, the Faculty’s first Dean, established a strong tradition of high academic standards.