



MINUTES

*of a meeting of the Governing Body held at 8.30 pm on Tuesday 20 June 2023 in the Quarry
Whitehouse Auditorium*

There were present the Master, Dr Armitage, Dr Bardhan, Dr Beauregard, Dr Bitney, Dr Briggs, Professor Chu, Professor Connell, Dr Dicks, Dr Eves, Dr Filimonova, Dr Halina, Dr Hartwell, Dr Haustein, Dr Howard, Dr Impett, Professor Larcom, Dr Lee, Dr Lippert, Ms MacDonald, Dr McDougall, Mr Matheson, Dr Milbank Robinson, Dr Nowak, Dr O'Donnell, Dr O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Reinbold, Dr Sewell, Dr D. Smith, Dr T. Smith, Ms Soderman, Professor Summers, Professor Tasker, Professor Velu, Dr Wilcox, Dr Woodford, Dr V. Young, Ms Smith, JCR President, Mr Harper, JCR Treasurer, Mr Kandiah, MCR President and Ms Krarup, MCR Treasurer. Professor Baert, Professor Butterfield, Dr Button, Professor Cant, Professor Ellis, Professor Sage and Dr Viejo Rose were on sabbatical leave.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

- gb2023.18* *Statement of Conflicts of Interest*
It was confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.
- gb2023.19* *Apologies for Absence*
Apologies were received from Dr Balakrishnan, Professor Felli, Ms Fraser Butlin, Dr Gardner, Dr Keeler, Dr Kim, Mr Kitov, Professor Meer, Professor Moultrie, Mr Nicholson, Professor Nikiforakis, Dr da Silva, Professor Stewart, Dr Thompson, Dr Vargas Weil and Dr Venkateshvaran.
- gb2023.20* *Minutes of the Unreserved Governing Body Meeting held on 28 February 2023*
The minutes were received and signed.
- gb2023.21* *Matters arising*
There were no matters arising.
- gb2023.22* *Statutes and Regulations*
Governing Body noted that the College's new statutes came into force on 14 June 2023 when approved by His Majesty the King at the Privy Council. The Master confirmed that the meeting was taking place under the new Statutes. In the light of the new statutes, the College's trustees are made up of the senior members of the College Council. The MCR Treasurer has become a member of the Governing Body.

Governing Body agreed the accompanying Regulations, which had been reviewed by the Statutes Committee and the College Council (GB2023/07) and noted that they would be reviewed periodically by the College Council.

gb2023.23 *9-Month Accounts for the 2022-23 Financial Year*
The Bursar introduced the nine-month accounts (GB2023/08). She noted that the forecast deficit had been reduced to £0.83m as a result of c.£1.2m unbudgeted donations to the College, among them the donation of 73 Compton Street by Dr Christopher Dobson (SE 1957), Honorary Fellow.

gb2023.24 *Budget for the 2023-24 Financial Year*
The Bursar reported on the budget (GB2023/09). She noted that the budgeted deficit remains significant, at £1.65m. The figure represents an improvement of £0.48m on 2022-23, albeit as a result of presuming from the outset a higher figure (£0.6m) for the College's income from donations, and a higher percentage withdrawal from investments (3.25%) as agreed by College Council (cc2023/81). The budget assumes an additional £300k in conference income and takes into account savings made by Heads of Departments when reviewing their costs for the coming year. Essential capital expenditure is included in the budget. However, the Bursar noted that for major projects and refurbishment, funding from donations will become more important. The budget for 2023-24 achieves a position of cash neutrality by limiting capital expenditure. College would need to review its future priorities for capital expenditure in 2024 in order to assess long-term need. In the context of high inflation, the Bursar noted the pressure on costs, especially utilities, and the need to remain conservative on pay awards. The Bursar expressed thanks to the Finance Manager, Mrs Clayson, and the team in the Bursary for their work on the budget and to the Heads of Departments for managing their costs effectively.

gb2023.25 *Fees and Charges 2023-24*
The fees and charges for 2023-24 were noted (GB2023/10).

gb2023.26 *College diary*
It was noted that the College diary for 2023-24 is available for download online: <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/college-diary>.

gb2023.27 *Senior Tutor's Report*
The Senior Tutor thanked the JCR and MCR committee for their constructive work since they took up their positions in January. He congratulated those colleagues who had received senior academic promotions. He highlighted the following:

i. Educational Funding

The Senior Tutor reported on the launch of the Sir David Harrison Fund (<https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/sir-david-harrison-fund>) in support of educational costs in the sciences. He thanked the Admissions Tutors for their successful bid to the Isaac Newton Trust for funding to host a bridging course in 2024 for certain offer-holders. The College has dispersed £20k of spending from the Dawson Mental Health Fund in the past twelve months and has awarded c.£62k of funding to junior members for travel and summer placements.

ii. Examinations in College

The Senior Tutor thanked the tutorial office and in particular the Tutorial Office Manager, Miss Vivian-Neal, for administering the arrangements for over 160 candidates taking University examinations under special conditions, many of them in College this term. At peak times the College had seven venues in use simultaneously. He thanked the members of the MCR who served as invigilators. Governing Body noted that the system was under strain as a result of the high numbers of candidates who require special conditions for their examinations. The meeting encouraged the Senior Tutor to communicate to the University that the current system generates undue pressure in College on staff managing the exams and that alternative arrangements should be explored.

iii. Face-to-Face Admissions Interviews in December 2023

The Senior Tutor reported on the decision of College Council, after due consultation, to opt for face-to-face admissions interviews for home students in December 2023. Key considerations had included the additional security it offers. The decision is also in line with the preference expressed by UK students for face-to-face arrangements in a University survey in late 2022. There will be an option of online interviews for overseas candidates.

iv. Marking and Assessment Boycott

The Marking and Assessment Boycott has the effect that many final-year students will not receive their degree result before the summer. The University has produced a template letter for finalists to act as an official document to explain the absence of marks or to accompany provisional marks, and the College office will administer the sending of such letters in consultation with Tutors and Directors of Studies. The Senior Tutor noted with regret that the MAB is impacting on students' future plans and, for some, it may result in offers of employment or future study being placed on hold. The College is seeking to support students through these unsettling circumstances.

gb2023.28

Development matters

On behalf of the Development Director, the Master reported that the Lyttelton Dinner was held for c.100 major donors, an opportunity to thank those who have generously contributed and a sign of the recent success of the College in terms of major donations. The Sir David Harrison Fund has a target of £1m to support science teaching and donations have already been received. The Master also welcomed recent donations to support Indenture Studies.

gb2023.29

Intercollegiate Decision Making

The Master reported on a proposed framework for decision making where a consistent approach across the College is agreed to be necessary (**GB2023/11**). Governing Body noted the proposals and welcomed the emphasis placed on the Colleges' self-determination of their own priorities, strategies and operations.

gb2023.30

Any Other Unreserved Business

There was no other unreserved business.