



MINUTES

*of a meeting of the Governing Body in the Harrison Room
at 8.30 pm on Tuesday 1 March 2022*

There were present the Master, the Vice-Master, Dr Armitage, Professor Baert, Dr Balakrishnan, Dr Beauregard, Dr Bitney, Dr Briggs, Professor Bulag, Professor Butterfield, Dr Button, Dr Cameron, Professor Cant, Professor Connell, Professor Dennis, Professor Ellis, Dr Eves, Professor Felli, Dr Gardner, Dr Hartwell, Dr Howard, Dr Keeler, Dr Kim, Dr Lee, Dr Lippert, Dr McDougall, Mr Matheson, Dr Moultrie, Mr Nicholson, Dr Nowak, Dr O'Donnell, Dr Phillips-Robins, Mr Pierce, Dr Reinbold, Professor Sage, Dr Sewell, Canon Shilson-Thomas, Dr da Silva, Dr D. Smith, Dr T. Smith, Professor Stewart, Professor Summers, Professor Tasker, Dr Velu, Dr Venkateshvaran, Dr Viejo Rose, Mr Waghorn, Professor Webb, Dr Wilcox, Dr Woodford, Dr V. Young; the JCR President, Ms Cross; the JCR Treasurer, Mr Hambling; and the MCR President, Ms Kobeissi. The MCR Treasurer, Mr Banach, was in attendance.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

- gb2022.1 Starred Items*
Governing Body confirmed that starred items should not be discussed.
- gb2022.2 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*
There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.
- gb2022.3 Apologies for Absence*
Apologies for absence were received from Dr Bardhan, Dr Dicks, Dr Filimonova, Mrs Fraser Butlin, Ms MacDonald, Professor Nikiforakis and Dr Thompson. Dr Haustein and Professor Larcom were on sabbatical leave. Dr Meer attended by video conference. Professor Chu had been granted short-term leave.
- gb2022.4 Minutes of the Unreserved Governing Body Meeting held on 16 November 2021*
The minutes were received and signed. Dr Cameron was added to the list of attendees.
- gb2022.5 Matters arising*
There were no matters arising.

gb2022.6

Covid Update

The Bursar extended thanks to all staff for their important contribution to the College during the health emergency. All departments have made an important contribution. The provision of meals to isolating students by catering staff had at its peak provided for 140 students. Housekeeping staff continue to provide a sanitising regime in the College. Difficult as it was to single out individuals, the Bursar explained that the Covid co-ordinators, Chris Cowan and Alison Benham, should be thanked especially for fulfilling this important additional role. The Senior Tutor pointed out that Covid-related reasons for remote study will no longer be accepted by the University in the Easter term and normal residence requirements for undergraduates had already been reintroduced. He thanked fellowship colleagues, tutors and directors of studies; and also thanked the junior members for their responsible, thoughtful and flexible attitude during the pandemic. The Dean, Professor Summers, endorsed the thanks, noting that Selwyn had come at the bottom of the unofficial inter-collegiate league table on Covid-related fines.

gb2022.7

Annual Review of the Risk Register

The Bursar introduced **GB2022/1** with the clarification that Russia's war in Ukraine had commenced since the papers were circulated. As well as the wider terrible effects, locally it has increased the risk of a cyber-attack to the College and will lead to further increases in energy prices.

Before the war started, the predicted increase to the College's annual energy cost stood at £160,000 in 2022-23 and would rise further as a result of the geopolitical situation. The risk to consistency of supply itself, as well as cost, is also heightened. In the risk register, there are 13 headline risks, two of which are red. The health emergency risk may be able to move to Amber next term; Council will consider this at its termly review. The budget deficit risk looks likely to remain high, as the College endeavours both to recover lost conference business and to deal with the uncertainties arising from the war in Ukraine.

gb2022.8

Six Month Accounts

The Bursar introduced the six-month accounts (**GB2022/2**). There has been little overall movement between the original budget and the updated forecast although there are a number of swings, in both directions, in individual line items. The cost of depreciation has risen because of additional capital costs, principally arising from the final stages of the library and auditorium project. However, a small cash surplus continues to be anticipated after the deduction of depreciation. Next year's budget will remain a 'Covid budget': income from conferences is predicted to rise but will not return to its pre-pandemic level. The auditorium may attract new bookings from within the United Kingdom to offset business lost, e.g. from overseas summer schools. The College has already agreed to defer the refurbishment of 23 West Road to 2023-24 to ensure that the current hostels project is fully completed first. However, Governing Body agreed that maintenance and refurbishment



of the College's buildings and accommodation is an essential expenditure and to delay such projects for any length of time is not sustainable.

gb2022.9

Postgraduate Student Numbers

The Senior Tutor reported on the proposed extension to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University and the Colleges on Postgraduate Student Numbers (**GB2022/3**). A modest growth in postgraduate numbers is anticipated over the medium term. Governing Body confirmed that the College accepts the terms of the extension, to cover the period of 2022-23 and 2023-24 relating to the managed growth of postgraduate student numbers. It requested, however, that the Senior Tutor ask for clarification of two issues from the Senior Tutors' Committee: (i) that in the case of Colleges facing financial penalties for not meeting targets, this should be based only on a three-year moving average from the start of the new MoU; (ii) that there should be a clearer sense of the error bar for such targets. The margin of error on postgraduate offers is very high and the College regularly makes two offers per postgraduate place.

gb2022.10

Senior Tutor's Report

The Senior Tutor reported on a strong set of undergraduate results in 2020-21, with over 40% of Selwyn students achieving first-class results, ranking the College at 6th place in the intercollegiate table of results. The Senior Tutor congratulated fellows and students of History for the highest proportion of firsts in the University in that Tripos. Philosophy, PBS and Linguistics were above average for the percentage of students achieving firsts. High numbers of Selwyn graduate students have achieved accolades for their work. Thanks to donor funding, Selwyn will be one of two colleges hosting a postgraduate widening-participation residential event this summer, a sector-leading initiative. The Senior Tutor thanked the Dawson fund for increasing funding for the nurse, facilitating the appointment of Mrs Lucy Turnell to start in May; he also thanked the Development office for its work enabling the recent appointment of two School Liaison Officers, one embedded in West Yorkshire in a new initiative for the College.

gb2022.11

Development Matters

The Development Director reported that students taking part in the annual telephone campaign held over 550 conversations with alumni, many of them affinity calls to say thank you for donations already received. The calls were appreciated by alumni and over £130,000 was raised. Half of the money raised is allocated for student support and the rest for capital projects. The 140th anniversary appeal will run until the end of December. Two new MPhil scholarships have recently attracted donor funding and the Cambridge bursary scheme has been expanded. Two new rowing eights have also been purchased. The webinar events have established a model to continue beyond the pandemic.



- gb2022.12 *Equality & Diversity Committee*
The minutes of a meeting of the Equality & Diversity Committee held on 1 February 2022 (**GB2022/4**) were received and noted.
- gb2022.13 *Timetable of Meetings 2022-23*
Governing Body noted the timetable of meetings for 2022-23 approved by College Council (**GB2022/5**).
- gb2022.14 *Any Other Unreserved Business*
The Bursar reported that the Old Library had been handed back to College on time on completion of the refurbishment project, which has also been delivered on budget. The archives and rare books will move into the Old Library at the end of March and the Development Office before Easter. The latter will include a parlour for use of alumni. There will be five additional seminar rooms. In a Cambridge first, the room for use of medical and veterinary students will be equipped with an Anatomage virtual dissection table for the teaching and self-study of anatomy.

