



## MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council held in the Harrison Room  
at 1.10 pm on Tuesday 28 January 2025*

There were present the Master, Dr Beauregard, Mr Kitov, Dr McDougall, Revd Dr Milbank Robinson, Professor Moultrie, Mr Nicholson, Dr O'Donnell, Professor O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Sewell and Professor Tasker; the JCR President, Ms Jacques; the MCR President, Mr Pendleton; and the MCR Treasurer, Ms Dziekan. Dr Howard was in attendance as Secretary.

### UNRESERVED BUSINESS

*cc2025.1 Starred Items*

It was confirmed that starred items should not be discussed.

*cc2025.2 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*

There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.

*cc2025.3 Apologies for Absence*

The Master welcomed Mr Kitov and the incoming officers of the JCR and MCR to their first meetings of Council. Apologies were received from the JCR Treasurer, Ms Fink.

*cc2025.4 Minutes of the Unreserved Council Meeting held on 3 December 2024*

The Minutes were received and signed.

*cc2025.5 Matters Arising*

*i. Policies Review (cc2024.221)*

The Bursar introduced the revised Privacy Notices (CP2025/001), which were noted and approved by those present.

*cc2025.6 Annual review of the College Risk Register*

The Bursar reported on the annual review of the full College Risk Register (CP2025/002) completed by the Master, Bursar, Vice Master and Mr Nicholson (following the retirement of Mr Matheson, who was thanked for his previous service in this connection). The number of risks listed had again fallen, from 47 to 44. The only red risk, unsustainable budget deficits (C1), had been downgraded to amber, though the underlying structural deficit will remain significant in future annual reassessments. The risk of cyber attack (G1) had not been upgraded, but was highlighted in light of recent experiences both inside and outside the University. Matters of publicity and external relations (H1) remained yellow despite a re-weighting to Medium/Moderate, reflecting the need to recruit a

senior communications professional on the retirement of the current Master and to manage continuity of operations. The Bursar reminded those present that as Trustees, the senior members of Council are collectively responsible for managing and mitigating risks to the College's operations. After a brief discussion Council approved the proposed amendments; the headline risks (rated red and amber) will continue to be reviewed by Council on a termly basis.

cc2025.7

#### *The College Visitor*

The Master began by recalling the previous discussion (cc2024.219), since which time he had received no further reassurance from Lambeth Palace concerning the arrangements for covering the role of College Visitor following the resignation of the Rt Revd Justin Welby. In consulting with Fellows the Master had received several suggested courses of action, including exploring informal points of contact with more senior individuals at Lambeth Palace, and setting out the issue in a more formal legal letter. The University Commissary (currently Sir Patrick Elias, Acting Commissary) had been suggested as a possible alternative to the Archbishop as Visitor. Council discussed both the role of the Visitor in confirming the impending appointment of the new Master, and the longer-term situation, including the importance of maintaining confidence in the arrangements. It was agreed that the Master would attempt a conversation with more senior representatives of Lambeth Palace in the coming fortnight, liaising with Revd Dr Milbank Robinson, before any other routes of redress were explored. Dr Sewell further suggested commissioning Dr David Smith to carry out research on behalf of the College into the nature and history of the role of Visitor at Selwyn and elsewhere, with a view to informing any future reform in this area.

cc2025.8

#### *Statute reform*

The Bursar introduced CP2025/003, detailing several changes to Statutes and Regulations in response to Governing Body's decision on 15 Nov 2024 to adopt an Employer Justified Retirement Age of 69 for Governing Body Fellows. Council discussed the recommended changes, including two additional matters relating to (a) the designation of charity Trustees under Statute 6.2, in the case of ex-officio members of Council being granted an extension of employment beyond the EJRA (compare Statute 6.12); and (b) the wording of Statute 9.19 in relation to the determination of the period of office of the Head of House, the terms and conditions of the Head of House's appointment, and whether authority over these matters lies properly with Governing Body or the Electors. Council agreed that Statutes Committee should reconsider the relevant clauses and seek agreement by circulation; subject to this, Council recommended the amendments to Governing Body. Thereafter the revisions to Statutes must be agreed by the University and subsequently passed to the Privy Council for further consideration.

The Bursar further requested Council to recommend to Governing Body that, given the long lead-time for changes to Statutes to be incorporated (on prior experience, around 7 months), the provisions in relation to any extensions of employment beyond the EJRA should be applied in full with immediate effect. At this point Dr Sewell and Prof Tasker declared an interest and briefly left the room, during which time those remaining present agreed to the Bursar's request.

- cc2025.9      *Admissions governance reform*  
The Senior Tutor introduced **CP2025/004**, outlining the latest position in the ongoing reform of intercollegiate Admissions governance. Council noted that there was some skepticism in College both concerning the need for reform (as against improved implementation of the current arrangements) and in relation to the ability of the proposed new structures to protect the autonomy and independence of College Admissions procedures. Discussion centered on the importance of protecting the College's ability to manage its Admissions procedures independently, in the interests of maintaining its current excellent record in terms of widening participation and academic standards. It was agreed that the Senior Tutor should be empowered to represent the College's position in these terms at Senior Tutors' Committee on 14 February; thereafter it could be raised for further discussion at Council and Governing Body prior to the next meeting of Colleges' Committee.
- cc2025.10      *Compliance Committee*  
The minutes of the meeting of the Compliance Committee held on 28 November 2024 were received and noted, and the revised Terms of Reference were noted (**CP2025/005**).
- cc2025.11      *Sustainability Working Group*  
The minutes of the meeting of the Sustainability Working Group held on 26 November 2024 were received and noted, and the revised Terms of Reference were noted (**CP2025/006**).
- cc2025.12      *College Boat Club fundraising event*  
Council agreed to the proposal from the College Boat Club to hold a sponsored 'ergathon' on 24 and 25 March 2025, to raise funds to replace club equipment (**CP2025/007**). The officers of the Boat Club were commended for their early consideration of matters of risk assessment, and exhorted to maintain their diligence in this regard.
- cc2025.13      *Flying of rainbow flag for the start of LGBT+ History Month*  
The Senior Tutor updated Council on the agreed arrangements for the authorised flying of flags. He further recommended, and Council agreed, that future negotiations of this matter should be conducted in January with respect to the following calendar year, rather than on the basis of academical years, in order to ensure that arrangements could be agreed with incoming JCR and MCR officers.
- cc2025.14      *Any Other Unreserved Business*  
There was no other unreserved business.