



MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council in the Harrison Room
at 1:10 pm on Tuesday 18 March 2025*

There were present the Master, Dr Beauregard, Mr Kitov, Dr McDougall, Professor Moultrie, Mr Nicholson, Dr O'Donnell, Professor O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Sewell and Professor Tasker; the JCR President, Ms Jacques, and Treasurer, Ms Fink; and the MCR Treasurer, Ms Dziekan. Dr Howard was in attendance as Secretary, and Dr Tom Smith was in attendance for item *cc2025.57*.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

cc2025.45 Starred items

It was confirmed that the starred items should not be discussed.

*cc2025.46 * Statement of conflicts of interest*

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

cc2025.47 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Revd Dr Milbank Robinson and from the MCR President, Mr Pendleton.

cc2025.48 Minutes of the Unreserved Council Meeting held on 25 February 2025

The Minutes were received and signed.

cc2025.49 Matters arising

i. Veterinary Medicine admissions (cf cc2025.22)

The Senior Tutor reported that the General Board of the University had announced that it would admit students in Veterinary Medicine to commence studies in Michaelmas Term 2026. Recent developments had increased confidence that the School's national accreditation would be restored later this year, and discussions were ongoing between the Chair of the Colleges' Committee and the University authorities over appropriate measures to limit the liability of individual admitting Colleges in the unlikely event that the course had to be withdrawn after admissions for 2026 were opened. Dr Sewell reiterated that there was no indication that the ongoing situation would prevent any existing students (including those admitted for 2025 entry) from graduating BA or obtaining their VetMB as expected.

ii. College Visitor (cc2025.27.i)

The Vice-Master confirmed that the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally DBE, had been deputed to act as College Visitor during the vacancy of the

Archbishopric of Canterbury; Bishop Mullally seemed to be available to conduct the installation ceremony for the new Master on 2 October 2025, and College was awaiting formal confirmation of this arrangement. The appointment of Suzanne Raine as Master elect had been certified in writing to the Lambeth Palace authorities as required under Statute 9.13.

cc2025.50

Review of the College's trust funds

The Bursar introduced **CP2025/020**, reminding Council that as Trustees its senior members have ultimate oversight over the use of donated funds, both to confirm that they are used for their intended purposes and to ensure that they are used most effectively to ensure the overall financial stability of the College. In the context of the structural deficit, core expenditure that could be allocated to trust fund resources would potentially free up financial resources for use elsewhere. Some expendable funds looked likely to expire within the next three years, though in the case of the Elgar bequest (see *cc2019.249*, *cc2020.47*) there was some discussion of the appropriate methodology for calculating the remaining balance. The value of the expendable uses of this fund in practice was recognised, and it was hoped that such spending could continue. Several endowed funds supporting named fellowships were increasingly unable to support the costs of the posts in question, though it was recognized that this should be viewed within the overall picture of CTO commitments and teaching needs within the College. The job of stewarding trust funds and endowments was an ongoing one, and Council members were invited to share their ideas on the best use of individual funds, and future potential for funding of teaching and learning delivery needs, with the Senior Tutor and Bursar as appropriate. The proposed future reallocation of the Welbourn and St Joseph funds would be subject to discussion between the Bursar, Master and Senior Tutor.

cc2025.51

Refurbishment of 21 & 23 West Road hostels

The Bursar introduced **CP2025/021**, describing the proposed increase in scope of this project following input from the Development Office, who saw potential to seek donor support allowing the overall budget to increase from around £2.5m to around £4m. There were associated risks with this approach, both in over-promising what could be achieved even with this increased budget and over-complicating the project as a whole, with potential consequences for the timescale of delivery and knock-on effects in relation to student accommodation, disturbance due to building works and so on. Council mandated the Bursar to pursue the more ambitious form of the scheme with the support of the Development Office and the working group that had been set up to oversee the project; further reports would be expected as the likely costs became clearer in the course of negotiations with architects. No specific priorities were established regarding the extension of scope.

cc2025.52

Private undergraduate College Fee

The proposed increase to the College fee for private undergraduates from 2026–27 was agreed (**CP2025/022**).

cc2025.53

Conflicts of interest policy

Council reviewed and approved the policy (**CP2025/023**).

- cc2025.54 Partnership with Cambridge United Foundation*
The Master observed that the agreed partnership with the Cambridge United Foundation was progressing; Ms Jacques reported ongoing conversations with Mr Tim Walker from Cambridge United with a view to him visiting College next term to discuss how student volunteers could participate in the scheme. This participation would function as a pilot to help establish how the scheme would run in the longer term.
- cc2025.55 Admissions governance*
The Senior Tutor reported on a positive outcome to the reform of admissions governance (CP2025/024). Following College's previous vote against the proposals at Senior Tutors' Committee (see cc2025.29) a process of revision had met all of Selwyn's concerns to his satisfaction, and he had consequently been able to support the most recent iteration of the proposals, which were duly passed. It is hoped that the new structure will be in operation from October 2025.
- cc2025.56 Policy on staff-student relationships*
Council reviewed and approved the policy (CP2025/025).
- cc2025.57 Bridging course*
Council considered the paper on the continuation of this course beyond September 2025, submitted by Dr Tom Smith on behalf of the Admissions Tutors and Schools Liaison Officers (CP2025/026). It was noted that Council's original support for the course was on the basis of funding for two years from the Isaac Newton Trust, and no commitment was made to fund the course from core funding beyond that. Discussion focused on the difficulties of obtaining measurable outcomes both to evaluate the first year of the course and to support future efforts to secure donor funding, though anecdotal evidence from participants and student helpers was overwhelmingly positive. Council agreed that Dr Smith would liaise with the Development Office to explore avenues for future donor funding; an update would be expected in October 2025, well in advance of the need to finalise details of any 2026 course (which would in turn be contingent on such a donation or promise thereof being in place by January 2026).
- cc2025.58 Gardens Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Gardens Committee held on 21 February 2025 were received and noted (CP2025/027).
- cc2025.59 Prevent and Freedom of Speech Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Prevent and Freedom of Speech Committee held on 26 February 2025, and the appended Terms of Reference, were received and noted (CP2025/028). Council approved the proposed Chapel Management Policy and Faith Groups Policy.
- cc2025.60 Paintings Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Paintings Committee held on 3 March 2025 were received and noted (CP2025/029).

cc2025.61

Accommodation Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Accommodation Committee held on 4 March 2025 were received and noted (**CP2025/030**). Council approved a rent increase of 1.75% for 2024–25, with the full agreement of all those present. It was noted that the increase is 1.25% lower than CPI as reported for the year to January 2025 (3.0%), which is the measure most indicative of the likely increase in costs to the College in respect of providing student accommodation (*cf* CP2024/026b).

cc2025.62

College Diary 2025–26

Council reviewed the first draft of the Diary (**CP2025/031**). It was noted that all dates remained provisional, and would be subject to review as external meeting dates were received from the University and intercollegiate bodies. The Bursar reminded Council that it was nevertheless necessary to consider the Diary—especially those items relating to significant dining and community events—this early in the year, to facilitate forward planning by the Conference Office. It would not be published until the summer.

cc2025.63

Any other unreserved business

There was no other unreserved business.