



## MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council held in the Harrison Room  
at 1:10 pm on Tuesday 27 May 2025*

There were present the Master, Dr Beauregard, Mr Kitov, Dr McDougall, Professor Moultrie, Dr O'Donnell, Professor O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Reinbold, Dr Sewell and Professor Tasker; the JCR President, Ms Jacques; and the MCR President, Mr Pendleton, and Treasurer, Ms Dziekan. Dr Howard was in attendance as Secretary. Ms Alina Hu and Mr Aryan Misra, co-presidents of the 2025 Snowball organizing committee, were in attendance for item *cc2025.105*.

*The Master began the meeting by inviting those present to stand in order to observe a minute's silence in commemoration of Part IA student in Biological Sciences, Mr Jaycee Busuego, who sadly died in College on the previous Sunday evening.*

### UNRESERVED BUSINESS

*cc2025.100 Starred items*

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

*cc2025.101 Statement of conflicts of interest*

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

*cc2025.102 Apologies for absence*

Apologies were received from Mr Nicholson.

*cc2025.103 Minutes of the Unreserved Council Meeting held on 6 May 2025*

The Minutes were received and signed.

*cc2025.104 Matters arising*

*i. Death in College*

The Senior Tutor updated Council on the events of the previous 48 hours, emphasizing the supportive roles played by the Porters, College Nurse, Tutors and all College officers and staff concerned. Mr Busuego's family had been informed of his death by the police, and College efforts had been focused on supporting those affected by his death across the College community. Invaluable assistance had been received from the University's Student Welfare team, and early indications were that plans put in place for serious incidents of this sort were proving helpful. An informal gathering had taken place in the Chapel on Monday evening, and the mood of those attending offered encouraging signs that the College community was pulling together to offer support to all those affected.

Those present were reminded of the need to avoid prejudicing the out-comes of any investigation and eventual inquest. Council empowered the Bursar to begin the process of reporting the death to the Charity Commission as a Serious Incident. The Senior Tutor also confirmed that a Serious Case Review would be conducted under external leadership, following the template laid out by Senior Tutors' Committee.

ii. *Faculty of History Stirling Building refurbishment (cc2025.80)*

The Bursar reported that College had received the expected application for an over-sailing license in relation to the crane to be installed during the refurbishment of the Stirling Building, adjacent to the College site. Only partial compensation had so far been offered for the potential cost to the College of room-rent rebates; negotiations were ongoing, together with efforts to obtain legal advice over the detail of the license.

cc2025.105

*Snowball 2025*

Council thanked the co-presidents of the 2025 Snowball organizing committee, Alina Hu and Aryan Misra, for their outline report into pre-preparations for the 2025 Snowball (**CP2025/050**) on Friday 5 December 2025. Ms Hu and Mr Misra were urged to consult with the student body, in collaboration with the JCR and MCR, over whether the proposed tarot-related theme and title *Arcana noctis* (which they understood in the sense of 'mysteries of the night') remained appropriate. Council agreed that it would entertain a change of theme at this late stage in the circumstances, should this become necessary. Even if it was decided to proceed as proposed, it would be essential to consider carefully which elements featured in publicity and event design. Consultation with the Dean of Chapel would also be necessary to address any concerns about the use of tarot-related imagery in the Chapel space. Council agreed that tickets could be reserved for Selwyn students for one week after going on sale on the first Friday of Full Michaelmas Term. There was some discussion of contingency planning in the event that ticket sales underperformed, though Council noted that last year's event had sold out. The overall capacity had nevertheless been reduced by 100 to 750 for the coming year. The Bursar undertook to review the Committee's assumptions and calculations in relation to cost inflation and overall budgetary considerations. Council stipulated that sound checks would not be permitted before 18:00 on the day to avoid disrupting admissions interviews, and that while decoration of Old Court lawn would be permitted, there should be no footfall on the lawn during the event. Council requested a further report from Ms Hu and Mr Misra on 15 July.

cc2025.106

*9-month accounts*

The Bursar reported on the 9-month accounts as detailed in **CP2025/051**. The current forecast was for a reduction in the deficit of £0.36m by comparison with the 2024–25 Budget, driven largely by better than expected conference income (£0.219m favourable) and savings in staff wages and fellowship stipends. Against this were smaller shortfalls in student fee income and rental income, and a £55k shortfall in student catering driven by lower than expected income from the College Bar. Council noted that this was the first set of accounts prepared by Mrs Esson as the new Finance Manager, and recognized the efforts of all involved in the smooth handover. Work was in progress on the Budget for 2025–26; the Bursar

highlighted the risks to the College's investment portfolio given recent US policy decisions as well as the increase in employment costs as a result of the UK government's decision to increase employer contributions to National Insurance from April 2025.

cc2025.107

*IT and Data Committee proposals*

The Bursar introduced **CP2025/052**, detailing how College was responding to the University's decision to withdraw the Cisco voice-over-IP telephony system in 2027. College was planning to link existing land-line numbers to Microsoft Teams accounts, allowing Staff and Fellows to access telephony services via their computers and personal mobile telephones. There were considerable challenges around colleagues' use of different modes of communications to separate and triage contacts, especially for those with multiple roles within and outside the College; and in relation to the need for efficient redirecting of calls from initial contact with Porters to the appropriate department or individual. There was general disquiet that withdrawal of the landline service was likely to be an inconvenience for many, but Council agreed that the measures outlined in the paper, including the forthcoming consultation, represented the best response available to circumstances outside the College's control.

Council also noted and approved the revised Acceptable Use Policy (**CP2025/053**).

cc2025.108

*Donation of paintings by former fellow Tony Hillier*

The Vice-Master reported as chair of the Paintings Committee on the donation of a collection of portraits by Tony Hillier, fellow of Selwyn from 1971 to his death in 2014 (**CP2025/054**). The paintings had been donated freely and without condition. Council noted the donation, which would now require some work on the logistics of appropriate storage, insurance and so on. Mrs Hillier would be invited to College in future to thank her for the donation. Council queried whether the sitters for any of the portraits could be identified; it might be desirable to ascertain this before putting any on display.

cc2025.109

*Health and Safety Working Group*

The minutes of the meeting of the Health and Safety Working Group held on 19 May 2025 (**CP2025/055**) were received and noted.

cc2025.110

*Steward's Committee*

The minutes of the meeting of the Steward's Committee held on 20 May 2025 (**CP2025/056**) were received and noted.

cc2025.111

*Any other unreserved business*

There was no other unreserved business.