



MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council held in the Harrison Room
at 1.10 pm on Tuesday 23 September 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 Reinbold, Dr Sewell and Professor Tasker; the MCR President, Mr Pendleton, and Treasurer, Ms Dziekan. Mrs Suzanne Raine was in attendance as Master elect, and Dr Howard was in attendance as Secretary.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

- cc2025.168 Starred items*
Items *cc2025.179*, *cc2025.180* and *cc2025.198* were unstarred; it was confirmed that the remaining starred items should not be discussed.
- cc2025.169 Statement of conflicts of interest*
There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.
- cc2025.170 Apologies for absence*
No apologies for absence were received. (Neither the JCR President nor Treasurer were yet in residence.)
- cc2025.171 Minutes of the Unreserved meeting of Council held on 15 July 2025*
The Minutes were received and signed.
- cc2025.172 Matters arising*
There were no matters arising.
- cc2025.173 Financial Outturn 2024–25*
The Bursar reported on **CP2025/084**. The final outturn would be confirmed on 17 October, in time for presentation to Governing Body on 4 November and consideration by Council on 11 November. The main headline was a better than expected overall position, with a surplus of £0.55m as against a reforecast of £0.77m in deficit (original budget £1.13m deficit). This was largely thanks to unrestricted donations totalling £1.38m, more than double the budget expectation of £0.6m. Cash generation remained healthy at £2.93m, supporting the College's ongoing plans for capital expenditure (including the project to renovate 21 and 23 West Road) and planning for loan repayments due in 2027. Looking ahead, a deficit of £0.95m was forecast for 2025–26, taking into account rising employment costs as well as wider inflationary pressures. The Bursar continued to stress the

need for substitutional, rather than incremental increases in expenditure, in order to safeguard the College's financial position.

cc2025.174

University pay award

The Bursar reported that the University had confirmed an academic pay award of 1.4%, effective from 1 August 2025; this would be adopted for College academic staff and applied from the September pay run onwards.

cc2025.175

Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech

Council noted that the final version of this document was published on the College Website by 1 August 2025; it is available to read in full at <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/assets/current/CODE%20OF%20PRACTICE%20ON%20FREEDOM%20OF%20SPEECH.pdf>. The Senior Tutor informed Council that College was compliant with the relevant legislation and OfS guidance, and the Code of Practice would feature in both the online and in-person induction events for freshers. The Prevent and Freedom of Speech Committee would keep the policy and associated documents under review. The Senior Tutor and Bursar would ensure that the officers of the JCR and MCR were appropriately briefed.

cc2025.176

Report on academic performance, 2024–25

The Senior Tutor began by commending the number of PhD candidates who passed their viva voce examinations outright or with only minor corrections, which together with the impressive achievements of the many graduating Master's students showed that the members of the MCR were equally impressive in their academic achievements as were the undergraduate student body. The headline news in relation to the latter was another excellent year: Selwyn's results were second only to Trinity, a record 38.5% of students graduating with a First and 86% with good Honours. (The number of Firsts in the University as a whole was around 30%.) This was testament to the hard work of the students above all, but also to the College's highly effective Admissions policies, which demonstrated that measures aimed at Widening Participation were actually driving academic excellence. Dr Sewell also highlighted the dedication of the College's Directors of Studies, Tutors, Supervisors and staff—including the College Nurse and those in the Tutorial Office. Council noted that news of the College's academic success was well received by alumni and potential donors. The Master thanked Dr Sewell on behalf of all those present for his efforts as Senior Tutor.

cc2025.177

Undergraduate Admissions for 2025

Dr Sewell reported that the 2025 Undergraduate Admissions round had been successful; the number of places confirmed matched the number of rooms available (+/-1), and it was encouraging that this year there were no Triposes with 0 entries. Similar success had been achieved in Postgraduate Admissions, despite the difficulties of dealing with cover ratios often double their undergraduate equivalents. Dr Beauregard observed that among undergraduate freshers of 'Home' status, 80% were from maintained schools and 20% from the independent sector; the Admissions Tutors were generally successful in their aim to replicate the ratios of candidates in the various widening participation and socio-economic categories measured at each stage of the process, such that the profile of those

admitted reflected that of those applying as closely as possible. Selwyn was compliant with its OfS targets, and in some cases already exceeded standards set as goals for 2029. The academic achievements of the incoming freshers were impressive, with an average of 3.2 A*s at A level among STEM students and 2.5 A*s among arts students.

cc2025.178

Timing of Research Fellowship competitions

The Senior Tutor reported that both the Henslow and Keasbey Research Fellowships would be advertised for 2026; Council agreed that the competitions should proceed on a similar basis to that for the Centenary Research Fellowship in 2024–25, though the calls for applications might usefully be brought forward slightly.

cc2025.179

Concerns regarding Tower roof

Council noted the concerns raised about the state of the Tower roof in **CP2025/085**. It was agreed that access to the roof would in future be limited to trained Porters only, and to one person at a time. Alternative arrangements would need to be found for events that had involved access to the Tower in recent years—including the gathering of LGBT+ representatives to mark the start of LGBT+ History Month, the Chapel Choir singing on Ascension day, and the playing of the Last Post by a bugler on Remembrance Day.

cc2025.180

Committee on Committees

Council noted and approved the list of committee members and other appointments for 2025–26 (**CP2025/086**). Chairs were reminded that all committees of Council and Governing Body are required to review their terms of reference during their Michaelmas Term meetings.

cc2025.181

Investment Committee

The Minutes of the meeting of the Investment Committee held on 16 July 2025 (**CP2025/087**) were received and noted.

cc2025.182

Chapel business and events (CP2025/088)

i. College Living appointment

Council noted the appointment of Revd Matt Phillips as Team Rector of the Papworth Group benefice, which includes the parish of St Mary's, Longstowe, of which the College is Patron.

ii. Patronal Festivals project

Council considered the proposal from the Dean of Chapel to support an initiative by the Choral Evensong Trust to offer grants to parish churches in support of their patronal festivities. It was recommended that the donor involved be encouraged instead to support the Choral Evensong Trust's campaign directly, rather than setting a precedent for the indirect use of the College's Development Office to raise funds for third-party organisations. As an additional benefit, the CET may also thereby be eligible to collect any Gift Aid due on the present donation.

iii. Icon exhibition in Chapel

Council noted these plans for an exhibition in Chapel, but queried the value of the items to be displayed. The Bursar would follow up with the Dean of Chapel to ensure that the necessary documentation was in place with respect to the

consent of the owners and the conditions under which the items were displayed in College.

cc2025.183

Any other unreserved business

There was no other unreserved business.