



## MINUTES

### *of a meeting of the Selwyn College Governing Body at 8:30 pm on Tuesday 18 February 2025*

There were present the Master, Dr Armitage, Dr Bardhan, Dr Beauregard, Dr Bitney, Professor Butterfield, Professor Cant, Dr Filimonova, Dr Gardner, Dr Halina, Dr Hopkins, Dr Howard (Secretary), Dr Jenkins, Professor Keeler, Dr Kim, Mr Kitov, Professor Larcom, Ms MacDonald, Dr McDougall, Mr Matheson, Revd Dr Milbank Robinson, Mr Nicholson, Professor O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Professor Sage, Dr Sewell, Dr D Smith, Dr Soderman, Professor Stewart, Professor Tasker, Dr Tavakkolnia, Dr Vargas Weil, Professor Velu, Dr Young; the JCR President, Ms Zogi Shala, and Treasurer, Ms Lea Fink; the MCR President, Mr Jeffrey Pendleton, and Treasurer, Ms Zofia Dziekan.

### UNRESERVED BUSINESS

- gb2025.2*      *Statement of Conflicts of Interest*  
Dr Sewell and Professor Tasker declared conflicts of interest in relation to *gb2025.9*; both absented themselves during the discussion of that item.
- gb2025.3*      *Apologies for Absence*  
Apologies were received from Dr Al Azmeh, Professor Baert, Dr Balakrishnan, Dr Button, Dr Cameron, Professor Connell, Dr Domenici, Professor Dicks, Mrs Fraser Butlin, Professor Haustein, Professor Moultrie, Dr Thompson, Professor Summers, Dr Venkateshvaran and Dr Wilcox. Dr Briggs, Professor Ellis, Professor Felli, Dr Lee, Professor Meer, Dr Reinbold, Professor Velu and Dr Woodford were on sabbatical leave; Professor Chu and Dr Viejo Rose were on short-term leave, and Dr T Smith was on paternity leave.
- gb2025.4*      *Minutes of the Unreserved Governing Body Meeting held on 5 November 2024*  
The minutes were received and signed.
- gb2025.5*      *Matters Arising*  
*(The following matter was taken later in the meeting, immediately before the discussion of gb2025.9:)*  
The Master led a brief discussion of the College Visitor, and arrangements for the certification and installation of the incoming Master (see *gb2025.6* below). College was in dialogue with Lambeth Palace concerning the role of College Visitor during the vacancy of the archbishopric of Canterbury. The certification of the new Master being a simple matter for report, no formal response was required or expected. Regarding the installation, it

was noted that the Visitor was expected to attend or to nominate a suitable deputy, the date of the installation being fixed for 2 October. The Vice-Master and Dean of Chapel would liaise with the office of the acting Archbishop to seek a mutually acceptable arrangement.

gb2025.6

*Head of House Election*

The Vice-Master reported the election of Ms Suzanne Raine as the next Master of Selwyn College, as unanimously approved at a meeting of the Electors held at 1:10 pm on 18 February 2025. Ms Raine will take up her appointment on 1 October 2025, following the retirement of Mr Roger Mosey at the end of September. Governing body approved the term of office agreed by the Electors of 7 years in the first instance, with an option to extend by a further 3 years. Ms Raine has been appointed at 60% FTE, and the Bursar reported that contracts had been signed. The Vice-Master noted that the outcome of the election would be announced to College staff and students the following morning, before a public statement later in the day. The matter of dining rights for both was referred to the next meeting of College Council.

gb2025.7

*Annual Review of the College Risk Register*

The Bursar reported on the annual review of the full College Risk Register (**GB2025/01**) completed by the Master, Bursar, Vice Master and Mr Nicholson. The number of risks listed had fallen from 47 to 44, and the only previous red risk, unsustainable budget deficits (C1), had been downgraded to amber. The risk of cyber attack (G1) had not been upgraded, but was highlighted in light of recent experiences both inside and outside the University. Since the College's Trustees retain ultimate responsibility for managing and mitigating risks, the updated Risk Register had been formally approved by Council on 28 January 2025, though the Bursar reminded those present of the wider importance of the Register for all Fellows, drawing particular attention to its identification of those College officers and senior staff bearing executive responsibility for each risk.

gb2025.8

*Six-month Accounts for the financial year 2024–25*

The Bursar introduced the six-month accounts (**GB2025/02**), which forecast a reduction of £0.25m (or 2.0% of net income) in the anticipated deficit for 2024–25. The gains were roughly equally split between favourable income (led by strong Conference performance, but tempered by smaller drops in income from student fees, room rent and catering) and reduced costs (largely in staffing, including recent success in funding fellows' stipend costs from restricted income under *cy-près* principles and using new donations). Despite an anticipated unrestricted operating loss of £0.88m for 2024–25, the outlook remained broadly positive.

gb2025.9

*Employer-Justified Retirement Age and the College Statutes*

The Bursar introduced **GB2025/03**, outlining amendments to College Statutes and Regulations proposed by the Statutes Committee and recommended to Governing Body by Council. The changes were motivated by Governing Body's decision on 15 November 2024 to adopt an Employer



Justified Retirement Age of 69 for Governing Body Fellows; additional revisions reflected details of drafting together with recent discussion of the procedure for determination of the period of office of the Head of House, the terms and conditions of the Head of House's appointment, and the proper location of authority over these matters (see especially Statute 9.23). Governing Body approved the recommended revisions, noting that these must now be agreed by the University and subsequently passed to the Privy Council for further consideration.

The Bursar further requested, and Governing Body agreed, that given the long lead-time for changes to Statutes to be incorporated (from experience, up to 7 months), the provisions in relation to extensions of contract beyond the EJRA should be applied in full with immediate effect.

*gb2025.10 Hostels Refurbishment: 21 & 23 West Road*

The Bursar reported on emerging plans for refurbishment of 21 and 23 West Road (**GB2025/04**). A working group had been set up and a design team was being assembled; consultations with student residents, representatives of the JCR and MCR and Fellows with offices or flats in either building would take place during Lent Term 2025. Work was expected to start in July 2026, and a project cost envelope of £2.5m was being targeted. Further reports would be brought to Council and Governing Body in late Easter Term 2025.

*gb2025.11 Senior Tutor's Report*

The Senior Tutor gave a verbal update, drawing attention to the following:

- i. Gina Vivian Neal*

The Senior Tutor paid tribute to Miss Vivian Neal's 25 years of service to the College.
- ii. University Teaching Review*

Ongoing discussions concerned efforts to increase clarity of curriculum content and related administrative information, rationalization of course contents, boundaries on teaching (including use of evenings and Saturday teaching), and arrangements for students to opt in or out of receiving degree ranking information in CamSIS (though this information would remain accessible to Directors of Study and Tutors). Fellows were encouraged to engage with the consultation through Faculties and Departments.
- iii. Consultation on Exam Mitigations and Allowances*

Tutors and Directors of Studies had already identified a number of areas of concern in relation to the proposals, which include new arrangements for possible examination re-sits; these would inform the College's response. Colleagues were nevertheless encouraged to respond individually or contribute to Department and Faculty responses as appropriate.
- iv. Student Wellbeing*

The University's 2024 Pastoral survey indicated several positives for Selwyn. College currently has 124 students in receipt of the Cambridge Bursary, and more than 70 have Student Support Documents. Accordingly, it was encouraging that the survey results indicated high confidence in and satisfaction with the Selwyn's support arrangements, despite compar-



atively low per-capita spending (reflecting the targeted nature of College funding in this area and strategic use of University and NHS provision under the new 'stepped care' model).

v. *Other matters recently discussed at Senior Tutors' Committee*

The Senior Tutor noted the ongoing reform of admissions governance, and the need to protect College autonomy; the future restoration of candidate photographs to admissions files (though the process and timescale remain unclear); ongoing discussions between Colleges and the Clinical Medical Board over admissions requirements for candidates to study medicine; and possible injunctions to protect University spaces such as Senate House from occupation by protestors.

vi. *Accreditation of the Veterinary Medical School*

Discussions were ongoing, with decisions expected by the end of March. Entry to the course was guaranteed for 2025 offer-holders; despite rumours surrounding the 2026 intake, colleagues were urged to refrain from public speculation pending forthcoming announcements.

vii. *Centenary Research Fellowship 2025*

This had been advertised on 12 February; the present round is open to applicants working in the subjects covered by the School of Arts and Humanities. Longlisting will take place over the Easter vacation, with shortlisting and interviews following during Easter Term.

gb2025.12

*Staff-Student Relationships Policy*

The Senior Tutor led a brief discussion of **GB2025/05**, stressing that the impetus behind it had come from the University's recent adoption of a more comprehensive policy, and was not a response to any specific issue or weakness in the existing arrangements. He further acknowledged the work of colleagues at other Colleges (notably St Catharine's, Pembroke and Downing) on which he had drawn in assembling the proposed policy. Discussion centred on the need for clarity and on finding the appropriate balance between specificity and flexibility; Fellows were asked to direct further feedback to the Senior Tutor, who would revise the document for future consideration by Council.

gb2025.13

*Development Matters*

The Development Director reported verbally on the following:

i. *Public events*

Mr Nicholson noted the success of the December carol services in College and at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, thanking Ms MacDonald and the Chapel Choir for their efforts. Next week College would welcome over 200 guests to a reception at Fishmongers' Hall, including many of its most generous donors.

ii. *Telephone campaign*

A team of about 13 Selwyn students had contributed to this year's successful campaign, reaching around 400 alumni and resulting in gifts of about £0.5m including support for the College's core activities, donations



to named funds such as the Sir David Harrison Fund, and provision such as hardship grants.

*iii. Other Fundraising*

The Sir David Harrison fund had reached the milestone of over £1m in donations, from more than 400 donors. The daughter of Selwyn alumnus Raymond Reid had endowed a Selwyn-based PhD in epidemiology via the match-funding scheme. Two other donations will each provide up to £15,000 annually for grants and financial support available to students in Engineering and MML respectively.

*iv. Publications*

The Annual Report would be published around the end of March. Fellows were asked for contributions to the Magazine, which would appear over the summer.

The Senior Tutor thanked Mr Nicholson for his work and that of his team, noting in particular that funded PhD places were extremely attractive to prospective postgraduate students, bringing the College to the attention of the brightest candidates and supporting increased PhD recruitment across the board.

*gb2025.14*

*Any Other Unreserved Business*

There was no other unreserved business.

