



## MINUTES

### *of a meeting of the Selwyn College Governing Body at 8.30 pm on Tuesday 24 June 2025*

There were present the Master, Dr Al Azmeh, Dr Armitage, Dr Bardhan, Dr Beauregard, Dr Bitney, Professor Butterfield, Dr Button, Professor Cant, Dr Domenici, Dr Eves, Dr Filimonova, Mrs Fraser Butlin, Dr Halina, Professor Haustein, Mr Helm, Dr Hopkins, Dr Howard (Secretary), Professor Keeler, Dr Kim, Professor Larcom, Dr de Lera Acedo, Ms MacDonald, Dr McDougall, Professor Meer, Revd Dr Milbank Robinson, Mr Nicholson, Professor Nikiforakis, Professor O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Reinbold, Professor Sage, Dr Sewell, Dr D Smith, Dr Soderman, Professor Stewart, Professor Tasker, Dr Tavakkolnia, Professor Velu, Dr Venkateshvaran, Dr Viejo Rose, Dr Wilcox; the MCR President, Mr Jeffrey Pendleton, and Treasurer, Ms Zofia Dziekan.

### UNRESERVED BUSINESS

- gb2025.20*      *Statement of conflicts of interest*  
There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.
- gb2025.21*      *Apologies for absence*  
Apologies were received from Dr Cameron, Professor Chu, Professor Connell, Professor Dicks, Dr Gardner, Dr Jenkins, Mr Kitov, Dr O'Donnell, Dr T Smith, Professor Summers, Dr Vargas Weil and Dr Young; and from the JCR President, Ms Sophie Jacques, and Treasurer, Ms Lea Fink.
- gb2025.22*      *Minutes of the Unreserved Governing Body Meeting held on 18 February 2025*  
The minutes were received and signed.
- gb2025.23*      *Matters arising*  
There were no unreserved matters arising.
- gb2025.24*      *Death in College*  
The Senior Tutor updated Governing Body on matters concerning the death of Part IA student in Biological Sciences, Mr John Constantine (Jaycee) Busuego in College on 25 May 2025. Mr Busuego's funeral would take place on 26 June in Norwich: the Master, Senior Tutor and Dean of Chapel would attend on behalf of the College, and a donation had been made to assist with the expenses of the funeral. Dr Sewell expressed thanks on behalf of Governing Body to all those involved in supporting those students who had been close to the deceased, and the wider College community; he also commended the involvement of the University's Student Welfare team. No cause of death could be publicly identified until

the Coroner's inquest had been concluded, which may take some months. The Bursar had reported the matter to the Charity Commission, and arrangements were ongoing for the necessary formal Serious Case Review. Governing Body expressed its condolences to Mr Busuego's family and friends.

gb2025.25

*Freedom of Speech Policy*

The Senior Tutor updated Governing Body on the recent guidance (<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/1mvnscrl/regulatory-advice-24-freedom-of-speech-guidance.pdf>) from the Office for Students concerning the enforcement from 1 August 2025 of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023. College will be required to publish a code of practice setting out how it will take reasonable steps to secure freedom of speech within the law for its students, staff and members and for visiting speakers. A new University policy on Freedom of Speech came into effect in August last year, and a process was begun to adapt this policy to the College context before the implementation of the Act was paused. Dr Sewell anticipated that further redrafting would be necessary before the policy could be approved by Council in July; in the meantime, he was awaiting promised guidance from Intercollegiate Services Limited (the new name for the Office of Intercollegiate Services), and consulting fellows with legal expertise. Fellows who wished to comment on the OfS guidance or its implementation in College were invited to contact Dr Sewell.

gb2025.26

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

Governing Body received and noted **GB2025/06**.

gb2025.27

*Budget for the 2025–26 financial year*

The Bursar introduced **GB2025/07**, containing the budget and cashflow forecast for 2025–26. In summary, the budget indicated an improvement on the previous year's budget of just under £0.2m, to £0.95m in deficit; however, this in turn was just under £0.2m higher than the current re-forecast for the 2024–25 deficit (£0.77m). Positive impacts on the budget included a 3.08% increase in the regulated undergraduate tuition fee, rising to £9,535 pa, and unrestricted donations, budgeted consistently at £0.6m (though it was noted that this had been considerably outperformed during the current year). Conference income had plateaued, having reached capacity limits, and student rents to 1.75% inflation in line with the College's aim to provide student accommodation on a cost-neutral basis. Less positive was the rise in employers' National Insurance contributions from April 2025, contributing a rise of c.2.7% across all wages and stipends. Overall cash generation looked likely to remain positive, but capital expenditure would be subject to tight constraints. The Bursar recorded her thanks to the new Finance Manager, Carly Essen, for her part in compiling this budget (her first in the role). Governing Body recommended the Budget to Council for approval.

gb2025.28

*Five-Year Financial Outlook (incorporating perspectives on College estate)*

The Bursar introduced **GB2025/08**, beginning by reviewing the prospects for income growth in the coming years. Despite the marginal gains



possible in some areas, the only realistic path to a budget surplus remained a significant increase in donations. More positively, however, the outlook for the unrestricted operating cashflow (after donations, but before depreciation) suggested that more than £1m would be available for necessary capital expenditure in each of the coming five years.

The Bursar's second presentation reviewed the College's estates strategies since foundation, as an encouragement to consider future aspirations for the College site. Apart from the need to maintain existing buildings, recent projects had focused on improvement of student accommodation and facilities and improving the quality of the College environment as a place of work and residence more generally (such as from the perspectives of accessibility and safety). Environmental sustainability was an increasingly important factor, though the adoption of a full-scale 'net-zero' strategy was considered financially unrealistic. Ultimately College's progress towards this aim would proceed in tandem with society-wide reforms, though incremental progress was possible within the remit of individual projects and had proven attractive to donors. The issue of water supply was raised as another factor that required consideration in connection with future projects. From a development perspective, Governing Body acknowledged that donor support often proceeded on the basis of factors other than conventional economic viability: donors were likely to be attracted to projects with strong stories in relation to accessibility, student experience and environmental sustainability, for example. It was emphasized that aspects of estates planning affected all officers, fellows, staff and students of the College profoundly, and fellows were encouraged to play a full part in more strategic planning processes that would be initiated in due course.

gb2025.29

*Senior Tutor's report*

The Senior Tutor report on the items described in **GB2025/09**:

- i. *University Teaching Review*  
Colleagues were encouraged to engage with the outcomes of the University Teaching Review by participating in the expected course-by-course review of individual triposes.
- ii. *OfS condition of registration E6 (Harassment and sexual misconduct)*  
College was already compliant with the new requirements, though there was concern that it would not be practicable to deliver training on relationships and consent to postgraduate students at College level given the pressure on timetabling of enrolment events for postgraduates. Senior Tutors were pushing for this to be taken up in departmental orientation events instead.
- iii. *Supreme Court ruling on For Women Scotland case*  
Guidance from the University suggested that in light of this ruling on the meaning of the term 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010, institutes maintaining single-sex designated spaces should restrict their use to those of the designated biological sex in question; as a result, separate 'third space' provision would be required for those who identified with a gender other



than their biological sex. College toilet facilities were already compliant with this requirement, and facilities at the sports ground were thought only to require changes to signage. Arrangements for single-sex hours in the College gym would remain under review.

iv. *Examination allowances 2025–26*

Fellows were alerted to the wide-ranging changes to the exam allowances system that would come into force from next year. For the first time a system of resits would be implemented for finalists missing examinations, with significant consequences for the process of setting, administering and marking examinations. Changes were also being made to the allowances available to students in lower years. Training would be available for Tutors and others involved in the administration of the new system.

v. *Selwyn-specific updates*

The recent Student Wellbeing Survey indicated that Selwyn was performing at or better than average in most areas, with particular strengths in students' awareness of the services available to them, the accessibility of those services, and general satisfaction expressed with College welfare provision. The Senior Tutor noted the continuing impact of Elgar and Dawson funding on access and student wellbeing, and congratulated the Development office on the recent donation of \$135,000 (£100,000) by Peter and Christina Dawson to support the College's Bridging Course. College had been able to distribute over £130,000 worth of funding to current students to support summer projects and general travel plans this year. Fellows were reminded to encourage recipients of grants to submit reports on their projects and travels, which could be used to provide feedback to donors and inform future funding campaigns.

gb2025.30

*Development matters*

The Development Director reported that recent events including the reception at Fishmongers' Hall and the Lyttleton Dinner had been very successful; on the communications side, the Annual Report was published and the Magazine would be issued soon. Mr Fox was still seeking items and Fellows' news for the Calendar, which would be compiled over the summer. From a fundraising perspective, alongside the almost £800,000 of unrestricted donations mentioned by the Bursar, College had received about £3m in restricted donations; within this figure, the Harrison Fund had reached its target of £1m, though it remained open for further contributions. Also included in that £3m was a generous endowment of \$400,000 from Jennifer Reid to secure the future of her support for Selwyn students undertaking medical electives. Following the last Governing Body, Dr Haustein had met with several fellows about the Trinity College match-funding scheme for PhD studentships, and conversations were underway with a view to securing funding for studentships in Medicine, Scientific Computing, Economics and Physics. This scheme was likely to continue for several years, and Fellows were encouraged to contact Mr Nicholson or Dr Haustein if they would like to explore the possibility of securing a studentship in their subject area.



- gb2025.31 *Fees and Charges 2025–26*  
Governing Body noted the fees and charges for 2025–26 (GB2025/10) agreed by Council on 17 June.
- gb2025.32 *College Diary for 2025–26*  
Governing Body noted that the College diary for 2025–26 is available for download online: <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/college-diary>.
- gb2025.33 *Timetable of Meetings for 2025–26*  
Governing Body noted the timetable of meetings for 2025–26 approved by Council (GB2025/11).
- gb2025.34 *Any other unreserved business*  
There was no other unreserved business.

