



## MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council held  
at 1.10 pm on Tuesday 24 September 2024*

There were present the Master, Dr Beauregard, Mr Nicholson, Dr O'Donnell, Ms Phillips, Ms MacDonald, Professor Moultrie, Professor O'Sullivan, Dr Reinbold, Dr Sewell, and the MCR President, Ms Fox-Wiltshire. Dr Woodford was in attendance as secretary.

### UNRESERVED BUSINESS

*cc2024.159 Starred Items*

Council confirmed that starred items should not be discussed.

*cc2024.160 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*

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

*cc2024.161 Apologies for Absence*

Apologies were received from Mr Matheson, Professor Tasker, the JCR President, Ms Zogi Shala, the JCR Treasurer, Mr Chakravarty. The MCR Treasurer, Mr Corcoran, had graduated.

*cc2024.162 Minutes of the Unreserved Council meeting held on 9 July 2024*

The minutes were received and signed.

*cc2024.163 Matters arising*

*i. Freedom of Speech and Prevent (cc2024.143)*

The Senior Tutor reported that on 29 July 2024 the new government had frozen the implementation of the reform of the Universities' legislation on freedom of speech introduced by the previous government. The University had therefore halted its process, there being no longer a requirement for higher education institutions to publish their new codes (see cc2024.143). The Prevent Committee at its Michaelmas Term meeting will rename itself the 'Freedom of Speech and Prevent Committee' and consider the College's position in relation to any updated University or Office for Students guidance.

*ii. Committee on Committees (cc2024.146)*

Some amendments to the membership of committees were approved; the final version of **CP2024/066** is in the Guide for Fellows.

iii. *Gardens Committee (cc2024.145)*

The Chair of the Gardens Committee, Dr Beauregard, reported on plans to plant a hornbeam hedge in the fellows' garden to separate the garden from the compost bins. The hedge will be planted in November but the Chair of the Gardens Committee recommended lowering expectations in terms of the height such a hedge will have reached by May Week. This being the case, it was recommended that steps are taken to create some sort of boundary barrier between the Fellows' Garden and the compost bins.

cc2024.164

*Financial Outturn 2023-24*

The Bursar reported on the financial outturn for 2023-24 (**CP2024/073**). The 2023/24 year-end financial outturn painted a positive picture. The underlying surplus before depreciation had risen to £1.29m (prior year: £0.40m). Conference activity was the biggest contributor, achieving income of £1.74m against a budget of £1.34m. Fill rates were now comparable with pre-Covid levels.

The forecast operating deficit (a loss of £1.24m) had moved to a surplus of £2.41m mainly due to two factors which are only recognised in the year end accounting. These were pension revaluations generating an accounting (but not cash) gain, and unprecedented generosity in terms of legacies from two alumni (James Swift (1968) and Richard Harvey (1962)). These brought overall donation income to £2.83m against the forecast of £0.60m. The Bursar counselled against expecting such levels of donations regularly. Council extended warm thanks to Conferences and the Alumni and Development Office.

cc2024.165

*Investment Committee*

The minutes of a meeting of the Investment Committee held on 18 July 2024 were received and noted (**CP2024/074**).

cc2024.166

*Increase in Value of Scholarships and Prizes*

The Senior Tutor reported that the value of Scholarships and Prizes for recognition of excellence in academic performance had been reviewed by comparison with other Colleges. The proposed increases were approved, namely:

Named Prizes £120 (formerly £80)

Tripes Prize £120 (formerly £80)

College Prizes £50 (formerly £30)

Postgraduate Prizes £120 (formerly £80)

Scholarship: £200 credit on the College bill (formerly £150)

Undergraduate Exhibition (MML Part IA, in recognition of a First in one language): £120 credit on the College bill (formerly £100)



- cc2024.167      *Undergraduate Admissions for 2024*
- The Senior Tutor reported that last year had seen a record number (860) applicants to Selwyn, and 118 first years have been admitted. Sixty students who applied to Selwyn were admitted to other Colleges. Seventy-nine percent of home students are from the maintained sector. The College has met or exceeded all but one Access and Participation Plan target, narrowly missing one target. The College has particular success in attracting students from schools with little or no track record of Oxbridge applications. Those who have taken A Levels averaged 3A\*s each (2.5 A\*s in the Arts, 3.6 in the Sciences), higher than any previous intake. Overseas students comprise 19.5% of the first intake.
- cc2024.168      *Snowball Report*
- An update was received from the Snowball Presidents (CP2024/075). Council confirmed that the Snowball Committee met all the requirements agreed after the 2023 Snowball. The Vice-Master had met the Snowball Co-President, Ms Bannan, and other members of the Committee to discuss the headliner contract and had been impressed by the organisation so far.
- cc2024.169      *Any Other Unreserved Business*
- i. The Senior Tutor reported on the College's success in undergraduate academic performance of the in 2023-24. Selwyn had come 1st in terms of the percentage of students achieving Good Honours (First/2.I) and 5th overall. The Senior Tutor stressed also that the proportion of the College's students achieving third class or failing results was the lowest of all the Colleges. He also pointed out that the College's excellent track record in widening participation contributed to the College's academic success and that the College was being successful in eliminating awarding gaps by the end of the course.

