



## MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council held at 1.10 pm on Tuesday 15 October 2024*

There were present the Master, Dr Beauregard, Mr Nicholson, Dr O'Donnell, Professor O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Ms MacDonald, Dr McDougall, Professor Moultrie, Dr Reinbold, Dr Sewell, Professor Tasker, the JCR President, Ms Zogi Shala, and the JCR Treasurer, Mr Chakravarty. Dr Woodford was in attendance as Secretary. Mr Kitov, Dr Kim and Dr Zhang were in attendance for item cc2024.194.

### UNRESERVED BUSINESS

*cc2024.189 Starred Items*

Council confirmed that starred items should not be discussed.

*cc2024.190 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*

It was confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.

*cc2024.191 Apologies for Absence*

Apologies were received from the MCR President, Ms Fox-Wiltshire. The MCR Treasurer had graduated. Dr McDougall left during cc2024.197.

*cc2024.192 Minutes of the Unreserved Council meeting held on 24 September 2024*

The minutes were received and signed.

*cc2024.193 Matters arising*

There were no matters arising.

*cc2024.194 Economics Summer School Proposal*

Mr Kitov outlined the proposal for the Selwyn College Summer Programme (SCSP) in Economics and Data Science, to be organised by himself, Dr Kim and Dr Zhang (CP2024/095). Their intention for the Summer Programme, if it were to go ahead, would be for it first to take place in August 2025. The proposal suggested that it would meet a demand among international students for summer programmes in Cambridge. The College would own the programme and the revenue raised from it would belong to the College. It would additionally be asked to underwrite the activity. The financial opportunities of such a programme were noted as positive, in the context of the College's structural operational deficit and in terms of the positive message it sends to donors in presenting a College trying to 'solve its own issues'. It was agreed that the SCSP must be confined to participants who are currently enrolled in a higher education institution and not

offer a strand or otherwise offer content targeted at younger age groups. This would prevent any possibility of misunderstanding of the course as having value or being otherwise an advantage in the undergraduate admissions process. It was also noted that to host younger age groups would raise safeguarding concerns. Since this was a wholly new opportunity, Council agreed that the SCSP comes with additional risks, must not displace other conference business and so should take place at a time when conferences can accommodate it around existing clients, i.e. mid to late August. The international nature of the target market was noted and Council recommended that the organisers attempt to have global reach, for example by encouraging other members of the Fellowship to share it with their networks. It was pointed out that an international summer school need not exclude participation from within the United Kingdom. Issues which needed fuller consideration included the matter of credit transfer; any mechanism for administering the bursaries suggested in the paper (but not included in the financials presented); the contractual relationship between the College and those undertaking the administration of the programme, both in management terms and in admission decision making matters such as administering in the language requirement. The Bursar advocated further work on the organisational structures and management of the programme to remove risk for the College that those initiating it might not be present for delivery, to be undertaken in consultation with the Bursar and the Senior Tutor. Council gave a cautious welcome to the principle of the SCSP. Mr Kitov, Dr Kim and Dr Zhang agreed to bring a revised paper back to Council for its meeting of 12 November.

cc2024.195

*Non-Financial Update*

The Bursar reported on non-financial matters for 2023-24 (**CP2024/096**). In recent weeks, one third of all staff have attended pension presentations, which were offered to encourage staff to better utilise the pension scheme benefits made available to them. In the context of a number of fire alerts, which had been triggered through sensitivity of detection, the Bursar noted that the contract for fire alarm equipment was planned to be put out to tender, and that seeking the right balance of 'always detecting an event' vs avoiding false alarms would be a part of those conversations.

cc2024.196

*Risk Register*

Council reviewed the headline risks (**CP2024/097**) and noted that a subcommittee would undertake the annual review of the risk register in January, consisting of the Master, the Vice-Master, the Bursar and another governing body fellow.

cc2024.197 + *Employer Justified Retirement Age*

The Master noted that the principle of a retirement age for College officers is a matter for statute and that the discussion of the principle will take place in unreserved business. The Bursar reported on **CP2024/098** and pointed out that the paper builds in several assumptions: the principle that there should be a retirement date at which fellows leave the Governing Body; the principle that all fellows would wish to be treated equally; and that the University's amendment of the age for the EJRA is relevant for the College's consideration of its own EJRA. Council welcomed the Bursar's recommendation that the College should initiate a retirement policy, to be governed by regulations. Council discussed the Bursar's

two recommendations that the College amend its statutes to adopt an EJRA of 69 as its retirement date for fellows, and that the Statutes Committee be asked to consider the wording of amendments necessary to the Statutes. The two recommendations would be discussed at Governing Body on 5 November 2024.

*cc2024.198 FPR Dates*

The updated FPR dates were received and noted (**CP2024/099**).

*cc2024.199 College Holiday Dates*

The College Holiday dates for 2025 were received and noted (**CP2024/100**).

*cc2024.200 College Plaques*

Council confirmed the revised wording of the plaques to commemorate Professor Brock and Mr Welbourn (**CP2024/101**).

*cc2024.201 JCR and MCR Accounts*

The JCR and MCR accounts for 2023-24 were received and approved (**CP2024/102**). Further discussion of the use of the JCR disability fund would take place outside the meeting with the Bursar and the Senior Tutor.

*cc2024.202 JCR, MCR and Sport and Societies Allocations 2024-25*

The allocations were approved (**CP2024/103**). The MCR would receive two terms' allocations only in view of its surplus.

*cc2024.203 Any Other Unreserved Business*

There was no other reserved business.