



MINUTES

of a meeting of the Governing Body at 8.30 pm on Tuesday 18 June 2024

There were present the Master, Dr Al Azmeh, Dr Armitage, Professor Baert, Dr Balakrishnan, Dr Bardhan, Dr Beauregard, Dr Briggs, Professor Butterfield, Dr Button, Professor Cant, Professor Dicks, Professor Ellis, Dr Eves, Dr Filimonova, Mrs Fraser Butlin, Dr Halina, Dr Hartwell, Dr Haustein, Mr Helm, Dr Hopkins, Dr Howard, Professor Keeler, Dr Kim, Professor Larcom, Dr de Lera Acedo, Ms MacDonald, Dr McDougall, Mr Matheson, Dr Milbank Robinson, Professor Moultrie, Mr Nicholson, Dr Nowak, Dr O'Donnell, Professor O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Reinbold, Professor Sage, Dr Sewell, Dr T Smith, Professor Stewart, Professor Tasker, Dr Venkateshvaran, Dr Viejo Rose, Dr Wilcox, Dr Woodford, the JCR President, Ms Zogi Shala, and the MCR President, Ms Fox-Wiltshire. Dr Bitney, Professor Felli, Professor Velu and Dr V. Young were on sabbatical leave.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

- gb2024.17 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*
There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.
- gb2024.18 Apologies for Absence*
Apologies were received from Dr Cameeron, Professor Chu, Professor Connell, Dr Gardner, Dr Impett, Mr Kitov, Dr Lee, Professor Meer, Professor Nikiforakis, Dr da Silva, Dr D. Smith, Dr Soderman, Professor Summers, Dr Thompson, Dr Vargas Weil, Professor Webb, Dr Zhang, the JCR Treasurer, Mr Chakravarty, and the MCR Treasurer, Mr Cameron.
- gb2024.19 Minutes of the Unreserved Governing Body Meeting held on 5 March 2024*
The minutes were received and signed.
- gb2024.20 Matters arising*
There were no matters arising.
- gb2024.21 Nine-Month Accounts for the 2023-24 Financial Year*
The Bursar reported on the nine-month accounts, setting out the position at 31 March 2024 (**GB2024/06**). The forecast remained better than budget with a £0.40m reduction in the deficit. The long vacation 2023 had seen a recovery of conference income after the pandemic. Difficulties in achieving full staffing levels in the kitchens led to a saving in the budget. The staffing difficulties are now resolved. Two legacies have been received with a combined probate value of £2.3m.

gb2024.22

Budget for the 2024-25 Financial Year

The Bursar presented the budget for the financial year 2024-25 for the consideration of the Governing Body prior to its approval by College Council at its meeting of 9 July (**GB2024/07**). The budget cautiously builds on the progress of the last two years, forecasting an increase in income of £0.4m, including a 10% increase in conferences. The Bursar has confidence in the College's ability to keep within the budget, the cost savings targets set last year were well managed by Heads of Departments. The budget includes £0.6m donations, which is higher than in previous years and takes account of an increased level of legacies left to the College and the on-going success of the Harrison Fund. By the end of 2023-24, two major legacies amounting to c. £2.3m will have been received. Financial pressures remain important, including the additional cost of the new methodology agreed by intercollegiate services for the calculation of supervision payments, and an increase to the Real Living Wage. The forecast deficit for 2024-25 is £-1.13m, an improvement of £0.52m on the budgeted deficit for 2023-24, with an increased operating cash surplus of £1.42m (compared to £0.87m budgeted in 2023-24). Capital expenditure will again be held within £0.5m, with the addition of the planned work to increase the capacity of solar panels on the roof of Cripps Court, which is part funded by the Cripps Foundation. The Bursar drew the attention of Governing Body to the ongoing College deficit and noted that any planned new spending would have to be on a substitutionary basis. The Governing Body recommended the budget for the approval of College Council.

gb2024.23

* *Fees and Charges 2024-25*

The fees and charges for 2024-25 were noted (**GB2024/08**).

gb2024.24

Senior Tutor's Report

The Senior Tutor reported that over the past academic year fewer students had needed to receive funding from the Dawson Fund for mental health, with a decline in the need for private counselling, an improvement on the difficult period during the pandemic when higher levels of support had been necessary. It is perhaps also an indication that the structures put in place by the Mental Health Review are effective. The College nurse and tutors also continue to provide support and to signpost NHS services and the University Counselling Service. The Senior Tutor noted that 84 undergraduates and 14 postgraduates had taken exams with adjustments, with greater numbers of students sitting exams with adjustments in years 3 and 4.

Attention was drawn to the University's new [Staff and Student Relationships Policy](#) effective from 1 July 2024. The College's policy ([CP2017/017](#)) will undergo a process of revision through the relevant committee structures (e.g. Tutors, Directors of Studies) in Michaelmas 2024. The relevant pages of the Fellows' Guide and the Staff Handbook also draw attention to the College's existing policy. Colleges will be required by law by 1 August 2024 to have a formal and published "Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech" as a result of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023. Draft regulatory advice was issued for HEIs by the Office for Students (OfS), as part of a consultation that closed on 26 May 2024. The University's proposed "Code of Practice", agreed by the University Council, was published in the Reporter on 15 May and is subject to agreement by Regent House. The Code does not seek to change the University's existing position on

freedom of speech within the law. A template has been issued for use in Colleges. The Governing Body resolved that the College should develop a policy based on the intercollegiate template. It was noted that timeframe imposed by the OfS was short for adapting the template and agreeing it through the relevant committee structures. The Senior Tutor, as Chair of the Prevent Committee and Prevent Lead, agreed to take the matter forward.

The Senior Tutor noted the importance of the work behind the scenes that is not always visible and sometimes goes unrecognised. He extended thanks to the Tutorial Office Manager, Miss Vivian-Neal, and the staff in the Tutorial and Admissions Offices, the College nurse, Mrs Turnell, the Librarian, Sonya Adams, and to colleagues and junior members for their support throughout the academic year.

gb2024.25

Development Matters

The Development Director reported that the Harrison fund stood at £830,000 and that he was confident it will reach its target of £1m in the course of the year. The College had recently received large and unusually flexible legacies, as noted in gb2024.22. Attendance at alumni events is very good. Mr Nicholson thanked warmly Mrs Shona Winnard, the Alumni & Events manager, who will retire in July after 17 years in the Alumni office, and noted the important effect of her work in managing Alumni relations.

gb2024.26

Report on a Legacy

This item was withdrawn.

gb2024.27

College Diary

The College diary for 2024-25 is available for download online: <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/college-diary>.

gb2024.28

* *Timetable of Meetings 2024-24*

The timetable of meetings for 2024-25 approved by Council has been subject to minor revision, as updated in the online version of the diary and in **GB2024/09**.

gb2024.29

Any Other Unreserved Business

The Master drew attention to the imminent launch of the partnership scheme with Cambridge United Football Club providing volunteer opportunities for students and staff.