



**MINUTES**  
*of a meeting of the College Council*  
*at 1:10 pm on Tuesday 3 November 2020*

There were present by video conference: The Master, The Vice-Master, the Bursar, the Senior Tutor, Dr Beauregard, Professor Cant, Professor Ellis, Ms MacDonald, Mr Matheson, Mr Nicholson, the Revd Canon Shilson-Thomas, and Dr Woodford. The JCR President, the JCR Treasurer, and the MCR President were present by video conference for the Unreserved Business, for which the MCR Treasurer was also in attendance. Dr Smith was in attendance as Secretary.

**UNRESERVED BUSINESS**

- cc2020.279*      *Statement of Conflicts of Interest*  
There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.
- cc2020.280*      *Apologies for Absence*  
There were no apologies for absence.
- cc2020.281*      *Minutes of the Unreserved Council Meeting held on 13 and 16 October 2020*  
The minutes were agreed and signed.
- cc2020.282*      *Matters arising*  
There were no matters arising.
- cc2020.283*      *Risk Register*  
Council noted the changes to the headline risks in **CP2020/117**. The Bursar reported that the possibility of a no-deal end to the Brexit transition period was drawing closer; and that the yellow risk items would be reviewed at the next Council meeting.
- cc2020.284*      *Covid status update*  
The Bursar and the Senior Tutor introduced **CP2020/118**. Council noted that the Government had announced a new national lockdown from 5 November to 2 December 2020, but that universities could remain open with students in residence. In-person teaching could continue, as long as teachers and students felt comfortable with this, and libraries and laboratories would remain open as in the first half of the Michaelmas Term. University and College staff would continue to work on site and to support students as best they could. Council agreed that the food service would continue, with both a takeaway service and the option of

eating in Hall. From Friday 6 November, additional daytime study spaces would be created for students in the Diamond and in the Bar, and for postgraduates in the MCR. It would also be possible for members of College to exercise safely in the College gardens (and beyond) with one other person from another household. Council also agreed that visits to other households would be allowed for the rest of 3 November and on 4 November between the hours of 8.00 am and 10.00 pm. As before, this must be limited to a maximum of six people and members of different households must be socially distanced from one another. Overnight visitors would not be allowed, and students were asked to behave responsibly at all times, taking account of the health guidance.

Then, from Thursday 5 November, a number of restrictions would come into effect for the period of the lockdown. In particular, households would not be allowed to mix with one another; students would not be permitted to travel between College and their home; and the Bar would be closed for the serving of drinks (in line with the rules of licensed premises) although it would remain available as a study space. Further guidance was awaited on sport and on Chapel activities.

Council noted that the College had so far had 21 confirmed cases of Covid. All but two of the students affected had now completed isolation. Sixteen of these 21 cases, including the two most recent, had been on A staircase, with one each on B, C, D, H, and L. As of Monday, 2 November, only one full household, and a total of 15 students, were isolating, down from a peak of over 90 students during the period of increasing infection, and so far there were no positive cases among the Fellows or the non-academic staff.

Looking ahead to the Christmas vacation, Council confirmed that it would be possible for students who wished, or had no alternative, to remain in College. They would pay three weeks of rent for five weeks of residence. Students would also be allowed to leave their belongings in their room without charge. The exeat letter to undergraduates, asking about their intentions, would be circulated shortly; and the MCR officers and Graduate Tutors were asked to get a sense of how many postgraduates would wish to stay in College over the Christmas period. This will then inform planning for the vacation and especially for the period when the College would usually be closed.

In response to the University's latest response framework, which included a revised five-level phasing structure, the Bursar agreed to draft a new set of response levels for the College. These would align with the University's framework while retaining flexibility within it, and the Bursar agreed to circulate a draft proposal to members of Council for comment within the next few days. The University's response plan also requires Colleges to be clear on who holds responsibilities relating to Covid, and Council confirmed the responsibilities set out on page 6 of CP2020/118.



- cc2020.285 Phase III and Old Library update*  
The Bursar reported that construction on Phase III was currently one week behind schedule in relation to the scheduled completion date of 22 March 2021, but it was hoped that this could be made up, especially as construction work will be permitted to continue during the new national lockdown. A rent rebate had been agreed with those students in Ann's Court and one staircase in Cripps Court whose rooms were impacted by noise from the Phase III work. The Bursar introduced an update on the plans for the Old Library (CP2020/119). Council noted that the decisions which Council had taken in May 2020 (see item cc2020.148) were being taken forward, and approved now moving to RIBA Stage 4, which involved completing detailed design and obtaining a pre-tender report and cost estimate. This progress would be reported to the Governing Body meeting on 24 November 2020, and Council would then aim to decide at its meeting on 16 March 2021 whether to progress to tender.
- cc2020.286 HR Committee*  
Council received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the HR Committee held on 15 October 2020, and approved the Terms of Reference (CP2020/120).
- cc2020.287 Development Committee*  
Council received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the Development Committee held on 16 October 2020 (CP2020/121).
- cc2020.288 Access Committee*  
Council received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the Access Committee held on 20 October 2020 (CP2020/122).
- cc2020.289 Accommodation Committee*  
Council received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the Accommodation Committee held on 21 October 2020 (CP2020/123). Council recorded its thanks to all members of the accommodation team for their excellent work in the difficult circumstances of the past summer.
- cc2020.290 Operations Committee*  
Council received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the Operations Committee held on 23 October 2020, and approved the Terms of Reference (CP2020/124).
- cc2020.291 Investment Committee*  
Council received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the Investment Committee held on 22 October 2020 (CP2020/125a), and approved the Annual Report 2020 (CP2020/125b). Council noted that the value of the College's portfolio stood at £69 million on 30 June 2020, and this represented an underlying increase of £3 million in its value despite this being an exceptionally volatile year. The portfolio also significantly outperformed the ARC Charities Steady Growth Index, its principal



benchmark. Council noted that the principal challenges to the financial markets and investment performance going forward were the continuing impact of Covid; the growing risk of a no-deal end to the Brexit transition period; and uncertainties that might arise from the result of the US Presidential Election. Nevertheless, the weighting of the College's investment portfolio towards technology and international stocks offered reasonable protection against most outcomes, and the continued move towards funds helped to diversify the portfolio further and to manage risk. Council also noted that the College had already made significant progress in divesting from fossil-fuel related investments, having divested from all direct investments in such companies and from any holdings in funds with 5% or more invested in fossil fuels. On this basis, the College should be well able to meet the University's commitment to complete divestment from fossil fuels by 2030.

cc2020.292

*Accounts for the Year Ending 30 June 2020*

The Bursar presented the draft College Accounts for the year 2019-20 (CP2020/126a-d). Council noted that the financial hit from the Covid pandemic was about £1.1 million, although this was offset by £300k from the Government's furlough scheme. As a result, the College now had an underlying deficit of £1.77 million as against £813k in 2018-19, and the agreed budget for 2020-21 forecast a deficit of £2.5 million. The increase in the underlying deficit corresponded closely to the losses in income from accommodation and catering caused by the Covid pandemic. At the same time, the College's assets had increased, thanks to a rise in the book value of land and buildings (principally the value of the new Library and Auditorium as construction costs are expended), and an increase in the value of the College's investment portfolio (see item cc2020.291). The College had an underlying positive cashflow of £184k after depreciation is taken into account, as against £1.14 million the previous year, but given that the agreed budget for the current year will result in a deficit of about £2.5 million, this is likely to turn negative in 2020-21. The impact of the pandemic could be withstood, but not indefinitely. Some reassurance could nevertheless be drawn from the facts that the deterioration in the underlying deficit closely matched the Covid impact; that the College's asset base had grown during the year; and that the College was free of debt and not over-reliant on conference income.

Council agreed to recommend the accounts, together with the PEM report on audit matters, to Governing Body for approval. The Bursar agreed to run a webinar for members of Governing Body in advance of the meeting on 24 November 2020, to explain the accounts, and especially the key distinctions between restricted and unrestricted income, and between endowment and non-endowment income. Council noted that the auditors had endorsed the proposed Trustees' assessment that the College is a going concern, and that the auditors had recommended that the issue of payments to Trustees should receive greater transparency in the College Statutes when they are next reviewed. Council thanked the Bursar for his very clear and informative presentation of the accounts.



- cc2020.293      *Allocations to JCR, MCR and College Sports Clubs and Societies*  
Council approved the allocations for 2020-21 (CP2020/127). The JCR and MCR officers agreed to encourage bids from clubs and societies, and there would also be a second round later in the year. Council noted that clubs and societies could continue to meet in person during the national lockdown provided they were doing so for educational purposes.
- cc2020.294      *Equality and Diversity Committee*  
Council received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the Equality and Diversity Committee held on 27 October 2020 (CP2020/128).
- cc2020.295      *Directors of Studies Committee*  
The Senior Tutor reported on a meeting of the Directors of Studies Committee held on 26 October 2020. Council noted that Directors of Studies had not reported evidence that the disruption of educational provision during the pandemic had created a knowledge deficit among new or continuing students. Summarizing his report to the Directors of Studies, Dr Beauregard reported that Selwyn had this year again received over 700 applications for undergraduate admission. It was envisaged that there would be roughly the same number of interviews as in recent years, but these would all be conducted remotely. To achieve this the College would need 25 Zoom licences, and careful attention was being paid to how to ensure the security of interview assessment materials. The interview schedule would be slightly more spread out than usual, but it was nevertheless hoped that the interviews could all be done in December if possible. Council expressed its gratitude to all members of the admissions team for moving things forward so smoothly and efficiently in such difficult and unprecedented circumstances.
- cc2020.296      *Any Other Unreserved Business*  
  
*i. JCR Elections*  
The JCR Treasurer asked permission for information about the JCR's income and expenditure to be made available in the run-up to the forthcoming elections to next year's JCR committee. Council agreed that the details of this should be discussed with the Master, the Bursar, and the Senior Tutor.

