



**MINUTES**  
*of a meeting of the College Council*  
*at 1:10 pm on Tuesday 12 January 2021*

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

**UNRESERVED BUSINESS**

*cc2021.1 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*  
There were no conflicts of interest arising from the unreserved agenda concerning any of those persons present.

*cc2021.2 Apologies for Absence*  
Apologies for absence were received from Professor Ellis. The Senior Tutor left the meeting at 1.31pm. The Master welcomed the representatives of the new JCR and MCR committees, Issy Roberts (JCR President), Henry Campos (JCR Treasurer), Mariana Ramos de Lima (MCR President) and Mehmet Dogar (MCR Treasurer), and also welcomed Dr Meer back to Council after a period of sabbatical leave.

*cc2021.3 Covid Update*  
The Master, the Bursar and the Senior Tutor updated the College Council on the College's position in the light of the current health emergency and the new lockdown measures, introduced by the Government on Monday 4 January.

A unanimous decision had been made by the collegiate University to move entirely online for Lent Term 2021. However, in a significant difference to Easter Term of the academic year 2019-2020, there will be more students in residence because the restrictions provide for a certain number of specific cases in which permission may be given for a student to return to Cambridge to study.

The Senior Tutor reported on the smooth functioning of the College during the Christmas vacation and the rapid response by the College in the first week of January to the new restrictions. It currently looks as though around 150 students will be in residence and any requests to

return are being managed by Tutors. Since the expectation remains that summative assessment will take place during Lent and Easter Terms 2021, it is helpful that the new restrictions allow students to return to Cambridge if they lack suitable study space at home.

The Bursar updated the College Council on the arrangements in College in the light of the new restrictions. Daily asymptomatic testing is available in the week commencing 11 January for students returning to Cambridge. On Monday 11 January, 42 students were tested, and none returned a positive result. Any students returning after the testing on Friday 15th will need to isolate until the regular weekly asymptomatic testing resumes on Wednesday 20th January.

The College Council agreed the revised Social Distancing and Face-Covering Policy (**CP2021/001c**) which tightens the rules on social distancing, requiring two-metre social distancing at all times rather than a one-metre-plus other measures approach. Masks must be worn at all times in communal areas and when with other people indoors, subject to exceptions as listed in the policy, such as when eating and drinking. Outdoors their use is not mandatory but recommended.

The College Council also agreed the revised Isolation and Testing Guidance (**CP2021/001b**). The guidance is given to students or resident fellows who need to isolate and outlines the regulations which apply in different scenarios. The changes for January 2021 are incremental and in line with government guidance, notably the reduction of the isolation time from two weeks to 10 days in all cases. Those who are self-isolating are allowed to leave their rooms once daily for up to 60 minutes for the purposes of outdoor exercise in the College gardens, but only at designated times. These times, at the start and end of the day, reduce the risk of someone who has tested positive coming into contact with a member of the College staff.

The University testing programme is not valid for the government's test-to-release initiative which allows for a release from quarantine after 5 days instead of 10 for people who have travelled to the UK from overseas. The reimbursement of students who pay for private tests as part of the test-to-release scheme will be considered initially through Tutors on a case-by-case basis. Students renting privately in College or in College apartments remain eligible to join the asymptomatic testing, though in practice before Christmas the take-up from such students was limited.

It was noted that managing the buddy system for self-isolating students remained the responsibility of the JCR and MCR student communities and the JCR President confirmed that the JCR Committee was engaged with adapting last term's system to smaller numbers of undergraduates.

The arrangements for households and also College testing pools will be considered carefully when numbers of students have been finalized.



College testing pools will consist of a minimum of four students and the option of merging previous households will be considered to allow for households of reasonable sizes to support student mental health. Designated study spaces will remain open around the College, initially the Bar and Walters Room.

The Bursar reported on the College's financial position, as outlined in **CP2021//001a**. The College has experienced unprecedented financial losses. This term student accommodation and catering income will be greatly reduced, and the Bursar is working with Heads of Departments on furlough arrangements for staff, to reflect the fact that fewer students will be in residence. The Bursar re-stated the College's commitment to protecting job security as far as possible. The College Council agreed to endorse the policy by which furloughed staff are asked to take one day a week of holiday each week during the first eight weeks of furlough. Despite concerns at the time the budget was set with regard to maintaining the College's cash flow, the College continues to have sufficient cash to support the College's day-to-day needs and this is expected to continue through the remainder of the financial year. Council agreed that rents would not be charged where students are not able to return to Cambridge for the Lent Term. It noted, however, that rents are payable when students are in residence and will be charged as normal when residency requirements are once again in operation, with financial support available through Tutors.

cc2021.4

*Any Other Unreserved Business*

There was no other unreserved business.

