



## MINUTES

*of a meeting of Governing Body in the Harrison Room  
at 8.30 pm on Tuesday 5 November 2024*

There were present the Master, Dr Armitage, Professor Baert, Dr Bardhan, Dr Beauregard, Dr Bitney, Professor Chu, Dr Eves, Dr Filimonova, Dr Gardner, Dr Halina, Professor Haustein, Dr Hopkins, Dr Howard, Dr Impett, Professor Keeler, Dr Kim, Mr Kitov, Professor Larcom, Ms MacDonald, Dr McDougall, Dr Milbank Robinson, Professor Moultrie, Mr Nicholson, Professor Nikiforakis, Dr O'Donnell, Dr O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Reinbold, Professor Sage, Dr Sewell, Dr D. Smith, Dr T. Smith, Dr Soderman, Professor Stewart, Professor Summers, Professor Tasker, Dr Tavakkolnia, Dr Vargas Weil, Professor Velu, Dr Venkateshvaran, Dr Viejo Rose, Dr Wilcox, Dr Woodford, Dr V. Young, Dr Zhang, the JCR President, Ms Zogi Shala, and the acting MCR President, Mr Pendleton. Dr Briggs, Professor Connell, Professor Ellis, Professor Felli and Dr Lee were on sabbatical leave.

### UNRESERVED BUSINESS

*gb2024.39 Starred Items*

It was confirmed that starred items would not be discussed.

*gb2024.40 Statement of Conflicts of Interest*

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

*gb2024.41 Apologies for Absence*

Apologies were received from Dr Al Azmeh, Dr Balakrishnan, Professor Butterfield, Dr Button, Dr Cameron, Professor Cant, Professor Dicks, Ms Domenici, Mrs Fraser Butlin, Mr Helm, Dr Jenkins, Dr de Lera Acedo, Professor Meer, Dr da Silva, Dr Thompson, and the JCR Treasurer, Mr Chakravarty. The MCR Treasurer, Mr Cameron, had graduated.

*gb2024.42 Minutes of the Unreserved Governing Body Meeting held on 18 June 2024*

The minutes were received and signed.

*gb2024.43 Matters Arising*

There were no matters arising. The Master welcomed Mr Pendleton and Dr Tavakkolonia on their first meeting of Governing Body.

*gb2024.44 Accounts for the Year Ending 30 June 2024*

The Bursar presented College Annual Accounts for 2023-24 (GB2024/13). The unrestricted income had risen as a result of the College receiving around £2.7m in

legacies, an unprecedented figure. The College's financial position overall is also strengthening, and in real terms has improved to show a -£0.4 deficit. For three years in a row the College has received more than £1m in donations. Last year, it was agreed to budget annually for £600k in donations. The conference income has risen, to match pre-Covid performance and will start to level off in the near future as the business taken matches available capacity. There remains a significant underlying deficit to address on members' catering.

The budgeted deficit for 2024-25 stands at -£1.1m, substantially below the 2023-24 performance, even when unrestricted donations are adjusted to £0.6m in both years. The worsening position is due to increased wages and stipend costs, and a growth in catering consumable costs linked to increased conference catering sales. This figure is before the recently announced increases to employer national insurance are applied from 1 April 2025. The College needs to remain cautious in relation to both its operational and capital spending and constrain non-essential capital projects. The College's free reserves stand at £6.7m, which still has some way to travel to meet the aims expressed in the reserves policy.

The Bursar emphasised that the College received a clear audit report from the auditors, PEM. The Governing Body agreed to recommend the accounts to the College Council for approval on its meeting of 12 November 2024, and agreed to the Master signing the Letter of Representation on behalf of the College.

The Governing Body recorded its warm thanks to the Finance Manager, Mrs Clayson, at her final Audit meeting, for her important contribution to the College and her long service of 27 years.

gb2024.45

*JCR and MCR Accounts*

The JCR and MCR signed accounts for 2023-24 were received and noted (**GB2024/14**). One term's allocation will be withheld from the MCR as a result of the continued high level of reserves. It was clarified that the JCR disability fund was used to subsidise short-term financial need, such as taxi use as a result of accidents, and did not replicate other College funds.

gb2024.46

*Investment Committee*

The Investment Committee's Annual Report 2023 was received and noted (**GB2024/15**).

gb2024.47

*Employer Justified Retirement Age and the College Statutes*

The Bursar reported on the University's recent changes to its retirement policy and the amendment of its Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) to 69 **GB2024/16**. It was noted that since a significant majority of Governing Body Fellows are academics employed by the University, it was now the case that for many Fellows such employment would be able to continue to the age of 69. The current statutes intentionally link service on the Governing Body to such employment. The Governing Body agreed that it was in the best interests of the College to retain a link between membership of Governing Body and such employment, rather than to move towards a situation where all Fellows, including Fellows Emeriti, were members of Governing Body. It was noted that in such Colleges where all Fellows serve on Governing Body, governance structures can become less effective. It was agreed that the Governing Body would want to retain a limit even if the University lifted the EJRA entirely. By

means of a secret ballot, Governing Body agreed by an overwhelming majority to amend the College's statutes to adopt an EJRA of 69 as its retirement date for Fellows and additionally to create a retirement policy within Regulations based on that principle. The Governing Body agreed that the Statutes Committee will meet to consider the implications for the wording of the College's Statutes.

*gb2024.48*

*Senior Tutor's Report*

The Senior Tutor reported on the College's strong academic performance in Tripos in 2024 (**GB2024/17**). The percentage of the candidates achieving Good Honours (88.1) was especially pleasing, and Selwyn was the only College where the proportion of results below the lower second class was under 2%. No one failed Tripos in 2024. When considering attainment gaps the key conclusion was that the College generally performed better than the University averages. The Senior Tutor extended thanks to the students and those who teach and support them for their hard work and commitment.

The University's Review of Teaching and Learning continues, an early result has been an attempt by the Senior Tutors' Committee and General Board to reinvigorate Triposes' directors of studies meetings. The review encompasses the impact of any recommendations on academic staff. The Senior Tutor noted the strength of the support in the Tutorial Office and thanked the Tutorial Office Manager, Miss Vivian-Neal.

*gb2024.49*

*Admissions Matters*

The Admissions Tutors, Dr Beauregard and Dr T. Smith, reported that the number of undergraduate applications was in line with recent, good years, and that over 80% of home applicants were from maintained schools, with good proportions of applicants from widening participation backgrounds and from the College's link areas. It was noted that the College would aim to make offers in approximately similar proportions to the proportion of applicants. Directors of Studies were reminded that one interviewer in every interview must read the full file before interview and to check for extenuating circumstances before meeting the candidate. During the interview, ID checks are a requirement this year, and interviewees will be reminded to attend with their ID ready for checking. The Admissions Tutors thanked the School Liaison Officers and Mrs Pym for their support throughout the year.

*gb2024.50*

*Development Matters*

The Development Director thanked and congratulated Mr Fox and the editors of the College Calendar on the latest issue, and thanked all Fellows and students who had contributed to it. It was noted that the College Calendar was one of three publications sent out in the post each year to alumni who valued the quality of the College's publications. Around 700 alumni were welcomed each year to the College's events with the auditorium full for recent lectures and the choir's events in London well attended, something which translates into alumni support for the College. Last year, the College had received its highest level of donations, a total of £4.6m.

*gb2024.51*      *College Holiday Dates*

The meeting noted the College holiday dates for 2025 (**GB2024/18**).

*gb2024.52*      *Any Other Unreserved Business*

The Master thanked Ms Zogi Shala on her final meeting of Governing Body.