

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor K. Nation, Professor W. Mattli, Professor P. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor A. Starinets, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M. Omri, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor D. Kwiatkowski, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor Sir. R. Collins, Professor I. Klinke, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor S. Toussaert, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Mr C. D'Urso (MCR President), Mr P. Fernandes (JCR President), Ms Z. Hussain (JCR Vice-President)

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor S. Elston, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Wright, Professor J. Schnell, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor R. Slater, Professor B. McFarlane

In attendance: Dr. S. Campbell, Ms. D. Cripps

**ACTION****AGENDA 'A'**1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were **approved**.

2. Ball Steering Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were received.

3. Domestic Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were received.

The Domestic Bursar highlighted the designated smoking areas in College.

4. Any other business

The President reported on the recent occupation of Front Quad by protesters from the Oxford Climate Justice Campaign. The protest had lasted from Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January until Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and included a few members of College, but also an individual claiming to be an Associate Member of the MCR who proved to be a member of another College. Most of the protesters were not College members.

The College's actions had focused on protecting the security of both members and buildings, including restricting access to areas beyond Front Quad and the Holmes building (for toilets). The President and Senior Dean had a productive meeting with representatives of the protest. They listened to the group's concerns and explained the aims of the College's Ethical Investment Working Group as it reviewed this complex and multi-dimensional issue.

There had been widespread reporting of the protest, particularly of an email exchange between the Principal Bursar and a student. The College had received correspondence on the issue with views broadly balanced on either side of the debate. The President highlighted a number of ongoing activities, including her own attendance at a sustainability conference in March. Dr Ben

Caldecott, Director of the Oxford Sustainable Finance Programme had also been invited to address the 8<sup>th</sup> Week meeting of Governing Body.

The Governing Body was reminded that the last two major building programmes in the College, dating back at least fifteen years in planning, had made provision for carbon-offsetting and carbon-neutrality. The College would continue to investigate its own carbon footprint further: there was already a programme in place for increased insulation, the installation of LED lighting and the replacement of inefficient boilers but more could be achieved. The Principal Bursar presented detailed figures showing that, in totality, these measures had been successful to date in containing the College's carbon output, notwithstanding the growth in its activity.

The MCR President noted that there was no consensus of opinion regarding the protest amongst MCR members. He regretted that MCR rules had been broken and the MCR Committee would be reviewing the terms of Associate Membership as a result.

The JCR President reported that the JCR had expressed its support for the protest and the process of divestment. Meetings with the President and Principal Bursar had been helpful and he suggested that more communication with and from the Working Group would be welcomed.

The President reported that a statement would be agreed after each meeting of the Working Group and would be posted on the College intranet.

She thanked staff for their support during the protest, with particular thanks to the Lodge and Communications teams.

#### **BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE**

##### 5. Promotion of the Arts Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were received.