

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 22nd April 2020 at 2.00 p.m remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Present: The President, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor R. G. Compton, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Professor C. Whistler, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, Professor D. Martin, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane

Apologies: Professor W. Mattli, The Revd. Prof. W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor A. Russell, Professor Sir. R. Collins

In attendance: Dr. S. Campbell, Dr. M. Nicholls, Mrs E. Marston, Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 11th March 2020 were **approved**.

In matters arising the President noted that a number of items in the minutes referred to future expenditure. These would be reviewed at the 1st Week meeting of General Purposes Committee.

2. Update from the President

The President reported on the recent meeting of the Conference of Colleges and updated the Governing Body on the latest briefing from the University on possible scenarios for the next academic year. She noted that some funds in the College Contribution Scheme might be allocated to offset financial issues arising in a number of colleges from the Covid-19 situation.

She also noted the ongoing work on admissions and highlighted the access and outreach team's work on increasing the amount of material available on Inspire Digital. Work was continuing on various projects, including the Bursarial Review.

3. Update from the Principal Bursar

The Principal Bursar briefed the Governing Body on the current and potential impact of Covid-19 on the College's finances and the number of staff who had been furloughed on full salary. He noted the underlying strength of the endowment and the likely effects of a loss of investment and rental income. He highlighted the need to augment student hardship funds and reported that the academic grant had already been increased.

Where possible, building projects would be halted or slowed, including Phase III of the Library project. Some of the pillars in Canterbury Quad required emergency support and it was **agreed** to proceed with this work []. Work on the Lodge refurbishment continued.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

The Governing Body discussed the issue of ticket refunds for the cancelled Commemoration Ball. Following a vote, it was **agreed** to reimburse ticket purchasers. The Principal Bursar (Andrew Parker) wished to have his dissent from this decision formally recorded.

It was also **agreed** to offer an alternative scheme whereby the refund could instead be donated to a fund for students experiencing hardship as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. The Senior Dean and Director of Development and Alumni Relations would finalise the details.

SENIOR DEAN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

4. Governance arrangements for Trinity Term 2020

The President reported that the College's Bronze Group had asked for suggestions on how best to proceed with governance during Trinity Term 2020.

Two routes had been considered: either to continue to manage business according to existing structures as far as possible, with some adjustment as necessary to reflect current circumstances; or to rearrange business for a more streamlined method of governance and decision-making.

The Governing Body **agreed** that a more streamlined approach (see Appendix One), with a number of committees doing their business by email circulation, was appropriate for Trinity Term. The arrangements would be reviewed at the 5th Week meeting of Governing Body.

The President would continue to meet MCR and JCR Officers, with other relevant College Officers, on a regular basis in order to represent junior members and ensure that issues and concerns raised were brought to the attention of the College.

PRESIDENT

5. Educational Policy Committee Sub-group

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2020 were received.

The Senior Tutor updated the Governing Body on a range of issues, including teaching arrangements for Trinity Term, examination arrangements, the beginning of term Collections and the procedure for the administration of Academic and Special Grants. He noted that the Academic Grant had been increased by £150.

The Governing Body **agreed** that recruitment to posts already in process should continue, including a Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in Politics for Michaelmas Term and appointments to Stipendiary Lectureships. The Chair in Women's History was going ahead as planned and shortlisting for the Fellowship in Philosophy was scheduled.

VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC), SENIOR TUTOR

The Governing Body thanked the Senior Tutor and the Academic Administrator for all their hard work over the vacation.

6. Election to Supernumerary Fellowship

The Governing Body **elected** Dr. E. Wonnacott, Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics, to a Supernumerary Fellowship (with membership of Governing Body) from 1st September 2020.

PRESIDENT

7. EJRA case

The President reported that the Employment Appeal Tribunal had agreed to hear Professor Pitcher's appeal and that this would most likely be scheduled for 2021. Professor Pitcher's grievance against the College was also in process.

PRESIDENT

8. Medium-size grant

The Governing Body **agreed** a Medium-size Grant to Professor Whistler [] for a four-month project on ‘The anonymous drawing: values and identities’.

FELLOW FOR RESEARCH

9. Any other business

The Finance Bursar updated the Governing Body on the latest information from USS.

She also reported on a letter received from HMRC notifying College of the withdrawal of the extra-statutory concession covering the current tax treatment of individuals provided by their employer with living accommodation as ‘representative occupiers’ with effect from 6 April 2021. She would update General Purposes Committee further at its 1st Week meeting.

FINANCE BURSAR

The Governing Body thanked the College Librarian and her team for their work in helping students to access the materials they needed to study and for ensuring as much material as possible was available online.

FELLOW LIBRARIAN

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

10. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges held on 19th March 2020 were received.

APPENDIX ONE

CALENDAR TRINITY TERM 2020				
	12 noon	2.00 pm	3.00 pm	4.00 pm
Week 0 (Wed): 22/04/20		Stated General Meeting of Governing Body (<i>MS Teams</i>)		
Week 1 (Wed): 29/04/20		General Purposes (<i>MS Teams</i>)		
Week 2 (Wed): 06/05/20	Domestic (<i>MS Teams</i>)	Educational Policy (<i>MS Teams</i>)		
Week 3 (Mon): 11/05/20	Investment (11 am) (<i>MS Teams</i>)			
Week 3 (Wed): 13/05/20	Promotion of the Arts (<i>email circulation</i>)	General Purposes (<i>MS Teams</i>)		
Week 4 (Wed): 20/05/20	Chapel & Patronage (<i>email circulation</i>)	Finance & Estates (<i>MS Teams</i>)		
Week 5 (Tue): 26/05/20	Development & Alumni Relations (11 am) (<i>MS Teams</i>)			
Week 5 (Wed): 27/05/20	Equality (<i>email circulation</i>)	Governing Body(<i>MS Teams</i>)		
Week 6 (Wed): 03/06/20	Web Consultative & Academic Services (<i>MS Teams</i>)	Research (<i>email circulation</i>)	Health & Safety (<i>email circulation</i>)	
Week 7 (Tue): 09/06/20	Remuneration (9 am) (<i>MS Teams</i>)			
Week 7 (Wed): 10/06/20	Decanal (<i>email circulation</i>)	Educational Policy (<i>MS Teams</i>)		Garden Perambulation (<i>email circulation</i>)
Week 8 (Wed): 17/06/20		General Purposes (<i>MS Teams</i>)		
Week 9 (Tue): 23/06/20		Stated General Meeting of Governing Body (<i>MS Teams</i>)		
Week 11 (Fri): 10/07/20		Governing Body (<i>MS Teams</i>)		