

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, Mr C. D'Urso (MCR President), Ms. M Friedemann (MCR Vice-President), Mr P. Fernandes (JCR President), Ms Z. Hussain (JCR Vice-President), Mr. L. Hinley (JCR Secretary), Ms. I. Sharma (President, Ball Working Party)

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 'A'**1. Minutes and matters arising

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

The President welcomed attendees to the first virtual meeting of Governing Body and detailed the protocol to be followed.

She noted the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and offered the College's condolences to two members of staff who had lost family members. She thanked the Bronze Group for their work since the end of Hilary Term and particularly thanked the porters for their ongoing support of students who remained in residence and the IT team for their assistance in helping everyone to work remotely.

2. Ball Steering Committee

The Senior Dean briefed the Governing Body on the decision to cancel the College Ball that was scheduled to take place on 26 June. He outlined the reasons for cancelling the Ball outright rather than rescheduling to 2021, specifically a prior commitment to host Encaenia in 9th Week of Trinity Term 2021 and more generally the uncertainty regarding the impact of Covid-19 on the University and on the economy more broadly. He noted that some other colleges had also cancelled outright, whilst others had decided to reschedule.

The question of the refunding of tickets, either in full or partially, remained. It was felt that a decision to provide financial support for the reimbursement of ticket-holders required a full discussion in Governing Body.

The Senior Dean thanked Ms. Sharma and the other members of the Ball Working Party for the work they had put into the winding-up process. The Ball Working Party had been working to get refunds from suppliers wherever possible but there was still a considerable deficit.

Ms. Sharma detailed the expected deficit, which would mean a loss per ticketholder ranging from £19 to £91, dependent on ticket type. Junior Members were very disappointed by the cancellation of the Ball and that it was not possible to reschedule the event. They wished to achieve full refunds for their tickets.

The JCR President thanked the President and other College Officers for keeping himself and the MCR President updated. He noted that, whilst the College was not alone in cancelling its ball, it would be unique if it did not offer a full refund. He argued that, whilst the loss per ticket might seem a manageable sum, the College could not decide how much an amount of money was worth to students. He also noted the reputational risk to the College if the Governing Body did not underwrite the costs of the Ball.

The MCR President reiterated these points, noting in addition that it had been the College's choice not to reschedule the Ball to 2021. He also highlighted the possible reputational damage and that, given the size of its endowment, the College could afford to cover the loss.

The Governing Body agreed to consider the points made in reaching its decision on the issue of refunds.

3. Rents and Charges 2020–21

The Principal Bursar noted the current financial uncertainty and the unknown impact of Covid-19 on future costs.

The Governing Body **agreed** that rents and charges for 2020/21 would be maintained at the current level in force for 2019/20. It also agreed that determination of rents and charges for 2021/22 would take into account increases in domestic costs over a two-year period (i.e. 2019/20 and 2020/21).

PRINCIPAL BURSAR