

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 23rd June 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 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 N. P. Harberd, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Bray, Professor D. Kwiatkowski, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane, Dr. M. Nicholls, Mr C. D'Urso (MCR President), Ms Z. Hussain (JCR Vice-President), Mr. L. Hinley (JCR Secretary)

Apologies: The Revd. Prof. W. Whyte, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Toussaert, Mr P. Fernandes (JCR President)

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

AGENDA 'A'

ACTION

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 27th May 2020 were **approved**.

2. President's Report

The President reported on three events that had recently been held with Junior Members: an open forum on 12th June (attended by 60 students, chaired by the Vice-President (Academic) and with questions fielded by the President and Senior Tutor), a (virtual) Leavers' Service on 14th June (attended by 40 students) and a forum on BAME issues on 16th June (attended by 55 students, chaired by Professor Klinke and with questions answered by the President and Professor Maini). Around 20 questions had been addressed in the open forum with the emphasis being on accommodation issues and plans for the return in Michaelmas Term.

The BAME forum had received 40 questions around a number of common themes. The key issues focused on: implicit bias and race-awareness training for all staff, both academic and non-academic; the steps being taken by College to increase diversity for all staff groups; the request for more transparency about disciplinary procedures and communication of the outcomes, both for staff and student issues; the availability of a specific BAME counsellor and easy access to appropriate services; the College's work on increasing access; and the need for better and more consistent internal communications to the student body. The Governing Body would discuss and agree on an action plan to work on the issues raised, including the creation of a working group in Michaelmas Term.

The President also noted the University's latest release of admissions statistics for 2017–19. The College was making steady progress on a number of measures, including on the percentage of BAME students (22.% for St John's compared to 19.4% for the University), and was continuing

to focus on increasing access through its Inspire programme, participation in Opportunity Oxford and its support of Target Oxbridge.

The Fellow for Equality read a statement from the JCR Equality and Diversity Officer, reporting on the BAME forum and noting Junior Members' expectations that the proposed working group would be able to:

- put steps in place to improve diversity, specifically the Black population, within all academic and non-academic staff;
- make clearer signposting for BAME counselling;
- improve the contact between students and College regarding discriminatory/racial incidents;
- introduce baseline EDI training, compulsory for all staff;
- find new ways to support BAME students after racial incidents

The MCR spokesperson on BAME matters also highlighted the request for a system of anonymous reporting of incidents to ensure that College was aware of students' daily experience. This had already been considered by Equality Committee but would be further discussed.

3. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2020 were received.

The Senior Tutor highlighted the 2020 Academic Feedback Thematic Report. It was noted that there was an appetite for a blended approach, including both subject-level and individual tutor feedback.

SENIOR TUTOR

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

4. Equality Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2020 were received.

5. Academic Services Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2020 were received.

6. Decanal Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2020 were received.