

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 2.00 p.m. remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Present: The President, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, 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, The Revd. Prof. W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, 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 J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor E. Wonnacott, Dr. M. Nicholls, Dr. D. Sprengel (ECR Representative), Mr C. D'Urso (MCR President), Mr P. Fernandes (JCR President), Ms Z. Hussain (JCR Vice-President), Mr. L. Hinley (JCR Secretary), Mr. E. O'Leary (JCR President-Elect)

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Professor Sir. R. Collins, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor N. Jones

In attendance: 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 November 2020 were **approved**.

The President welcomed Dr. Sprengel as ECR Representative and Mr. O'Leary as JCR President-Elect.

2. President's Update

The President reported that the Race and Equality Working Group had now identified work streams covering training, the reporting of racial incidents, the creation of a St John's BAME network, and ideas on how to celebrate alumni past and present.

The President noted that there were currently no positive cases of Covid in College and that, over the course of the term, there had been 64 positive tests and 75 households self-isolating, with a total of 459 students having completed isolation overall. Three members of staff had tested positive but had not contracted Covid at work. The Christmas Travel Tests were underway and the President encouraged Governing Body to 'nudge' students to have a test before 9th December. There would be some testing slots for graduate students during the following week but, if testing were left too late, students ran the risk of not being able to travel home safely.

The President highlighted the final 40 Years of Women event, a very informative [discussion](#) with three alumni on disability and education.

3. Hilary Term Calendar

The draft Calendar was **agreed**.

4. JCR President's Valedictory Address

Mr. Fernandes described how, looking at the addresses of previous JCR Presidents for inspiration, he had realized just what an unusual year this had been. There had been no negotiations over Rents and Charges and not much to report on plays, concerts and sporting activities as they had not been able to take place. Mr. Fernandes therefore gave a first-hand account of what it had been like to be a student at St John's in 2020, experiencing life in the middle of a pandemic. He reported how spending Trinity Term at home had made him realise how much he valued his independence, which parts of College life he cherished, and how sad he had been not to say goodbye to the finalists.

The JCR had adapted swiftly to online meetings and had shown great ingenuity in creating a range of virtual events, including a virtual Freshers' Week. He noted the silver linings that had resulted from the situation including paying by card at the bar and in hall, the disappearance of paper forms and Bod card top-ups soon to be implemented. He thanked College for the steps taken in response to the pandemic including the TW marquee and the generous increase to the academic grant. Where there had been disagreement with College, he had valued the open discussion and the work achieved on improving communications to students.

In closing, Mr. Fernandes reflected that this year had shown just how adaptable the JCR and the College could be and that it was the small things that made being an undergraduate at St John's so special.

On behalf of Governing Body, the President thanked the JCR President for his moving address and the outgoing JCR Committee for all their hard work. She agreed that strong links had been forged between the Common Rooms, built on mutual respect, and noted the feeling of loss, especially for the finalists. Governing Body also expressed their thanks via virtual claps and comments in the Teams chat.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

5. Equality Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2020 were received.

6. Academic Services Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2020 were received.

7. Decanal Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2020 were received.