

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 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 Z. Molnár, Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Prof. W. Whyte, 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 A. Russell, 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 K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor E. Wonnacott, Dr. M. Nicholls, Professor N. K. Jones

Apologies: Professor C. Whistler, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor P. Maini, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor G. Rose

In attendance: Dr. S. Campbell, Dr K. Doornik, Mrs E. Marston, Ms. D. Cripps

AGENDA 'B'

ACTION

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 2nd December 2020 were **approved**.

2. Investment Sub-Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2020 were received.

The Strategic Projects Officer updated the Governing Body on the latest developments at Oxford North. It was **agreed** to allocate [] to Thomas White Oxford Ltd to meet estimated expenditure until the end of January.

DEPUTY BURSAR

3. President's update

The President updated the Governing Body on the letter received from the Minister of Education on 31st December and the subsequent guidance from the University regarding the changes to plans for the start of Hilary Term. Three College Officers had dealt with requests from students to return to Oxford and the decisions made had led to a series of complaints, representations from Oxford student societies and an open letter signed by seventy members of the JCR.

The Governing Body thanked the President and Bronze Group for all their work under extreme pressure and endorsed the proposals for considering requests for students to return to Oxford, including the appeals process. It was **agreed** to communicate these decisions to the signatories of the open letter and to circulate a College statement on the matter. It was also **agreed** that the President would write to the Vice-Chancellor and Hilary planning group requesting a more comprehensive, co-ordinated and systematic approach.

The Governing Body noted that welfare support was in place and that students could apply to the hardship fund in case of need.

PRESIDENT

4. Meetings and College Officers

The revised calendar for Hilary Term was received. It was noted that the Strategic Projects Officer would continue to attend Finance and Estates Committee and Investment Sub-Committee.

The Governing Body thanked Professor Maini for serving as the inaugural Fellow for Ethnic Minorities and for his important contributions to College strategy. Professor Pandit would take on the role for the next two terms and Professor Patel would be in post from the next academic year.

The President reported that she had invited an alumna, Tabassum Rasheed, to join the Advisory Group on Race and Equality at the suggestion of the Women's Network.

5. Lamb and Flag – update

The minutes of the Directors' meeting held on 7th January 2021 were received.

The Governing Body noted the decision of the directors to close the Lamb and Flag with the consequence that the company employees would be made redundant and the company wound up. It was **agreed** that the directors should make redundancy payments at the enhanced rate, notwithstanding the resulting fall in amounts that would be repaid to the College [].

The President thanked the directors and noted that the press statement would take account of all issues raised.

DEPUTY BURSAR

6. Fellows' Housing Working Group

The President updated the Governing Body on the meeting of the Fellows' Housing Working Group on 12th January. She reported that the group had received advice from Robert Ham QC on a wide range of questions relating to the work of the group, its role and its remit.

Members of Governing Body noted their conflict of interest on the issue of Fellows' housing.

Having considered the advice of Robert Ham QC, the Governing Body **agreed** to ask Remuneration Committee:

- 1) to consider the issues raised by HMRC's withdrawal of the representative occupier tax exemption and the adverse tax consequences for affected Fellows;
- 2) to consider and make recommendations for changes to Fellows' remuneration, and/or other measures for possible mitigation of the impact of additional tax which will be payable by affected Fellows, in consequence of this withdrawal[].

PRESIDENT

7. Any other business

The Governing Body reviewed the draft of a letter to Mr Bill Galvin, USS Group Chief Executive Officer and **agreed** that the President should sign it on behalf of the College.

It was also **agreed** that Dr. Bill Hayes should be invited to perform a small opening ceremony for the newly refurbished Lodge and that the event would be live-streamed if possible.

The Governing Body congratulated two Honorary Fellows on their recent appointments: the Rt. Hon. Angela Eagle MP had been appointed Dame in the New Year Honours and Dr William Burns had been nominated by President Biden to head the Central Intelligence Agency.