

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 2.00 p.m. both in person and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Present: The President, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. K. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor S. R. Myers, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. d'O. 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 K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor I. Klinke, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor E. Wonnacott, Dr M. Nicholls, Professor N. K. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr. S. Campbell, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor B. Stevenson, Ms. A. Baazaoui (MCR President), Ms. M. Friedemann (MCR Vice-President), Mr E. O'Leary (JCR President), Ms. A. Hegarty (JCR Secretary), Ms. K. Ali (JCR President-Elect)

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Professor S. J. Elston, Professor C. Whistler, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Russell, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor L. Pratt, Professor B. McFarlane

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 10th November 2021 were **approved**.

The President reported that Professors Nation and Starinets would join, and that Mr Tom Hill would replace Mr Roy Copus, as members of Finance and Estates Committee.

The Working Party on divestment from arms would include the Vice-President (Domus) as Chair, Professor Klinke, Professor Skoda, Dr Kantor, Professor Bray, Professor di Mare and the Principal Bursar.

The President noted that there was one positive case of Covid in College and a case of the new Omicron variant elsewhere in Oxford. The Governing Body **agreed** to cancel this year's Pensioners' Christmas Dinner for a second year as a precaution. College now expected face coverings to be worn in meetings and when moving around buildings.

2. Academic Services Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2021 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** a plan to restructure the library staffing, including recruitment of a full-time permanent Deputy and a Readers' Services Librarian, to take effect after the retirement of the Deputy Librarian in Hilary Term 2022.

LIBRARIAN

The Governing Body noted its thanks to Mrs Ogden and looked forward to celebrating her retirement in due course.

A number of Fellows expressed concerns about the University's online information security awareness course. In light of the increased number of ransomware and phishing attacks in higher education, however, the Governing Body **agreed** that all academic and non-academic staff should complete the updated online course. The Principal Bursar would feed concerns and suggestions for improvement of the course to the University's IT team.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR, ALL STAFF

3. Domestic and Establishment Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2021 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** the Student Events with Alcohol Policy and the Room Booking for Academic, Student and Staff Events Policy. The Principal Bursar would review the need for Fellows to give permission for particular bookings.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

The Governing Body also **agreed** to commission continued tree consultancy from Michael Lear [], together with further work on the replanting of banks, new garden designs for theatrical shrubbery, and continued computerisation of the tree map [].

KEEPER OF THE GROVES

4. Fellows' Housing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2021 were received.

The President noted concerns that had been raised with her prior to the meeting and the potential for a conflict of interest for many Fellows in discussing the issues.

The Principal Bursar made a statement to Governing Body on the process that had been followed prior to the meeting of Fellows' Housing Committee in order to resolve the difficult issues consequent on the decision of HMRC to withdraw the representative occupier tax exemption. She noted issues regarding conflict of interest and employment considerations that also needed to be taken into account.

The Governing Body meeting was adjourned and a 'Town Hall' meeting convened to enable all members of Governing Body to exchange views without risk of being conflicted.

The Governing Body meeting was subsequently reconvened without conflicted Fellows present.

After further discussion of the issues, the non-conflicted Fellows **agreed** to allocate [] to Professor Stanyek, under the terms and conditions of the Hart-Synnot scheme, after a secret ballot vote with ten in support, two against and one abstention.

It was also **agreed** that a long-term view should be taken with regard to housing and that Fellows participating in the Hart-Synnot scheme should fully understand and acknowledge their risk in relation to future possible changes to tax law.

It was further **agreed** that decisions on the allocation of houses to the College's housing schemes, and of houses to individual Fellows, would continue to be approved by Governing Body, following consideration by Fellows' Housing Committee.

It was noted that a policy on returning houses to the Hart-Synnot scheme in the future would need to be established.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

5. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2021 were received.

Professor Craig Maclean was elected to a fixed-term Supernumerary Fellowship, without membership of Governing Body, for three years from 1st October 2022. The Governing Body **agreed** that the terms of the Fellowship would include full dining rights, a teaching and research allowance, and a room in College.

VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC), SENIOR TUTOR

It was **agreed** that the Junior Research Fellowship of Dr K. Juchems should be extended for a fourth and final year, with effect from 1st October 2022.

SENIOR TUTOR

In line with the recommendations of the Size and Shape review, it was also **agreed** to increase the number of offers to the graduate admissions quota as follows: MPP, two; Law, three; Archaeology & Anthropology, one, with one offer to be reserved for Archaeology degree programmes; Physics, one, for the MMathPhys.

It was also **agreed** to review the Classics quota.

SENIOR TUTOR, DR KANTOR, PROFESSOR OLSZEWSKA

Sabbatical leave was **agreed** for Professor Wright (Hilary Term and Trinity Term 2023).

The Senior Tutor reported that Collections were going ahead in person with increased provision for ventilation and social distancing. He asked tutors to contact him if they had any concerns.

6. Research Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2021 were received and an amendment noted regarding the report of the Fellow for Early Career Researchers.

The Governing Body **agreed** a Large Grant [] for Professor di Mare for a project called 'Numerical Stalls'.

Requests for other grants were **agreed** as follows:

- a) a Visiting Researcher Grant to Professor Andrei Starinets for Professor James Unwin, University of Illinois at Chicago, from January–August 2023 [];
- b) a Visiting Researcher Grant to Professor Andrei Starinets for Professor Pavel Kovtun, University of Victoria, Canada, from September 2022–January 2023 [].

The grants would cover travel expenses, accommodation and dining rights in accordance with the scheme.

The research budget for 2021/22 was **agreed**.

FELLOW FOR RESEARCH

7. Hilary Term Calendar

The draft Calendar was **agreed**.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

8. Development and Alumni Relations Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2021 were received.

9. Bronze Group

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2021 were received.

10. Official guests to dinners, 2021/22

The list of official guests to dinners in 2021/22 was received.

11. Wine Steward's report

The report of the Wine Steward for 2020/21 was received.

The Governing Body thanked Mr Holdstock for his thorough and dedicated work in the wine cellar.

12. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges on 11th November 2021 were received.

The President noted that she would be a member of a small working group reviewing undergraduate bursaries.