

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 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 'A'**1. Minutes and matters arising

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

The President welcomed Ms. Ali as JCR President-Elect.

2. Decanal Committee

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

The Senior Dean noted that the committee had discussed governance relationships and the potential for overlap between disciplinary and welfare issues. It had been suggested that the General Purposes Committee should consider replacing the committee with a Welfare Committee, pending the outcome of the Welfare Review. The JCR President noted that the JCR Welfare Officers were supportive of this suggestion.

PRESIDENT, SENIOR DEAN3. Educational Policy Committee

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

4. ESG considerations of the College's endowment

The Principal Bursar introduced a report undertaken by Executive MBA students of the Cambridge Judge Business School investigating environmental, social and governance considerations with regard to the College's endowment. The report detailed helpful analysis and a number of recommendations for future work.

She thanked Fellows and staff who had been interviewed for the report. She would be setting up a sustainability working group to develop the College's approach and policy moving forward.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

5. Hilary Term Calendar

The draft Calendar was **agreed**.

6. JCR President's Valedictory Address

Mr. O'Leary described the changes – and continuity – that the past twelve months had brought to life in College and in the JCR. He noted the difficult situation of Hilary Term 2021 when many students, studying and being taught online from home as a result of the pandemic, felt alienated from the College and its decision-making processes. Mr O'Leary noted his deep regret for the ongoing rift that had resulted for some students, especially given the emphasis he had placed as JCR President on being together as a community. He urged the Governing Body to mend this rift as a matter of urgency.

Mr O'Leary highlighted his experience of a year at the operational heart of an Oxford college, noting the broad range of work carried out and the reality of discursive governance by academics. He noted the changes that such governance had enabled, the progress achieved over decades, and the projects still in progress on sustainability, racial and gender equality, access to higher education, and staff and student welfare.

In closing, Mr O'Leary noted his gratitude to the JCR Committee and to his colleagues in the MCR. He hoped that the College would always be a place, not just of education, but of inclusive and generous conversation.

On behalf of Governing Body, the President thanked the JCR President for his address and the outgoing JCR Committee for all their hard work during difficult times. She particularly thanked the JCR President for the leadership he had shown throughout his time in office and for keeping the College's values and mission at the forefront of all he had done. His collegiality, patience and respect for all had been outstanding.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

7. Equality Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2021 were received.

The President commended the anti-racism training to Fellows. The Fellow for Equality would be arranging additional sessions and she encouraged everyone to attend.

8. Academic Services Committee

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

9. Public Statement of the Oxford Union on the Equality and Access Report

The Governing Body noted the numerous recommendations for the Oxford Union in the recent Equality and Access Report. This had been instituted after resolution of a dispute with a (now former) St John's student, Mr Ebenezer Azamati.