

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 2.00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Present: The President, Professor R. G. Compton, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor C. Whistler, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr G. Kantor, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J.J. Pandit, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor I. Klinke, 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 E. Wonnacott, Dr M. Nicholls, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr. S. Campbell, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor B. Stevenson

Apologies: Professor P. K. Maini, Professor J. Schnell, Professor N. d'O. Lübecker, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor B. Murnane, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor G. Rose, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor N. K. Jones

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 1st December 2021 were **approved** with two amendments suggested to clarify minute 4 (Fellows' Housing Committee) with regard to i) which Fellows were conflicted with regard to decision on housing, and ii) the need, when allocated a house under the Hart-Synnot scheme, to understand and acknowledge the risk in relation to future possible changes to tax law.

The Principal Bursar noted that she would be taking a paper on housing issues to General Purposes Committee and invited Fellows' input.

GOVERNING BODY2. President's Report

The Governing Body congratulated Professor Burt de Perera, Professor of Animal Behaviour, and Professor Beem, Professor of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, on being awarded titles of distinction by the University.

The Governing Body also congratulated two Honorary Fellows on their recent appointments: Professor Myles Allen had been appointed CBE for services to 'Climate Change and Prediction and Net-Zero' in the New Year Honours and Rt. Hon. Sir Tony Blair had been appointed Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. The President would write to congratulate them both.

PRESIDENT

The President reported that the University remained at Business Continuity Plan Level 2. Large social events had been cancelled for the first two weeks of term, including the first JCR Bop. Formal Hall, however, would continue and Bronze Group would review the overall situation again in the following week.

The Governing Body **approved** the decision of Bronze Group that the Second-year Dinner should go ahead on 19th January but as a free-of-charge Formal Hall with no high table and no obligation for tutors to attend.

The President consulted Governing Body on their interest in bidding for a new Statutory Professorship, the Mercian Professorship of Applied Digital Health, after having consulted the medical Fellows and other tutors in the Medical Sciences Division. It was **agreed** that whilst an exciting and interesting area, decisions should be taken in the context of fit with the Size and Shape review. The President would consult further at General Purposes Committee.

PRESIDENT

The President reported that ten colleges were being sought to take part in the first year of Foundation Oxford, one of two University access initiatives, with seven now on board. Following discussion at the last meeting of Educational Policy Committee, the Fellow for Access & Admissions and the Senior Tutor had been tasked with consulting more widely amongst the Fellowship before considering next steps. Some of the concerns that had been raised previously, most notably about curricula and progression from Year 0 to Year 1, had now been addressed.

Another college had signalled its willingness to share an allocation of students with St John's if the Governing Body wished to participate in the programme without initially taking a full complement of students. The Fellow for Access & Admissions explained the programme and Fellows were asked to contact her with their thoughts and questions on the issue. She would circulate the papers about the programme for information and it would be discussed further at the meeting of Educational Policy Committee in 2nd Week.

FELLOW FOR ACCESS & ADMISSIONS, GOVERNING BODY

3. Supernumerary Fellowship

The Governing Body **agreed** to extend the Supernumerary Fellowship of Professor Karthik Ramanna, coterminous with his holding the post of Professor of Business and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, from 1st January 2022.

PRESIDENT

4. Fellows' Housing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2022 were received.

The Principal Bursar was clear that, following previous advice, Official Fellows were conflicted on votes relating to housing. As this view was not universally agreed, there would be further consideration of the matter.

In accordance with previous legal advice on trustees' conflict of interest, the non-conflicted Fellows, noting that the other Fellow in Band 1 had already been allocated another property and there was no conflict between the Fellows in Band 1, **agreed** to allocate [] to Professor Murnane, under the terms and conditions of the Hart-Synnot scheme.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

5. Sustainability Working Group: Terms of Reference and Membership

The Principal Bursar reported that the Sustainability Working Group would work on the development of an environmental sustainability plan for the College.

The group would be chaired by Briony Fitzsimons (Biological Sciences, 2001). The work of the group would be discussed in the Domestic & Establishment Sub-Committee to ensure student engagement and involvement but would report overall to the Domestic & Establishment Committee.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

6. Oxford North Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2021 were received.