

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

A Stated General meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor M. Davies, Professor J. C. G. Pitcher, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor I. J. Sobey, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. Elston, Professor L. Tarassenko, Professor P. P. Craig, Professor K. Nation, Professor L. M. McDowell, Professor P. K. Maini, Dr. C. A. Larrington, Professor A. Wright, Professor J. Schnell, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor Z. Olszewska

Apologies: Dr. C. Whistler, Professor H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor C. Newton, Professor R. Ekins, Professor D. Kwiatkowski, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit, Dr. I. Klinke

In attendance: Dr. E. Clewlow (Academic Dean), Ms. A. Bielby (Director of Development and Alumni Relations), Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016, were **approved**.

It was noted that Professor James had requested that there should be no publicity regarding his recent gift to the College; this did not preclude informing relevant departments of the University.

2. Official Fellowship in Mathematics

Dr. C. Beem was elected as Official Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics, with membership of Governing Body, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

**PRESIDENT**3. Closure of College Gardens

The Acting Principal Bursar reported that the College Gardens would be closed during the construction period of the new Library and Study Centre.

**ACTING PRINCIPAL BURSAR**4. Loan to the College

The Acting Principal Bursar reported that the Principal Bursar and Investment Officer had progressed discussions [ ] with a view to borrowing [ ] via a private placement and that it was likely the College would need to enter into a Binding Agreement for the loan by 12<sup>th</sup> May.

It was **agreed** that a special meeting of Governing Body would be convened at 2.00 on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 to consider the recommendation of Finance Committee (agreed by circulation) with regard to the loan. It was noted that relevant papers might be circulated by email.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

5. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were received.

6. 'Informal' Governing Body

After the formal business of Governing Body, an 'informal' meeting was held to agree the goals and objectives for a fundraising campaign.

The President noted the scale of the potential opportunity and the need for Governing Body to agree the academic priorities of the College.

The Academic Dean briefed Governing Body on the current context within which the College operated: the reputational issues for higher education in the UK – and in Oxford in particular – arising from a lack of diversity and the barriers to access for certain groups of students; the UK government's focus on teaching 'quality' and 'excellence'; the declining amount of UK government investment in higher education; new initiatives such as postgraduate loans and the funding of ESRC doctoral centres for part-time students; and the international context, with potential threats to the attractiveness of UK higher education due to visa restrictions and the new Prevent Duty. Alongside this the College's very strong position was highlighted: application numbers were rising, the College enjoyed high levels of student satisfaction; students were academically successful; and a very high percentage of students achieved graduate-level jobs.

Three discussion groups were then held, focusing on undergraduates, graduates and the College 'community'. It was agreed that the outcomes would be reported to General Purposes Committee and Governing Body during Trinity Term and amalgamated into an overarching academic strategy for the College to underpin the detailed work of developing a fundraising campaign.

**PRESIDENT**