

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor J.C.G. Pitcher, Professor K. P. Tod, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor I. J. Sobey, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor F. A. Armstrong, Dr. C. Whistler, Professor K. Nation, Professor W. Mattli, Professor J. Ouaknine, Professor L. M. McDowell, Dr. C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor R.M. Harding, Professor A. Wright, Professor C. Jeffrey, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray

Apologies: Professor P. K. Maini, Professor A. Starinets, Professor A. Russell, Professor J. Obloj, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 18th February 2015 were **approved**.

2. Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in English

Dr. Michael Hetherington was elected to a five-year fixed-term Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship (without membership of Governing Body) in English Literature 1550–1760 from 1st October 2015.

3. Junior Research Fellowship Elections

Ms. Emily Corran, Ms. Sneha Krishnan, Ms. Lucy Aplin and Mr. Joshua Makepeace were elected to Junior Research Fellowships (without membership of Governing Body) for three years from 1st October 2015.

4. Development and Alumni Relations

The President briefed Governing Body on the Development Review report received from More Partnership. She noted that the analysis affirmed the changes made to date. She also highlighted the supportive comments from Alumni and the encouragement for College to be more ambitious in its aspirations for fundraising.

It was **agreed** to develop the College's 'Case for support' and to draw up an advertisement for a Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

It was also **agreed** that a broader, multi-disciplinary group of Fellows should be engaged in this area of the College's activity and the President encouraged interested Fellows to contact her.

PRESIDENT, PRINCIPAL BURSAR and FOUNDER'S FELLOW5. Library Project

The Principal Bursar reported back on the second presentation of designs for the Otranto Passage.

Governing Body **agreed** that Kirsty Brooks should be invited to accept the commission and be asked to prepare a full design and budget proposal [].

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

6. Remuneration Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2015 were received.

Information about the stipends of College Officers was tabled. Governing Body **agreed** a reduction in the stipend for the Secretary of Governing Body [].

The President noted that role descriptions for College Officers were being reviewed.

7. Music and Visual Arts Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2015 were received.

Governing Body **approved** the purchase of a portrait of Sir Idwal Pugh (1918–2010, Honorary Fellow from 1979).

KEEPER OF THE COLLEGE PICTURES and PRINCIPAL BURSAR

8. Academic Services Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2015 were received.

Governing Body **approved** a Library Domus Grant of £75,000 for 2015/16.

9. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2015 were received.

Governing Body **approved** the award of Choral Scholarships to Ella Gough, Harry Palmer, Anthony Payne and Cecilia Peker from Trinity Term 2015.

It was also **agreed** that, subject to obtaining appropriate immigration status to remain in Oxford for a second year, Professor Ali Souleman and his family should be offered housing by the College free of charge and that he and his wife should be offered limited dining rights at the rate of two lunches and one dinner per week for the second and final year of his Fellowship.

SENIOR TUTOR

10. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2015 were received.

Governing Body **agreed** that the Supernumerary Fellowship of Professor C. Whistler should be renewed from 1st October 2015 for a period of seven years or until retirement, whichever was sooner.

The President noted the Committee's discussion of the College's strategy and some possible future directions. Governing Body **agreed** a revised Statement of Purpose (see Appendix One).

It was further **agreed** that the position of Wine Steward should become a College Officership with an appropriate stipend. The Wine Steward would create a role profile for consideration by Remuneration Committee.

PRESIDENT and WINE STEWARD

The President encouraged Governing Body to consider nominations to Honorary Fellowships of distinguished academics in their own subjects.

GOVERNING BODY

11. Fellows' Housing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2015 were received.

The Principal Bursar reported on the legal advice received from two barristers on the College's housing scheme for Official Fellows. As a result of follow-up advice from a taxation expert, Governing Body **approved** an addendum to Fellows' contracts and a letter to HMRC.

Governing Body further **agreed**:

- a) expenditure [] towards refurbishment [];
- b) that the College Surveyor be authorised to take [] to planning and tender stage;
- c) maintenance and refurbishment works [];
- d) maintenance and improvement works [].

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

12. Chapel and Patronage Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2015 were received.

13. Research Committee

Governing Body **approved** a grant [] to Dr. Anderson to fund a conference on *Control, Dynamical Systems and Optimization in the UK*.

14. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2015 were received.

15. Any other business

The Principal Bursar noted two progresses in Trinity Term:

- a) Bagley Wood on 4 May;
- b) a farm progress on 30 June visiting two farms in Southmoor.

Fellows were encouraged to attend both progresses; as the Bagley Wood progress fell on a Bank Holiday, Fellows' families would also be invited.

APPENDIX ONE

St John's College: statement of purpose (revised)

1. To maintain and enhance the College's reputation for academic achievement by its undergraduates, graduate students and senior members.
2. To admit men and women to read for undergraduate degrees, using no criteria other than being applicants of the highest academic potential. In the light of current changes in the UK as regards fees and maintenance, to support financially disadvantaged students in their undergraduate studies.
3. To admit to the College the most able and promising graduate students that the University has selected; to provide them with appropriate guidance and supervision and funding where possible; to provide an intellectually stimulating research community to foster the interactions graduates have with Fellows and senior academics within and outside St John's.
4. To maintain and add to the community of senior Fellows, especially teaching Fellows, in as wide a range of academic disciplines as feasible, and to ensure that undergraduate and graduate students are taught, in tutorials and supervisions, by established tutors and researchers of the highest calibre; to broaden further the College's research activity by providing appropriate support to all categories of Fellows; to encourage cross-disciplinary and international exchange.
5. To engage with alumni through social and academic events; to encourage alumni to support the College's social and educational objectives through renewed philanthropy and active interest in the College's achievements and future goals.
6. To provide the wherewithal, for present and future teaching and research needs; to maintain the fabric of the College, mindful of the great historical significance of the site, and to add to it when new educational objectives and opportunities present themselves; to enable St John's to play a full and proper part in the collegiate University's overall academic strategy.