

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 12th November 2014 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. Grafen, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor C. Whistler, Professor P. P. Craig, Professor K. Nation, Professor W. Mattli, Professor J. Ouaknine, Professor L. M. McDowell, Professor P. K. Maini, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor R.M. Harding, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, 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, Professor A. Russell, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Professor F.A. Armstrong, Dr. C. A. Larrington, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Wright

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

ACTION

AGENDA 'B'

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 15th October 2014 were **approved**.

2. By-Law XIX: proposed amendment

Governing Body **agreed** an amendment to By-Law XIX to allow members of the Remuneration Committee whose terms had expired to be invited back after an absence of three years.

STATUTES OFFICER

3. Academic Dean

The President updated Governing Body on discussions about the appointment of an Academic Dean. A detailed job description had been prepared and circulated before the 1st Week meeting but there were a number of outstanding issues that required resolution before a final decision could be taken. In addition the Schools Liaison Officer had resigned from her post, offering an opportunity to consider whether the Academic Dean role might also incorporate responsibility for aspects of the College's outreach strategy: more broadly defined, this might include outreach in relation to research and knowledge exchange as well as schools-focused activity to widen participation and access. It was noted that in a number of colleges the 'professional' Senior Tutor role incorporated school liaison with admissions.

It was **agreed** to ask a Working Party, chaired by the Vice-President and including both the Senior Tutor and Academic Administrator, to review the job description for the Academic Dean and to bring a revised version, together with recommendations on the hours and nature of the role, for approval at the Governing Body meeting in 8th Week.

PRESIDENT

4. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2014 were received.

It was **agreed** that an appointment to a Kilner Junior Research Fellowship in Medicine, supported by the Adams Bequest, should be made in the next possible round, should a suitable candidate be identified. In the event that an appointment was not made, it was also **agreed** that, if funds had accumulated as a result, an additional Kilner Junior Research Fellow in Medicine might be appointed if candidates of sufficient merit presented themselves.

It was **agreed** that candidates for the First Public Examination in Modern Languages and associated Joint Schools should be awarded a Scholarship if they achieved a Distinction in one subject and averaged over 70 across all papers.

It was **agreed** that one Scholarship per year, equivalent to the College fee, would be awarded, if a candidate acceptable to the College was identified by the Aurora Project, a programme for high-achieving Indigenous Australians. It was noted that the Aurora Project identified candidates in May when subject quotas might be full. It was **agreed** to keep this under review.

SENIOR TUTOR

5. Research Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2014 were received.

The Fellow for Research presented the Research Grant Schemes and budget which brought all grant schemes together into one overall document. He thanked Professor McDowell, who as former Fellow for Research had initiated work on the revision of the schemes, and the Principal Bursar and Finance Bursar for their support in finalizing the budget. In discussion a number of suggestions for amendment were made, particularly regarding the definition of academic collaboration, distance requirements for the Visiting Scholars scheme and the use of 'impact' as a term (since this now had a very specific meaning in relation to the REF). Subject to these revisions, Governing Body **agreed** the schemes and the Statutes Officer would propose amendments to the By-Laws accordingly.

It was noted that the Visiting Senior Research Fellowship was currently suspended – its status would be discussed at the next meeting of Research Committee.

Research Committee had also discussed a more formal definition of College's various categories of Early Career Researchers. This would be discussed further at General Purposes Committee.

Governing Body **agreed** that a grant of up to £3,182 would be provided for a symposium to be run by Dr. Vidmar and a grant of £2,938 to Dr. Fitzpatrick for a workshop.

STATUTES OFFICER and FELLOW FOR RESEARCH

6. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meetings held on 4th July and 29th October 2014 were received. The Principal Bursar noted that a donation of £200 had subsequently been agreed for the Oxford Food Bank.

The President highlighted the committee's discussion of governance issues and the intention to request two more Fellows to join the committee.

PRESIDENT

7. Development and Alumni Relations Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2014 were received.

Governing Body **agreed** the proposed changes to charges to Alumni for the use of Alumni Guest Rooms and for dining in Hall. An increased charge for overnight accommodation in College for

alumni events was also **agreed**. The Senior Dean noted that it would be useful to be informed of any large groups of alumni staying in College.

It was further **agreed** that the College would run its own telephone campaign in 2015 without use of University facilities.

FOUNDER'S FELLOW

8. Domestic Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2014 were received.

The Founder's Fellow updated Governing Body on the plans for the move of the Development and Alumni Relations Office to 20 St Giles, noting that a number of rooms would become unavailable for use as seminar rooms in early 2015.

9. Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2014 were received.

The Estates Bursar briefed Governing Body on the status of the Northern Gateway proposals and discussions [], noting that the College's Land Agent would attend Governing Body in early 2015 to update on developments. It was **agreed** that the discussions [] should continue.

Governing Body **agreed** to authorize the Directors of Thomas White Properties to negotiate with the owners [] to reach a mutually acceptable price for the acquisition of the freehold.

Governing Body discussed the purchase of [] and after a vote the purchase was **approved**, with 28 votes in support, 1 vote against, and 3 abstentions.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

10. Finance Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2014 were received.

The Finance Bursar briefed Governing Body on the College's Annual Report and Accounts. She particularly noted the spending committed by the College to student support.

She also noted that the College would bring proposals to the Trustees of the St John's College Staff Pension Fund in light of changes to the state pension in April 2016. Governing Body **agreed** to engage external advisors [] to protect the position of College staff with regard to possible changes to the fund.

It was also **agreed** to increase the College Land Agent's appointment to 40% FTE per week.

11. Entertainments Committee

The minutes of the meeting held by correspondence on 7th November were received.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

12. Health and Safety Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2014 were received.

13. Conference of Colleges

The President noted the issues which were due to be discussed at the Conference of Colleges meeting in 5th Week. These included the student support package for 2016, a consultation on part-time students, a proposal for variation of academic duties (the Principal Bursar had served on this committee), and proposals for the continuation of CCAT (the Conference of Colleges Appeals Tribunal) and for gender equality in academic appointments.

14. Any other business

It was **agreed** that the addition of 'Below the line' items to the Governing Body agenda should require Fellows to request that they be brought above the line no later than the beginning of the meeting rather than by giving at least twenty-four hours' notice.