

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Dr. J.C.G. Pitcher, Professor K. P. Tod, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor S.J. Elston, Dr. C. Whistler, Professor L. Tarassenko, Professor P.P. Craig, Professor Z. Molnár, Dr M. Cannon, Professor W. Mattli, Professor L. M. McDowell, Professor P. K. Maini, Dr. C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Dr. W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Dr. R.M. Harding, Dr. H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, Dr. J. Schnell, Professor C. Jeffrey, Dr. T. Burt de Perera, Dr. J.G.C. Snicker, Ms. S. Layburn, Dr. M-S Omri, Dr. H. Skoda, Dr. N. Lübecker, Dr. P. Hayes, Dr. R. Ekins, Dr. J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Dr. B. Murnane, Dr. J. Stanyek, Professor D. Kwiatkowski, Dr. K. Southwood,

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Dr. I. J. Sobey, Professor F.A. Armstrong, Professor J. Ouaknine, Dr. A. Starinets, Dr. A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

**ACTION**

**AGENDA 'B'**

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 were approved and signed.

2. Remuneration Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were received.

There was concern over the increase in the number of smaller appointments and a suggestion put forward as to whether it might be possible to amalgamate some of these posts. The President noted that smaller appointments alleviated the overall workload. A role description for each post would be requested from each College Officer.

**PRESIDENT**

The Governing Body **agreed** that any pay award agreed at national level as from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 should be implemented for the Stipends of College Officers, provided that the agreed payment did not exceed 3 per cent.

3. Research Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that a grant of up to £44k would be provided in pump-priming funding to support Dr. Stokes' proposed project. Two recommendations for small grants to support conferences and workshops were also **approved**.

A strategy paper outlining the current aims of the Research Centre and some possible future directions was also received. It was suggested, after discussion of the proposed new objectives

and their implications for the research profile of the Centre, that the Committee should draw up criteria for a cross-disciplinary thematic programme and also consider the future resourcing requirements of the Research Centre.

## **FELLOW FOR RESEARCH**

### 4. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were received.

- a) The Governing Body **agreed** to advertise for a Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in French starting in October 2014 whilst Dr Ait-Touati was on research leave.
- b) It was noted that any Fellows wishing to apply for external awards should seek prior approval from the Governing Body via the Committee and that applications should also be discussed with the Principal Bursar to ensure that the costs of any buy-out might be fully covered.
- c) The Review of the scheme for Academic Assistants and the addition of new clauses to the arrangements for their appointment (in relation to their duties) were noted. The Governing Body **agreed** that the duties of Academic Assistants might be varied with the specific approval of the Senior Tutor. It was also **agreed** that the scheme should be extended to include those Supernumerary Fellows who were members of Governing Body and who had a full teaching stint.

### 5. Development and Alumni Relations Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were received.

It was noted that the feasibility of setting up a College Nursery was being explored. Revd. Dr. Whyte signalled his interest in being involved.

## **PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

The Fellow for Development briefed the Governing Body on the Development Office Progress Report, noting the one-off impact of major gifts and legacies and the positive contribution that increased participation in the Alumni Fund made to student support.

The Governing Body **agreed** to invite Caroline Plumb to give the 2015 Lady White Lecture.

## **FELLOW FOR ALUMNI**

### 6. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were received.

- a) The Governing Body **agreed** that the Committee should investigate establishing a personal development review system across College, through discussion in subject group meetings.
- b) A proposal for the reorganisation of the Alumni Relations and Development Offices was received and discussed in detail. It was **agreed** that the Committee should consider the proposal again in the light of the issues raised.
- c) The Governing Body **agreed** that Dr D. Stirzaker should be elected to an Emeritus Research Fellowship for three years from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 and that Professor J. Pandit should be elected to membership of Governing Body.
- d) It was also **agreed** that, as was the situation with Professor T. Cave, where an Emeritus Fellow was appointed to an Emeritus Research Fellowship, on termination of the Emeritus Research Fellowship the Fellow would automatically revert to being an Emeritus Fellow.

- e) The Governing Body **approved** the reappointment of Dr. J. Schnell for a further seven years from October 2014.
- f) The Governing Body **agreed** that the College should bid for association with the Nuffield Professorship in Population Health by offering a Supernumerary Fellowship with (or without) Governing Body membership, at the President's discretion.

**PRESIDENT**

- g) The Governing Body **approved** Professor Wendy Erber as an Invited Visiting Scholar in September 2014.

7. Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were received.

With reference to the replacement of Beehive windows, it was noted that an appropriate architect would be engaged, given the significance of the building as an example of Modernist architecture.

8. Finance Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to authorise the 2014/15 Estates Budget for premises and estates works.

It was also **agreed**:

- a) to accept the recommendation of the Committee regarding the College's US properties;
- b) to grant the Investment Officer the requested authority in relation to loans of up to £50m provided this brought no increase in quarterly interest payments; and
- c) to approve the cost of an external review of the College Office as part of the ongoing implementation of the academic administrative structures review.

9. Any other business

The Finance Bursar updated the Governing Body on a consultation about the funding of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme from UUK/USS. The College was represented in discussions about how to respond to this via the Estates Bursars' Committee of the Conference of Colleges.

The President updated the Governing Body on issues of interest in the Conference of Colleges, including the consultation on the College Funding Formula (CFF).

The President also noted a letter from the Rector, Exeter College in her role as Chair of the Board of the *Oxford Magazine*, requesting that any Fellows interested in taking on the editorship of the publication should contact her directly.