

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 10.30 a.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Dr. J.C.G. Pitcher, Professor K. P. Tod, Dr. I. J. Sobey, Professor S.J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor F.A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Professor P.P. Craig, Professor Z. Molnár, Dr. M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Dr. C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Dr. W. Whyte, Dr. A. Hills, Dr. R.M. Harding, Professor N. P. Harberd, Dr. A. Wright, 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. K. Doornik, Professor G. Gottlob, Dr. R. Ekins, Dr. G. Kantor, Dr. B. Murnane, Professor J. Bray.

Apologies Professor C. J. K. Batty, Dr. P. K. Dresch, Dr. A. R. Weidberg, Professor L.M. McDowell, Professor P. Maini, Dr. A. Starinets, Dr. J. Schnell, Dr. A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Dr. J. Obloj. Dr. J. Stanyek.

ACTION

AGENDA 'B'

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 28th November 2012 were signed.

2. Matter arising: Educational Policy Committee

Interviews for the University Lectureship and Official Fellowship in Theology and Religion will be held in later this term. The college is to be represented on the interview panel by the President and Dr Whyte.

SENIOR TUTOR

3. Bursarial Review

It was **agreed** that a panel chaired by the President and consisting of Prof Tod, Dr Sobey, Sir Michael Perry and one other person yet to be named, would undertake a review of the Bursary, with the aim of reporting to the first meeting of Governing Body in Trinity Term 2013. Following the meeting, Dr. Larrington agreed to join the panel.

PRESIDENT

4. President's Report

The President reported on her discussions with Fellows, administrative staff and junior members during Michaelmas Term. Although overwhelmingly positive, the discussions had resulted in a number of suggestions for improving current practices and streamlining college business. These included suggestions relating to academic matters (college officership, mentoring of junior academics, and the size and shape of college), and to bursarial matters (management systems,

including financial and budgetary monitoring, on-line systems for booking rooms and meals, and wireless internet provision).

Governing Body **agreed** to the President's proposals for setting up the following review panels:

i). Bursarial Review

To consider the development of management systems over the period 2013-18 and to report to Governing Body in Trinity Term 2013 (as discussed in Item 3, above).

ii). Review of Academic Structures

To consider the roles of Senior Tutor, Tutor for Graduates and Tutor for Admissions, how these roles interact with each other, and to review the role of the Academic Administrator and College Office. Also to consider how these offices interact with other academic activities including the Library, Archives, Web and Research Centre. To propose ways of streamlining the administrative work and procedures of the Academic Office. The review panel will be chaired by the President, and will consist of Dr Pitcher, Prof Nation, Dr Lizzie Emerson (St Hugh's College) and one other person yet to be named. Following the meeting, Prof Grafen agreed to join the panel. The panel will report to the first meeting of Governing Body in Trinity Term 2013.

iii). Review of Admissions Numbers

To consider the shape and size of the College's undergraduate body, with the aim of reporting to Governing Body in Trinity Term. The membership and detailed remit of the panel will be decided at the meeting of Educational Policy Committee on 23rd January.

iv). Review of Mentoring and Induction

The President and Senior Tutor will convene a small working group to consider whether early-career fellows without representation on Governing Body should be represented on Governing Body, to consider ways in which college associates could be involved in mentoring, and to facilitate the establishment of a forum to formalize social and academic support for this group. Also to consider whether a college officer should have specific responsibility for fellows in the early stages of their career, including those in their probationary period.

PRESIDENT

5. Report on Library Project

The Bursar summarized the report prepared by *Wright and Wright Architects* on their proposals for modifications to the library. The report describes two options:

Option 1 consists of largely internal modifications to the Canterbury Quad library buildings in order to provide disabled access, emergency exits and improved office space within the library, as well as changes to the arrangement of shelving within the Paddy Room and the Laudian Library.

Option 2 subsumes Option 1 and [] improves the provision of study space in college while allowing bookshelves and reading space to be separated.

The ensuing discussion covered the need to assess students' likely future working practices, the relationship between college and university libraries, [] and whether the additional expense of Option 2 could be avoided by adapting existing space within the college. It was also noted that the increase in shelf space afforded by Option 2 would remove the current need to store books off-

site, and that the architects have given careful consideration to the logistics of implementing their proposals.

The President will convene a working party with the aim of recommending a course of action to Governing Body later this term.

PRESIDENT

6. Entertainments Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2012 were received, and it was **agreed** that in future the committee's meetings would be virtual, with draft minutes circulated to the committee for approval.

7. Election of Organ Scholar and Choral Scholar

It was **agreed** that an Organ Scholarship [] and a Choral Scholarship should be offered [] with effect from October 2013, subject to the selected candidates meeting standard academic conditions.

TUTOR FOR ADMISSIONS

8. Formal Presentation of Accounts

The accounts presented at the meeting of Governing Body on 28th November 2012 were formally **approved**. In response to a question about sources of funding for the possible future development of the library, the Bursar explained that any large development would be subject to a review of long-term financial planning and is likely to be accompanied by project-specific fundraising.

9. Hilary Term Calendar

The draft Hilary Term calendar was approved with corrections.

10. Conference of Colleges

It was noted that the discussion of the size and shape of the student body (under item 8 in the minutes of Conference) contradicted the Conference's previous position on Master's degrees. Concerns were also raised about the proposal for the university to send a single letter with details of college and university donors to students receiving financial support.

11. Baylie Chapel

In response to a question raised at the previous Governing Body meeting (28th November 2012), the Bursar reported that a leak had been identified and repaired between April and July 2012, but that it had been necessary to wait several months after repairing the leak before repairing the plaster.

12. Any other business

- (a) The Governing Body congratulated Dr Frédérique Aït-Touati on being awarded the Scaglione Prize by the Modern Language Association of America for her book “Fictions of the Cosmos: Science and Literature in the Seventeenth Century”.
- (b) The President has received a petition of 530 signatures protesting the proposed development of land next to the village of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor. The Bursar proposed to respond with a statement explaining that the college supports the provision of environmentally and socially responsible housing, that the trustees of the College have a responsibility as a charitable organisation to protect its assets, and that the College would abide by the decisions that are reached through the legal planning process, which in this case is the responsibility of the Vale of White Horse District Council. The Governing Body approved the Bursar’s statement.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR