

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

## MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. J. Elston, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, The Revd Professor W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor S. Myers, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr G. Kantor, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane, Dr M. Nicholls, Professor N. K. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr K. Doornik, Professor R. Hoyer, Professor L. Hunt, Professor R. Lall, Professor T. Qutbuddin, Professor A. Lak

Apologies: Professor P. K. Maini, Professor D. Martin, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor G. Rose, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor E. Wonnacott, Professor B. Stevenson, Professor K. J. Patel

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

## AGENDA 'C'

## ACTION

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meetings of Governing Body held on 7<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 were **approved**.

In matters arising, Professor Bouman reported that she had received feedback from individual members of Governing Body and would be following up on the issues raised in the President's annual review.

The Principal Bursar updated Governing Body on some changes to the offer for the Eagle and Child, 49 and 50/51 St Giles [ ]. She had also consulted the University about its due diligence on Ellison Oxford Limited/The Ellison Institute.

2. Use of funds from potential sale

The Governing Body discussed ways in which the funds received from a potential sale might best be used, noting that funds would also need to be invested to generate any income lost through the sale.

Thinking in terms of the College's wider strategic aims and its core charitable objectives, suggestions included undergraduate and graduate studentships to attract candidates in particular subject areas, career development research fellowships, and projects to build stronger links between St John's and the city of Oxford.

It was noted that using funds as seed-funding would make it much easier to fundraise effectively for specific projects.

It was **agreed** that it would not be necessary to have a particular focus on the Inklings or the Eagle and Child itself.

The Principal Bursar would liaise with the Head of Communications on a press release and this would be circulated to Governing Body for comment.

## **GOVERNING BODY, PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

### 3. Discussion of broader topics

The President suggested that, where an agenda allowed the opportunity, the Governing Body might wish to set aside time for open and structure-free discussion of broader topics, such as issues of strategy.

The Governing Body welcomed this idea and **agreed** that the topic of any such discussions would be noted in minutes.

The meeting proceeded to discuss issues of staff morale in College. Some of these had arisen as a result of the ongoing contract harmonisation process and in response to some of the changes from increased professionalisation of College roles. It was noted that the broader economic context was also impacting morale and that this was being felt across the University.

A number of ideas arose in discussion. It was **agreed** that scrutiny of the implementation of agreed strategy was best done through committee work and that Domestic and Establishment Committee was an important forum for the particular issues raised. A regular HR update to Governing Body would also be welcomed.

It was also noted that functional changes should be consonant with the College's overall strategic aims and that improved communication of particular changes would be helpful. It would also be useful to consider how best to gather feedback from professional staff on a regular basis.

**GOVERNING BODY**