

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. Maini, 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 T. Burt de Perera, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor C. Beem, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane, Dr. M. Nicholls, Professor E. Wonnacott, Professor N. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor L. Hunt, Professor R. Lall, Professor A. Lak

Apologies: Professor S. Elston, Professor M. Cannon, Professor D. Martin, Professor M. Omri, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor B. Murnane, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor B. Stevenson, Professor R. Hoyer, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor T. Qutbuddin

In attendance: Mr. G. Levvy, Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were **approved**.

2. Strategic Plan Working Party

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were received.

The Terms of Reference were **agreed** (see Appendix One).

**PRESIDENT**3. College governance

The President introduced Mr Levvy, an experienced chair of several charities. Mr. Levvy had been invited to offer an external perspective on the College's governance and the internal review of governance arrangements to date. In his presentation he stressed the need to ensure that a charity had robust and objective scrutiny as well as a space for confidential and difficult conversations. He saw the question of risk and reputational risk as an essential element of this. He had reviewed the governance models under discussion, including a model with an Executive Council.

Mr. Levvy detailed a set of criteria for good governance:

- accountability to internal and external stakeholders;
- rigorous, objective scrutiny;
- oversight of performance;
- participation.

It was **agreed** that transparency would be a useful additional criterion to consider.

Mr Levvy concluded that he would advocate evolution rather than revolution in any governance arrangements. The overall aim was to achieve good governance and it would be preferable to take incremental steps in any changes and then consider what might be further improved.

The Governing Body broke into groups to review three different governance models. Each group reported on the benefits and potential issues raised by each model.

The President summarised the next steps for the Governance Working Party and noted the plan to bring an overall proposal to Governing Body in Week 9.

**PRESIDENT**

## **APPENDIX ONE**

### **STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING PARTY TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Background**

The College's first formal three-year Strategic Plan was published in 2019. It ran until 2022.

#### **Terms of reference**

The overall goal of the Working Party is to work with stakeholders across College to create a vision, mission and five-year strategic plan from 2024–29.

The Working Party will aim to:

- Review the previous Strategic Plan and reflect on its outcomes to understand the College's achievements to date and to propose improvements to ensure the College's continued growth and development.
- Create a vision, mission and strategy for the College that both reflects St John's current areas of focus and explores new opportunities.
- Produce a new Strategic Plan that:
  - sets a clear sense of direction for St John's;
  - includes a statement of the College's values and reflects on what they mean;
  - provides transparency about the College's plans to members of St John's, the collegiate University and the wider public;
  - refreshes the College's objectives across its structures and areas of focus;
  - works with key stakeholders to set measurable and realistic targets that build on current and prior work and that enable the College to meet its goals as fully as possible;
  - is mindful of the College's role as a charity;
  - pays due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

#### **Membership**

President (Chair)

Vice-President

Provost for Academic Affairs

Principal Bursar

Senior Tutor

Three members of Governing Body (Professor Jan Obloj, Professor Gillian Rose, Professor Nicholas Jones)

The Working Party will be supported by the President's Executive Officer.

#### **Meetings**

Two meetings in Trinity Term 2024, two meetings in Michaelmas Term 2024