

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 8th November 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 K. Nation, The Revd Professor W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor H. Skoda, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr G. Kantor, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor L. di Mare, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor S. Toussaert, Mr R. Crow, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane, Dr M. Nicholls, Professor E. Wonnacott, Professor N. K. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr K. Doornik, Professor R. Hoye, Professor L. Hunt, Professor R. Lall, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor T. Qutbuddin, Professor A. Lak

Apologies: Professor P. K. Maini, Professor D. Martin, Professor S. Myers, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor B. Murnane, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor G. Rose, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor R. Slater, Professor B. Stevenson

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 4th October were **approved**.

In matters arising, the Principal bursar noted that the Head of HR would report on staff morale issues to Domestic and Establishment Committee in Week 6 and that there would be a staff forum at the end of term to talk about how concerns might be raised and considered. A proposed agenda for the committee would also be discussed at the next meeting.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR2. Oxford North Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2023 were received.

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3. Statutes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2023 were received.

The Statutes Officer updated Governing Body on progress in amending the Statutes. He noted that most of the draft amendments had been seen before and that advice had been taken on whether Statutes XV Academic Staff should make provision for the University Statutes. The clear advice had been that they should not.

Governing Body was asked to support the tabled amendments in principle. The Statutes Officer explained that, if supported, the amended Statutes would be sent to the Privy Council Office for informal review, which might result in suggested changes, before returning to Governing Body for formal approval in a meeting summoned for this purpose. Thereafter, the University's consent would be sought, to the extent that any of the changes had a bearing on the University's position and, once consent had been secured, the amended Statutes would proceed to the Privy Council for formal approval.

The Governing Body **agreed** to support in principle the amendments to the Statutes included in the minutes of the Statutes Committee meeting held on 18th October 2023.

STATUTES OFFICER

The Statutes Officer noted that the most recent version of the By-Laws had been circulated as they helped understand amendments to the Statutes and also because a lot of the detail had moved to the By-Laws.

The Governing Body **agreed** that Mills and Reeve should be asked to help with drafting further additions and amendments to the By-Laws.

The Statutes Officer would confirm that the changes did not need to be sent to the Visitor.

STATUTES OFFICER

4. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2023 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that, in addition to the President, Vice-President, Principal Bursar, Provost for Academic Affairs and Senior Tutor, three further trustee volunteers would be sought for a College Strategy Working Party, with priority given to representatives of social sciences and MPLS. As part of its remit, the working party would consider what kind of strategic plan was needed.

The President asked for volunteers for this group. She noted that papers for all working parties were available on SharePoint and that an update on progress would be provided to the next meeting of Governing Body.

PRESIDENT, GOVERNING BODY

The Public Sector Equality Duty Report 2022–23 was **approved**.

The Governing Body **elected** Professor Grafen to an Emeritus Research Fellowship for a second period of three years from 1st April 2024

The Annual Prevent Duty review was noted and the updated policies and documentation **agreed**.

The Provost for Academic Affairs reported on the likely timetable for the release of posts in Biology and the College's teaching need. It was **agreed** to bid for association with a new APTF-U post in Plant Molecular Biology.

PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

It was **agreed** to seek nominations for Honorary Fellows for 2024, encouraging as diverse a range of nominations as possible and using a new online form in order to receive more a consistent and balanced set of information for each nomination. The President noted that a meeting of the Honours Sub-Committee had been scheduled and that she would welcome suggestions for nomination.

PRESIDENT

The Incident Management Plan was **agreed**.

It was also **agreed** that in 2023/24 and 2024/25 school support grants would be targeted at the most disadvantaged primary and special school in the College's linked regions (with six primary schools and three special schools selected for each year). The grants would remain at £5k for 2023/24, a sum that was considered by school leadership teams to be generous and that would allow significant projects to be carried out. It was noted that the most disadvantaged schools in Oxford had been well supported in recent years but that future grants could also be considered.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

The Development Director briefed Governing Body on the proposed changes to the composition and remit of the Development and Alumni Relations Committee and the Development Board. The amendments were **agreed**.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

5. Finance and Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2023 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that the whole Southmoor site should be disposed of unserviced (i.e. without roads).

It was also **agreed** to switch holdings [], in line with the College's responsible investment, noting that there would be no loss to the endowment.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

6. Governance Working Party

The minutes of the Governance Working Party held on 17th October 2023 were received.