

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 29th 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 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 Z. Olszewska, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, 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 A. Lak, Mr S. Lalanne (MCR President), Mr P. Breeze (JCR President), Ms. E. Heywood (JCR President-Elect)

Apologies: Professor P. K. Maini, Professor D. Martin, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor G. Rose, Professor R. Slater, Professor B. Stevenson, Professor R. Lall, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor T. Qutbuddin, Dr. C. He (ECR Representative), Dr L. Flannigan (ECR Representative), Mr S. Steffen (MCR Vice-President)

In attendance: Ms. K. Jenkins (Finance Bursar), Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 8th November 2023 were **approved** with one amendment.

The President welcomed Elizabeth Heywood, the newly elected JCR President, and Kerry Jenkins, Finance Bursar.

2. Equality Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2023 were received.

It was noted that the updated Harassment Policy should be approved by Governing Body at its next meeting.

FELLOW FOR EQUALITY3. Academic Services Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2023 were received.

4. Decanal Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2023 were received.

The Governing Body noted the updated terms of reference following the decision to separate welfare from discipline and the appointment of the new Head of Student Wellbeing.

5. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2023 were received.

6. Hilary Term 2023 Calendar

The draft calendar for Hilary Term 2024 was received.

7. JCR President's Valedictory Address

Mr Breeze highlighted a number of issues he had focused on during his term of office. He reminded Governing Body of students' clear request for change in the way that the College addressed the welfare and mental health of its Junior Members and stressed that a happy, supported and carefree student base was one that could perform to its academic capabilities most effectively. He praised the collaborative effort that had resulted in the appointment of the College's first Head of Student Wellbeing and looked forward to seeing further work to ensure that student wellbeing was being handled as effectively as possible.

Mr Breeze noted the work that had been done with the Fellow for Equality to ensure a robust and secure Harassment Policy that gave due support both to accuser and accused. He pointed to the College–student relationship as being one of trust and that, when policy was trustworthy, student engagement would follow. The financial position of the student body continued to be difficult, with the rise in charges outstripping the rise in maintenance loans which had risen well below inflation. In this context he noted the importance of the revamped financial assistance grants.

Mr Breeze also noted how important sport was as a means of self-expression. He thanked the Domestic Bursar, Senior Dean and Fellow for Sport for their work on codifying sport in College in the Sports Arrangements document. He also noted the success of the first post-Covid Arts Week and encouraged all members of St John's to see Arts Week as an opportunity to share in the community of the College as a whole and to attend as much of the week as possible. In closing, he urged consideration of how to breach divides between academic and professional staff, as well as the student body, and to build community wherever possible. He also asked that changing student priorities be listened to, even when they differed from negotiated positions with previous JCR Presidents.

Mr Breeze particularly thanked the President and his tutors for their support.

On behalf of Governing Body, the President thanked the JCR President for bringing such a sense of community to his role and for working so effectively not only within the JCR but also across the MCR and with Fellows. She thanked him and his committee for their hard work and dedication.