

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 5th July 2024 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. Elston, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. Maini, Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor L. Pratt, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, 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 A. Lak

Apologies: Professor Z. Molnár, Professor M. Cannon, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor S. Myers, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor M. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor I. Klinke, Professor C. Beem, Professor R. Slater, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. Stevenson, Professor R. Hoye, Professor R. Lall, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor T. Qutbuddin, Dr. C. He (ECR representative), Dr L. Flannigan (ECR representative)

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

ACTION

AGENDA 'B'

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 18th June 2024 were **approved**.

In matters arising it was **agreed** to upload the minutes for the Agenda A meeting of Governing Body to the Committees SharePoint site.

2. Election to Hillary Clinton Professorship of Women's History

The Provost for Academic Affairs reported that Sarah Knott had been appointed to the Hillary Rodham Clinton Chair of Women's History and would take up her post from 1st August 2024.

Professor Knott was elected to a Professorial Fellowship, with membership of Governing Body, coterminous with holding the Hillary Rodham Clinton Chair of Women's History, with effect from 1st August 2024.

PRESIDENT, PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

3. Research Committee

The Governing Body **agreed** a Visiting Researcher Grant to cover accommodation and dining privileges in accordance with the scheme to Dr Mark Hickford to work with Professor Ekins from 21st October to 30th November 2024.

FELLOW FOR RESEARCH

4. BIG Scholarship

Professor Obloj reported that the pilot year of the BIG–St John's Undergraduate Scholarship in Mathematics had been a great success with a strong field of applicants. An award had been made with the candidate due to arrive in Michaelmas Term 2024. He noted that Global Talent Lab's BIG scholarship scheme would in all likelihood run again in 2024/25 and develop further.

The Governing Body **agreed** to extend the pilot for a further year with the donor covering at least 50% of the combined fees and living costs (the value of the latter aligned with the Oxford Reach grant) and at a cost to the College [], subject to the Senior Tutor and Provost for Academic Affairs' approval of the final details of the scholarship terms and conditions.

PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, SENIOR TUTOR

5. College of Sanctuary

Professor Olszewska briefed the Governing Body on the University's status as a University of Sanctuary since May 2023. The University aimed to promote a culture of welcome as an inclusive and diverse university with activity focused on the Refugee Academic Futures scholarship programme launched in 2022 and the admission of a number of Ukrainian Graduate Scholarship holders and scholarship holders from other parts of the world. Oxford's Sanctuary Community now aimed to develop this further to include pre-arrival, on-course and post-graduation support of scholars affected by displacement. Somerville and Mansfield had become Colleges of Sanctuary and Balliol had launched a Sanctuary Fund.

It was **agreed** to explore the options for St John's further.

SENIOR TUTOR, FELLOW FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

6. Sports Report

The Fellow for Sport's annual report was received. He noted the role of sport in student wellbeing and the increased membership of a number of student teams. He also noted that the College's sports facilities and clubs were not only for students but also for academic and professional staff, and that alumni also created long-lasting bonds through shared sporting activities. The hard work of the Groundsman and Boatman, together with the administrative support of the Domestic Bursar and his team, were much appreciated.

7. Garden Report

The Keeper of the Groves' annual report was received.

She thanked all who had attended the Encaenia Garden Party and noted the many appreciative comments for the work of the Head Gardener and his team.

8. Bagley Wood Report

The Keeper of Bagley Wood's annual report was received.

She noted the work on biodiversity in the wood and how the ash dieback work was proceeding.

9. President's Report

The President reported on an extensive year of activity.

She noted with sadness the death of Honorary Fellow Professor Stephen Mitchell FBA. Two new trustees had joined Governing Body, Professor Tahera Qutbuddin and Professor Armin Lak, and Professor Georg Gottlob retired in Hilary Term. She thanked all retiring College Officers for their diligent and careful service and noted the new roles of Fellow for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Keeper of Historic Buildings.

The President highlighted Fellows' achievements across the year and expressed her appreciation of the new Scottish Border in the Gardens. She also noted the retirement of the SCR Front of House Manager. In addition, the College had hosted Encaenia, the portrait of Anne of Cleves was starring in the National Portrait Gallery's 'Six Lives' exhibition and the chapel crypt had been inspected.

Work had also proceeded on a review of governance, a new strategic plan, the College masterplan and reviews of both the College EJRA and Academic Office. The College's access and outreach activity continued to go from strength to strength.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

10. Oxford North Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2024 were received.