

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Monday 9th September 2024 at 3.00 p.m.

Present: The President, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. Elston, Professor Z. Molnár, Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Wright, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor C. Newton, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor C. Beem, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Dr. M. Nicholls, Professor E. Wonnacott, Ms. Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Professor R. Hoye, Professor L. Hunt, Professor R. Lall, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor A. Lak

Apologies: Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. Maini, Professor D. Martin, Professor S. Myers, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor M. Omri, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor L. di Mare, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor N. Jones, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor T. Qutbuddin

In attendance: Professor K. Blundell, Ms K. Jenkins (for item 4); Ms. H. Clark (for item 5); Ms. D. Cripps

ACTION**AGENDA 'C'**1. Minutes of Governing Body and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 5th July 2024 were **approved** with one amendment.

In matters arising the President reported that she had sent a letter to the Chair of the Charity Commission on 28th July 2024 with an update on governance discussions to date. Receipt of the letter had been acknowledged but no further comment had been received.

It was also noted that the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 had been halted by the new Labour government to 'consider its options, including repeal'. As a result, the Code of Practice and Complaints Procedure previously considered by Governing Body were no longer required. The Senior Tutor would continue work on a College statement on neutrality in political and other matters as a precaution.

SENIOR TUTOR2. Election to Nuffield Professorship of Population Health

The President reported, on behalf of the Provost for Academic Affairs who had been a member of the Electoral Board, that Professor Prabhat Jha had been appointed to the Nuffield Chair of Population Health and would take up his post from 1st September 2025.

Professor Jha was elected to a Professorial Fellowship, with membership of Governing Body, coterminous with holding the Nuffield Chair of Population Health, with effect from 1st September 2025.

PRESIDENT, PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

3. Minutes of Long Vacation Committee and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Long Vacation Committee held on 30th July 2024 were **approved**.

4. Proposed donation of telescopes and land

The Development Director reported that discussions [] had continued regarding a gift of land, scientific equipment in New Mexico, and a cash donation [] to support Professor Blundell's research. The Finance Bursar confirmed that due diligence had been completed and that any costs incurred by the College would be managed very closely. A report on the usual treatment of overheads in relation to donations from family foundations had also been received. Professor Blundell provided further background information about the donor.

Consideration had been given to succession planning in relation to the long-term use of the gift []. An oversight committee chaired by the Senior Physics Tutor would plan for the future of the telescopes.

The Governing Body **agreed** to accept the donation.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

5. Student welfare provision in College

A proposal to appoint Student Welfare Advisors (SWAs) had been considered by the Long Vacation Committee. The Senior Dean and Head of Student Wellbeing had clarified a number of points including the number of hours per week the SWAs would be expected to work, dining privileges in the Senior Common Room, and the obligation to live within five minutes of College when on duty.

It was **agreed** to appoint four SWAs at the start of Michaelmas Term to start work in Hilary Term 2025. Junior Deans would also be recruited for the start of Hilary Term 2025 in line with usual practice unless the need for them arose earlier.

It was also **agreed** to review the roles to inform the most effective model in future years.

[]

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

6. Teaching buy-out

The President noted that College Officerships would be reviewed during the next academic year. In the meantime, Governing Body **agreed** a two-hour teaching buyout for both the Provost for Academic Affairs and the Fellow for Welfare for the academic year 2024/25.

PRESIDENT, SENIOR TUTOR

7. Commercial property disposal

The Principal Bursar reported on the proposed disposal of College-owned land []. The Governing Body **agreed** the disposal of the site [].

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

8. Conflict of interest

The President asked members of Governing Body to return their conflict of interest declarations by 30th September so that the auditors had all the information they required.

GOVERNING BODY

9. Vice-President's update

The President left the meeting.

The Vice-President reported that the President had been invited by the Vice-Chancellor to serve as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor without Portfolio to cover duties such as chairing the appointment of Statutory Professors and to attend graduation ceremonies, a role that was usually shared between Heads of House. It was noted that the role carried a [] stipend and that the President wished this to be given to a charity of which she was the patron. The Governing Body **approved** the appointment.

The Principal Bursar and Senior Tutor left the meeting.

The Vice-President reported that Remuneration Committee had affirmed their view that the President, Principal Bursar and Development Director should receive the Oxford University Weighting that had been agreed as part of the University's pay and grading review, but that this should be reviewed again if the University made further recommendations in relation to senior members of staff. Governing Body **agreed** the recommendation.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR