

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at 10.30 a.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor M. Davies, Professor R. G. Compton, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. J. Weidberg, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Professor C. Whistler, Professor M. Cannon, Professor P. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor H. Skoda, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Professor J. Bray, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Sir R. Collins, Dr. I. Klinke, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura

Apologies: Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor A. Wright, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor D. Kwiatkowski, Dr. K. Doornik

In attendance: (except for Item 11) Dr. S. Campbell, Mr R. Crow, Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were **approved**.

The President congratulated the College on being top of the Norrington Table and the first college to exceed a score of 80%.

The Governing Body congratulated Professor Russell, Bernard Taylor Fellow in Chemistry and Professor of Medicinal Chemistry on being awarded a title of distinction by the University.

The Governing Body also congratulated the following Fellows:

- Professor Whistler on the award of a British Academy Medal for Venice and Drawing, 1500–1800: Theory, Practice and Collection;
- Professor Larrington on being appointed a member of the Order of the Falcon for services to Icelandic literature;
- Dr. Z. Pamuk on the award of the Royal Academy's Brian Barry Prize in Political Science for her essay 'Justifying Public Funding for Science';
- Dr. M. Bruna on her appointment to a Royal Society University Research Fellowship (2018–23).

The President reported that three new directors of the Bainton Road Nursery would be appointed: Professor Skoda, Professor Newton and Mrs Reinhardt. Professor Parker and Ms Cripps were stepping down and the Governing Body thanked them for their service.

The President also noted the duty of the Governing Body under the Public Sector Equality Duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

2. Health and Safety Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were received.

### 3. Membership of Governing Body

The President reminded members of Governing Body about their obligations as charity trustees, drawing their attention to UK Government guidance (*Charity trustee: what's involved* []). She particularly highlighted the need to prepare for and attend meetings and encouraged new trustees to undertake the available training courses.

**GOVERNING BODY**

### 4. Study Centre

The Principal Bursar updated the Governing Body on the reorganization of the landscaping works at the far eastern end of the Great Lawn. There was a need for better landscaping to protect trees in the area. The work fell within the scope of the planning permission and it was **agreed** to proceed with this as a separate contract [].

The Principal Bursar noted a revised date of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 for the handover of the Study Centre. As a result the Library staff would now move the books during the Easter Vacation to minimise disruption.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

### 5. Oxford/Berlin Research Partnership

The Principal Bursar reported on the progress of plans for a new strategic research partnership between the University of Oxford, the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and the Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

The Governing Body **agreed** that 3, Canterbury Road could be the location for a *Berliner Haus* in Oxford, a focal point for the Berlin institutions and to enable academics and researchers from Berlin to spend time working in Oxford's university institutions and colleges.

The President asked Research Committee to consider how best to support collaborative relationships with scholars in Berlin.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR and FELLOW FOR RESEARCH**

### 6. Oxford North

The Principal Bursar reported that an outline planning application for the whole Oxford North scheme and a detailed application for part of the site had been submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018. He highlighted discussions regarding affordable housing and with Highways England.

It was noted that there would be opportunities to discuss issues regarding the site further. The Investment Officer would also make a presentation to Governing Body this term about the College's investments.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

### 7. Strategic Plan: 2018–2022

The President introduced the latest iteration of the Strategic Plan and thanked Fellows for their input. She noted that the Director of Development & Alumni Relations was developing a new fundraising plan to support the implementation of the plan.

It was **agreed** that the relevant College committees and officers would identify the short- and medium-term actions arising from the plan and would also consider longer-term aims over the next two terms.

**PRESIDENT and all COLLEGE OFFICERS**

### 8. USS

The Finance Bursar updated Governing Body on the latest developments regarding USS and noted that relevant documents were available on WebLearn.

The Governing Body **agreed** a response, in its role as an employer, to the report of the Joint Expert Panel and the Universities UK consultation.

**FINANCE BURSAR**

9. Elections and renewals of scholarships

The list of scholarships was **approved**.

10. Any other business

The Governing Body noted that an increase had been agreed for College-specific pay scales of 2%, with enhancement at the lowest pay grades of 3.2% to meet the current living wage rate. The Principal Bursar noted that the differential for staff higher up the scales was being eroded and that the incoming Home Bursar would review this issue.

**FINANCE BURSAR**

The Principal Bursar reported that Horus Security would undertake a general review of security, parking and front of house operations. Fellows should contact the Bursary Manager if they wished for a specific appointment with the consultants.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

The President reported on the outcome of the call for research proposals for grants from a donation by the Thompson Family Trust. The Governing Body congratulated Professors Compton and Bouman, and Professor Blundell on their successful proposals.

**FELLOW FOR RESEARCH**

The President reminded Governing Body that Professor Sir Roger Elliott's memorial service was being held from 2.30 to 4.30 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October in New College Chapel.

The Opening of the Auditorium was planned for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December with drinks at 6.30, the opening ceremony at 7.00 and a concert at 7.15 p.m. with Ian Bostridge and Imogen Cooper.

The President asked that Fellows consider becoming a school governor at Rose Hill Primary School in Oxford where the headteacher, Sue Vermes, is an alumna (Lit. Hum., 1979).

11. EJRA

The President updated Governing Body on the status of the current EJRA case and the likely timetable to achieve an outcome. The evidence had now been heard and final legal submissions would be made in December; judgment might be expected in April or May 2019.

**BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE**

12. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 were received.