

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Professor C. Whistler, Professor P. P. Craig, Professor M. Cannon, Professor P. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor A. Wright, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M. Omri, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Bray, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor I. Klinke, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater

Apologies: Professor H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor H. Skoda, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor D. Kwiatkowski, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor L. Pratt, Professor A. Srinivasan, Mr. A. Deere-Hall (JCR Vice-President)

In attendance: Dr. S. Campbell, Mr R. Crow, Ms. J. Roadknight, Dr. M. Nicholls, Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 13th February 2019 were **approved**.

2. Election to Official Fellowship in Mathematics

Professor Stuart White was elected as Official Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics, with membership of Governing Body, with effect from 1st September 2019.

The Governing Body noted that due regard had been taken during the recruitment process to equality considerations under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

PRESIDENT3. Election to Junior Research Fellowships

The Senior Tutor reported on the elections for Junior Research Fellowships.

Ms. Emilija Talijan, Mr. Marco Cappelletti, Mr. Keno Jüchems and Mr. Bradley Roberts were elected to Junior Research Fellowships (without membership of Governing Body) for three years from 1st October 2019.

It was noted that the current timetable for JRF elections meant that a number of candidates had had to withdraw after receiving offers elsewhere. The Senior Tutor would implement a swifter timetable for the 2020 elections.

SENIOR TUTOR4. Academic Services Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2019 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that the Home Bursar would be appointed as the College's Data Protection Officer.

It was also **agreed** that it would be mandatory for all employees who used a computer at work, or who had access to and handled College data, to undertake the University's new updated online information security training module (www.infosec.ox.ac.uk/module) by Friday of 0th Week of Trinity Term (26th April) and to send an electronic copy of their certificate to it-support@sjc.ox.ac.uk.

IT FELLOW

The Home Bursar would feed back via the relevant Conference of Colleges IT Committee the concern that, having only recently completed an information security course, it was quite challenging for the College to have to repeat this exercise again so soon.

HOME BURSAR

A Library Domus Grant of £108k for 2019/20 was **approved**.

FELLOW LIBRARIAN

5. Research Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2019 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** a Visiting Researcher Grant [] for Professor Larrington to invite Professor Sif Rikhardsdottir (University of Iceland) in Hilary Term 2020.

A Large Grant [] for Professor Beem for a research project 'From Geometry to Algebra: Moduli Space Physics and Quantum Criticality' was also **agreed**.

It was **agreed** to raise the Fellow for Research's discretionary fund [] with immediate effect.

FELLOW FOR RESEARCH

The Governing Body noted that Fellows who invited speakers to College must assume responsibility for the booking and for the nature of the event, and should clarify their status as host when publicising it. Fellows should also attend the event.

6. Remuneration Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2019 were received.

Following the implementation of the Academic Structures Review, the Governing Body **agreed** that the stipend for the Fellow for Access and Admissions would remain unchanged but would be reviewed in June 2019; the stipend of the Fellow for Graduates would be decreased []; and the stipend for the Welfare Dean would be newly set [].

PRESIDENT

7. Fellows' Housing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2019 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that a Tutorial Fellow [] be required, for the better performance of their duties, to live in a designated College property [], under the terms and conditions of the Hart-Synnot scheme.

It was **agreed** to proceed with works to extend the property [] for the College's 50% share of the works.

It was further **agreed** to refurbish [] and to fund [] for the College's 50% share of the works.

The Principal Bursar updated Governing Body on the implications of the letter received from HMRC with regard to employer-provided housing and some possible courses of action. It was noted that any change would not be retrospective and that any agreed changes would need the approval of Remuneration Committee. The Principal Bursar would welcome the views of Fellows.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

8. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2019 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to appoint a Stipendiary Lectureship in Psychology to cover the teaching need in College for one year from 1st October 2019, pending the outcome of further negotiations with the Department of Experimental Psychology.

It was **agreed** to retain the association with the Classics Faculty's fixed-term Part-time Instructorship in Greek and Latin by appointing the successful candidate to a six-hour Stipendiary Lectureship.

It was **agreed** that the Junior Research Fellowships of Dr Chevyrev (subject to a successful application for the renewal of his Tier 2 visa) and Dr Alfonsa should be renewed for a fourth and final period of one year from 1st October 2019.

With regard to the James Success and Hardship Funds, it was **agreed** that financial support would be offered to students for study, research, internships or training programmes and that the Undergraduate Success Fund would also be used to support appropriate internship and placement opportunities. It was noted that if internships were held outside the collegiate University, the College would need to understand the basis on which undergraduates were in College during the Vacation and any implications for welfare or tutorial support.

It was also **agreed** to make available up to four rooms for a six-week period between July and August 2019 for use by students attending a UNIQ+ summer school for graduates.

SENIOR TUTOR

Sabbatical leave was **agreed** for Professor Southwood (Hilary Term and Trinity Term 2020). Professor Pratt's sabbatical leave (Michaelmas Term 2019 to Trinity Term 2020) was also noted.

9. Promotion of the Arts: recommended picture acquisition

The minutes of the meeting held by email circulation on 28th February 2019 were received.

The Keeper of the Pictures updated Governing Body on the ongoing discussions about the art for the new Study Centre.

It was **agreed** to purchase *La Musique* by Alan Halliday, as framed by the artist [].

KEEPER OF THE PICTURES

10. College Contribution Scheme

The President updated Governing Body on the proposal for a new College Contribution Scheme.

It was noted that Scheme 6 had been very successful, exceeding its original financial aims. After discussion, it was agreed that the College would be supportive of the proposal, but on the basis that contributions should be capped and that the agreed level of endowment for any new Society of the University to be considered for membership should be stated. It was also noted that, whilst reviews of the scheme would be helpful, overall the College would prefer a predictable level of contribution to a new scheme.

It was suggested that the College might need to consider its priorities for its own spending on teaching and research in the light of the spending sought by Scheme 7.

The President reminded Fellows that any decision about the new scheme would be made by Council and Congregation. She also noted that there would be a steering group for the scheme and that the University Development Office would be involved in helping colleges with small endowments to reach out beyond their own alumni pool.

PRESIDENT and PRINCIPAL BURSAR

11. Access and Participation Plan

The President reported to Governing Body that the Office for Students (the successor body to the Office for Fair Access) required the University to sign an Access and Participation Plan. She outlined the proposals that were currently under consideration in colleges, departments and the Conference of Colleges' Admissions Executive and Admissions Committee.

In discussion a number of issues were raised about the various proposals for a Foundation Year, an expansion of bridging programmes and for Foundation Certificates. These included a concern that a Bridging Programme would draw from existing quota places rather than generating extra places, that an expansion of bridging programmes should not rely on a casualised teaching workforce, and that Foundation Certificates had not generally been shown to be effective at preparing students for undergraduate education.

The Fellow for Access and Admissions would feed back to the task group.

FELLOW FOR ACCESS and ADMISSIONS

12. Opening of the Study Centre

The date for the opening of the Study Centre had now been finalised (Saturday 12th October).

The Principal Bursar updated Governing Body on plans for commissioning artwork for two main areas of the new building: the open walls abutting the Sprott Wall (ideal for a tapestry) and the entrance from Thomas White Quad (which would suit a larger-than-lifesize statue or other sculpture).

It was **agreed** to ask Vivien Lovell of Modus Operandi to commission a proposal for a tapestry [].

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

Some Fellows wished to have the opportunity to visit the Study Centre, so that further ideas could be discussed at the meeting of Governing Body in 0th Week of Trinity Term. The Principal Bursar agreed to make arrangements in the context of ensuring that the building work was almost complete.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

13. Trinity Term 2019 Calendar

Governing Body **approved** the Trinity Term Calendar 2019.

14. Any other business

The Governing Body **agreed** that the Suffrage flag should be flown from the Tower on International Women's Day (8th March 2019).

The President reminded Fellows that Revd. Professor Whyte would be admitted as Assessor on 13th March and encouraged them to join the procession and lunch.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

15. Health and Safety Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2019 were received.

16. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges on 14th February 2019 were received.