

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor R. G. Compton, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Professor C. Whistler, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor K. Nation, Professor W. Mattli, Professor P. Maini, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor I. Klinke, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor A. Srinivasan, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane

Apologies: Professor M. Omri, Professor R. Ekins, Professor S. Toussaert

In attendance: Dr. S. Campbell, Dr. M. Nicholls, Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were **approved**.

2. Election of Honorary Fellow

Professor Lionel Tarassenko, founding President of Parks College, was elected as an Honorary Fellow.

**PRESIDENT**3. Development and Alumni Relations Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** the establishment of a President's Circle to recognise the College's largest donors. The finer details of membership would be further considered.

It was also **agreed** to erect a major donor plaque in a suitable location. The Director of Development & Alumni Relations would review suitable locations with a number of other members of Governing Body.

A fuller report on new funds raised and costs would be presented to the next meeting of Governing Body, together with the annual benchmarking survey.

**DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR**4. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to appoint an Official Fellow in Philosophy in association with an Associate Professorship in Metaphysical Philosophy as soon as possible.

A buy-out for three hours of Professor Wright's College teaching for the 2019/20 academic year was also **agreed**.

Sabbatical leave was **agreed** for Professor Grafen (Michaelmas Term 2020 to Trinity Term 2021), Professor Klinke (Michaelmas Term 2020 to Hilary Term 2021) and for Professor Armstrong (Michaelmas Term 2020).

#### **ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)**

##### 5. Promotion of the Arts Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to purchase new chairs for the Barn [].

It was also **agreed** to purchase a portable stage and lighting for the Barn [].

#### **MUSIC & VISUAL ARTS OFFICER**

It was **agreed** to digitise approximately twenty of the College's pre-1900 watercolours for inclusion on the Watercolour World's website for a small administrative fee with all rights reserved.

It was **agreed** that the College would become a subscribing member of Art UK at Red Partnership Level [].

It was also **agreed** to loan the picture by Jan Brueghel of 'Flowers in a Stoneware Vase' to the Dulwich Picture Gallery for an exhibition from 17<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020, subject to a positive report from the College's usual conservator.

#### **KEEPER OF THE PICTURES**

##### 6. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were received.

The President reminded the Governing Body of Professor Pitcher's anomalous status with regard to the College's Statutes now that the transitional arrangements, in place while his case was being considered by the Employment Tribunal, had come to an end, and since he had declined to be considered for an Emeritus Fellowship.

The Governing Body **agreed**, after a ballot with 24 in support of a first option, 12 in support of a second option, and 3 abstentions, that the President would write to Professor Pitcher requiring him to vacate his College room and to relinquish his social privileges by 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The President would reiterate that the option of applying to be considered for an Emeritus Fellowship remained open to him.

It was noted that, as for all former Fellows, Professor Pitcher continued to be a member of Common Room.

#### **PRESIDENT**

The Governing Body **agreed** the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. This included a plan to the end of the 2020/21 academic year for staff development and training, and activities to celebrate and promote diversity, success, health and well-being.

#### **FELLOW FOR EQUALITY**

It was also **agreed** to write to the Vice Chancellor to express a firmer commitment to the new Chair in Women's History. On the assumption that the Chair was being funded by the University, it was **agreed** to fundraise for a graduate scholarship (from existing quota) in the field of women's history, broadly defined, alongside this.

#### **PRESIDENT**

7. Chapel and Patronage Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to support the planned Choir tour to Vienna in April 2020 with flight costs, inexpensive accommodation and a modest per diem for the twenty-four singers and the Choir Director, to be met from designated choral foundation funds.

It was also **agreed** to award choral scholarships to Harry Reddish and Lola Salem.

**FINANCE BURSAR**

8. Finance Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were received.

The Finance Bursar briefed Governing Body on the College's Annual Report and Accounts with a series of graphs summarising the College's financial activities. She highlighted the increase in expenditure due to higher USS contributions. The Governing Body thanked the Finance Bursar and her team for preparing such a helpful overview of the College's finances.

The Acting Principal Bursar outlined three options for future project costs for the Oxford North project in December 2019 and January 2020, dependent on the planning committee decision on 27<sup>th</sup> November. The Governing Body **agreed** to authorise the President, Principal Bursar, Acting Principal Bursar/Acting Estates Bursar and Finance Bursar to take a decision by agreement of three and disagreement of none.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR/ACTING PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

The Governing Body also **agreed** to accept an offer from King County to acquire the freehold interest of 2124 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle [].

9. Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were received.

The Acting Principal Bursar reported on discussions regarding a management agreement for the Lamb & Flag. The Governing Body **agreed** to negotiate a detailed agreement with Charles Wells and to authorise the President, Principal Bursar, Acting Principal Bursar/Acting Estates Bursar and Finance Bursar to proceed by agreement of three and disagreement of none.

The Acting Principal Bursar also reported on the works at St Giles House, noting that some problems with the stonework (only visible once the scaffolding had been erected) might incur extra costs [].

**ACTING PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

10. Library refurbishment project

The Acting Principal Bursar noted that there was currently a limited number of reader spaces and that the more informal study spaces might be replaced with desks. Phase 3 of the refurbishment project would start at the end of September 2020.

**ACTING PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

11. Fellows' housing arrangements

The Finance Bursar updated Governing Body on legal advice she had received regarding Fellow's housing. She expected to have more definitive advice before the end of the year.

It was noted that terms and conditions for Junior Research Fellows were broadly similar across the three colleges who recruited jointly and that any changes would need wider discussion.

**FINANCE BURSAR**

12. Any other business

The Finance Bursar reported on the latest communications regarding USS. Governing Body encouraged her to respond on their behalf.

**FINANCE BURSAR**

The Acting Principal Bursar reported that a French TV channel, TF1, wished to film a short, five-minute documentary in College. It was **agreed** not to grant the request.

**ACTING PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

**BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE**

13. Domestic Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 were received.

14. Entertainments Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were received.

It was noted that responsibility for the updating of the Senior Members' list throughout the academic year needed to be clarified.

**PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER**