

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 4th December 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 F. A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Professor C. Whistler, Professor K. Nation, Professor W. Mattli, Professor P. Maini, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor A. Srinivasan, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor B. McFarlane

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor J. Schnell, Professor C. Newton, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor I. Klinke, Professor E. Greensmith

In attendance: 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 November 2019 were **approved**.

In matters arising the President reported that she had written to Professor Pitcher as directed. He had indicated that he reserved his position on applying for an Emeritus Fellowship, pending the outcome of his appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal. The President further reported that Professor Pitcher's appeal, after passing the 'sifting' stage, had been reviewed by a judge who had decided that it disclosed no reasonable grounds for disturbing the decision of the Employment Tribunal.

2. Research Committee

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

The Governing Body **agreed** to award Professor Bray a grant [] for a project on the role of Arabic manuscripts and books in 17th-century European astronomy, with Oxford as a case study.

The Research Budget for 2019/20 was **approved**.

The Fellow for Research drew Governing Body's attention to the three research soirées scheduled for Hilary Term.

FELLOW FOR RESEARCH3. Fellows' Housing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2019 were received.

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

ACTING PRINCIPAL BURSAR

4. Educational Policy Committee

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

The Governing Body **agreed** to appoint to a Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in Geography, with effect from 1st October 2020.

It also **agreed** a buy-out by the Music Faculty of two annualised hours of Professor Stanyek's College teaching to take on the duties of Director of Graduate Studies for two years with effect from Michaelmas Term 2020.

ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

It was **agreed** to increase the entertainment allowance for College Advisors of postgraduate students to £75 with effect from Hilary Term.

SENIOR TUTOR/FINANCE BURSAR

The Governing Body further agreed to explore the possibility of extending the use of the Higby Fund to provide for a graduate scholarship for a blind or partially sighted student, with the intention if possible of advertising a scholarship for the next admissions round. The scholarship would be available to students in any subject area, advertised in collaboration with the University and awarded on academic merit.

SENIOR TUTOR

The Senior Tutor reported that the review of size and shape was ongoing, with the aim to complete discussion of all twenty-eight subjects in College by the end of Trinity Term 2020. He would present initial findings to the final Educational Policy Committee of the academic year and would report more fully by the end of the Long Vacation.

SENIOR TUTOR/VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

Sabbatical leave was **agreed** for Professor Elston (Michaelmas Term 2020 to Hilary Term 2021). Professor Maini would also be on sabbatical (Hilary Term to Trinity Term 2021).

5. Academic Services Committee

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

It was noted that the booking policy for the Mark Bedingham Room did not fully accommodate the needs of Fellows whose research required use of the technology in the room. The Fellow Librarian would discuss the issue with the Librarian and report back to next term's meeting of the committee.

FELLOW LIBRARIAN

6. Development and Alumni Relations

The Director of Development and Alumni Relations presented the latest iteration of the 'Case for Support', a document that included the College's aims and aspirations and explained its finances and funding ambitions. The President encouraged Governing Body to send him any feedback.

GOVERNING BODY

The Director of Development and Alumni Relations also presented an analysis of funds raised and expenditure compared to its 'peer' colleges between 2012 and 2018. It was **agreed** that he would gather input from Fellows and report more fully to a future meeting of Governing Body. The President noted that the structure and reporting for development and alumni relations activity would be reviewed during 2020.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

7. Bursarial update

The Acting Principal Bursar reported that the Oxford North application for planning approval had been 'called in' to the City Council's Planning Review Committee on 16th December.

He also reported that the lowest two pay points for College staff had been adjusted to meet the Living Wage Foundation's annual increase announced in mid November. He noted that, along with other colleges, the College was investigating the Oxford Living Wage.

Planning permission had been received for the Eagle and Child and the project would now go out to tender.

ACTING PRINCIPAL BURSAR

8. Hilary Term Calendar

The draft Calendar was **agreed**.

The Development and Alumni Relations Committee meeting was scheduled for 1st Week; in subsequent terms the committee would aim to meet later in the term.

9. Any other business

A number of issues had arisen with the scheduling of works on the fire alarm system in Front Quad. The Acting Principal Bursar undertook to resolve matters.

The President reported that, after the report of discriminatory language used by a member of staff towards a former student visiting St John's, the College had launched an urgent investigation into the incident. The matter was the subject of an ongoing procedure that had not yet concluded.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

10. Development Board

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2019 were received.

11. Conference of Colleges

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

12. Official guests to dinners, 2020

The list of official guests to dinners in 2020 was received.