

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 2.00 p.m. remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Present: The President, Professor R. G. Compton, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor C. Whistler, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. K. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor S. R. Myers, Professor A. Wright, Professor J. Schnell, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J.J. Pandit, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Wonnacott, Dr M. Nicholls, Professor N. K. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr K. Doornik

Apologies: Professor A. Starinets, Professor H. Skoda, Professor E. Greensmith

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 12th January 2022 were **approved**.

2. Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in Politics

Dr Raluca Pahontu was elected to a Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in Politics, without membership of Governing Body, for five years from 1st October 2022.

3. Elections to Junior Research Fellowships

The Senior Tutor reported on the elections for Junior Research Fellowships. He noted that the process had been brought forward by three weeks this year and thanked all colleagues, but especially Louise Hudson and Amanda Armstrong in HR, for their support.

Ms Alexandra Grieve, Dr Priya Urs, Ms Auguste Vadisiute and Mr Daniel Zhang were elected to Junior Research Fellowships (without membership of Governing Body) for three years from 1st October 2022.

It was noted that the ECR Working Group would make recommendations about increasing the number of associations with College.

SENIOR TUTOR4. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2022 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to restate its existing policy that all Fellows wishing to seek permission to apply for external grants might do so to the Governing Body via the committee.

Sabbatical leave was **agreed** for Professor Stanyek during Hilary and Trinity Terms 2023 in advance of entitlement to enable him to take on a significant faculty role from Michaelmas Term 2023.

It was **agreed** that the number of North Senior and Beeston Scholarships offered would be increased to one per division, each scholarship to be held for a maximum of two years. It was also **agreed** that the scholarships committee would be granted a degree of flexibility so that, where appropriate, awards might be vired between divisions and/or made in terms of 'scholarship years' so that where a successful candidate had only one year remaining a 'spare' year might be awarded elsewhere.

It was **agreed** that the College would not opt into the Foundation Oxford scheme at the moment but that the Fellow for Admissions and Access would keep the programme under review.

FELLOW FOR ADMISSIONS AND ACCESS

It was **agreed** that the Inspire book grant scheme for offer holders would be continued for the Michaelmas Term 2022 intake, with tutors and/or current students to be asked to advise students on the most useful purchases.

FELLOW FOR ADMISSIONS AND ACCESS

The Policy on Undergraduate Suspension of Status was **agreed**.

Sabbatical leave was **agreed** for Professor Compton (Michaelmas Term 2022), Professor Larrington (Michaelmas Term 2022), and Professor Toussaert (Michaelmas Term 2022 and Hilary Term 2023).

5. Promotion of the Arts Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2022 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to fund a joint recital for the Chapel Choir with the viol consort Chelys [], with the caveat that this was a one-time only grant and should not be taken as a precedent. The Chapel would have its own budget in future.

FINANCE BURSAR

6. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2022 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** the Prevent Duty policy and its annual review every Michaelmas Term. The Principal Bursar would review the detailed procedures (last updated in September 2020).

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

The Governing Body **agreed** to renew the Fellowships of Professor L. di Mare from 18th April 2022 and Professor Z. Olszewska from 1st October 2022 for a period of seven years or until retirement, whichever was sooner.

The Governing Body **elected** Professor D. Kwiatkowski to an Emeritus Research Fellowship for three years from 1st April 2022.

Professors Bush, Craig, Davies, McDowell and Tod were also **elected** to Emeritus Research Fellowships for a further three-year period from 1st October 2022.

As her research funding had been extended, the Governing Body **agreed** also to extend Dr Gromak's Fellowship in the Sciences until 30th September 2022.

It was **agreed** that the ECR Representatives should attend Governing Body for both Agenda A and Agenda B. It was noted that the President appointed the ECR Representatives and that they did not represent the ECR body (unlike the JCR and MCR Officers who were elected by their peers to attend Agenda A). An Agenda C would be created for reserved business for trustees only and the President would review papers for sensitivity. The arrangement would be reviewed

next Hilary Term. Consideration might also be given to more substantive business being included on Agenda A.

PRESIDENT

The Vice-President (Domus) thanked Fellows for their nominations for Honorary Fellowship. It was **agreed** that six candidates would be invited to accept an Honorary Fellowship from the College. It was also **agreed** that candidates whose nominations has been considered for three years would not be reconsidered for the following three years.

PRESIDENT

The Governing Body **agreed** that the Vice-President (Domus) would chair a committee to consider artworks owned by the College that might require more detailed historic contextualisation. The committee would agree its remit and which of the College's artworks to take into account.

VICE-PRESIDENT (DOMUS)

The updated College Officer role profiles and committee terms of reference were **approved**. The terms of reference for Entertainments and Student Hardship Committees would be added to the document and it would be made available on the intranet.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO THE PRESIDENT

The President reported that a Working Group (comprising Professors Sugimura, Newton and Jones with Mrs Marston as Secretary) would consider the recommendations of the recent Welfare Review with the aim being to present a plan to General Purposes Committee in Week 3 of Trinity Term.

PRESIDENT

The President commended the Equality Report for 2020/21.

The Principal Bursar updated the Governing Body on the College's recent EJRA case. She reported that the case had incurred costs of £410k to date, with a grievance against the College still to be heard.

She also reported that seven members of staff lived rent-free in College properties and that, apart from housing for two roles, these were now subject to a benefit-in-kind charge. The issues were in line with the processes agreed in relation to Fellows' housing.

The Principal Bursar reported that she had received legal advice which clarified that a conflict of interest would arise if Tutorial Fellows who were beneficiaries of the (now closed) housing scheme operated by the College had the possibility of voting on matters relating to the scheme.

The Governing Body **agreed** a budget of £50k per year to be allocated to supporting local disadvantaged schools. The scheme would be named and schools asked to acknowledge St John's support in school literature and on their websites.

It was also **agreed** to offer the Oxford Playhouse a lease for a 30-year period (an additional 15 years to the current end date), additional rent relief [], but no contribution to an air source heat pump, on condition that there was sufficient recognition of the College's support. Professor Collins, as the College's representative on the Playhouse Board, highlighted the excellent work done by the Playhouse in the community and especially in deprived areas of Oxford.

The Data Protection Policy, Freedom of Speech Policy and Privacy Notices under the GDPR framework were **agreed**.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

7. Chapel and Patronage Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022 were received.

The Governing Body noted that four weddings would take place in Chapel this year and the first blessing of a same-sex civil partnership.

The Governing Body **agreed** that Choral Scholarships should be awarded to Isabella Boileau, Laura Casale, Katie Croft, Ozan Eder and Rachel Ing.

FINANCE BURSAR

8. Finance and Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022 were received.

The Principal Bursar reported on a new planning application in relation to College land at Southmoor. She also updated on developments with regard to the Eagle and Child and Lamb & Flag, and noted the targets for the College's overall fundraising strategy for the next 4–5 years.

The Governing Body **agreed** a number of proposals gradually to restructure the equity portfolio, noting the extensive discussions that had taken place.

It was also **agreed**, in order to ensure proper performance monitoring of the investments held in the endowment, to provide scrutiny with the support of external experts, and to avoid duplication of meetings and reviews, to:

- a) merge the Investment Advisory Group with Investment Sub-Committee to undertake reviews of the equity portfolio and consider new investments;
- b) bring an external property expert onto Finance & Estates Committee to assist with strategic oversight and performance monitoring of land and property holdings; Investment sub-Committee would need to be aware of property investments from a strategic perspective, and the property expert would be asked to attend an annual review with the Sub-Committee;
- c) review this operating model after one year.

The Works budget for 2022/23 was also **agreed**.

The Principal Bursar reported that she had received a report suggesting improved financial reporting and other system and process improvements in the Finance Office. A small group, including the President and Principal Bursar, would take the recommendations forward.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

The Principal Bursar invited Governing Body to a consultation on the College's Masterplan.

She also updated the Governing Body on the latest developments in the Oxford North project.

9. Fellows' Housing Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022 were received.

In accordance with the legal advice received on trustees' conflict of interest, the non-conflicted Fellows, noting that the other Fellow in Band 1 had already been allocated another property and there was no conflict between the Fellows in Band 2, **agreed** to allocate [] to Professor Omri, under the terms and conditions of the Hart-Synnot scheme.

Noting that there was also no conflict between the Fellows in Band 3, it was **agreed** to allocate [] to Professor di Mare, under the terms and conditions of the Hart-Synnot scheme.

FINANCE BURSAR

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

10. Oxford North Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2022 were received.

13. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges on 7th December 2021 were received.