

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 28th May 2025 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. Elston, Professor K. Nation, Revd. Canon Professor W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor S. Myers, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor M. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor C. Newton, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor E. Greensmith, Dr. M. Nicholls, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor E. Wonnacott, Ms. Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor L. Hunt, Professor R. Lall, Professor I. Williams, Professor G. Evans, Professor L. Moody, Professor C. Munday, Dr. J. Richards (ECR Representative), Ms. R. Brooks (MCR President), Mr L. Cooke (JCR President)

Apologies: Professor Z. Molnár, Professor M. Cannon, Professor P. Maini, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Professor A. Russell, Professor B. Murnane, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Professor S. White, Professor N. Jones, Professor R. Hoyer, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor T. Qutbuddin, Professor A. Lak, Professor S. Knott, Dr. S. Hardy (ECR Representative), Ms. A. Li Taira (MCR Vice-President), Mr J. Dunn (JCR Vice-President), Mr O. Whittle (JCR Secretary)

In attendance: Ms. K. Oakley, Ms. I. Hawkins, Mr G. Lopes (for item 4); Ms. D. Cripps

ACTION

AGENDA 'A'

1. Minutes of Governing Body and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 12th March 2025 were **approved**.

2. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2025 were received.

3. Welfare Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2025 were received.

The Fellow for Welfare presented an updated version of the *Welfare and Wellbeing, Guidance for Tutors* document. The Governing Body **agreed** that the document should be communicated to tutors, with the communication method to be determined by the Senior Tutor, the Fellow for Welfare, and the Head of Student Welfare and Wellbeing.

SENIOR TUTOR and FELLOW FOR WELFARE

4. College Ball

The JCR President presented a proposal for a St John's College Ball to be held on 27th June 2026 at the end of Week 9.

The Ball Committee emphasised their desire to make the Ball as inclusive as possible and their willingness to make white tie optional if Governing Body felt this was necessary. The Committee agreed to consider additional ways to improve inclusivity.

The plan included a welfare area, and this would be discussed in detail with the Head of Student Welfare and Wellbeing. An alumni ticket would also be included in the budget workings.

The Senior Tutor noted the need to minimise disruption to those who would still be taking exams at the time of the Ball.

The Governing Body **approved** the Ball proposal.

PROFESSOR GREENSMITH

5. JCR President's Valedictory Address

Mr Cooke noted the vibrancy of the JCR, with Freshers involved and a thriving Committee. He described his presidency as one of laying foundations for the future rather than one of radical reform, with some concrete changes, including a price freeze on vegan and vegetarian food to incentivise choosing these options over meat. He also highlighted the effective integration of the Senior Welfare and Wellbeing Officer with the student body. He had collaborated on the scheme for safer celebrations after exams, especially around large areas of water and thanked the President, not only for stimulating and useful conversations, but also for initiating a meeting with the JCR President of Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge.

In concluding, Mr Cooke thanked his tutors for their understanding and encouragement, the JCR Committee, his predecessor, and the Principal Bursar, Domestic Bursar, Senior Tutor and Head of Student Welfare and Wellbeing.

The President thanked the JCR President for his address and particularly for his commitment to a collaborative relationship with the MCR.

6. Any other business

The Fellow for Sport noted three upcoming events: a five-a-side football tournament on 17th June, the staff/Fellows vs. students cricket match on 19th June, and rounders and a barbecue on 2nd July. He also highlighted that SCR and MCR members could join the Punt Club.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

7. Promotion of the Arts Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2025 were received.

8. Chapel and Patronage Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2025 were received.

9. Annual Statement from the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA)

The Annual Statement from the OIA was received.