

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

### MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. Elston, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor K. Nation, Revd. Canon Professor W. Whyte, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor S. Myers, Professor A. Wright, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor M. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor R. Ekins, Professor B. Murnane, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Professor S. White, Dr. M. Nicholls, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor N. Jones, Ms. Z. Hancock, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor R. Hoyer, Professor L. Hunt, Professor A. Lak, Professor I. Williams, Professor L. Moody, Dr. J. Richards (ECR Representative)

Apologies: Professor M. Cannon, Professor P. Maini, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor A. Starinets, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor E. Wonnacott, Dr S. Campbell, Professor R. Lall, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor T. Qutbuddin, Professor G. Evans, Professor C. Munday, Professor S. Knott, Dr. S. Hardy (ECR Representative)

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

### ACTION

### AGENDA 'B'

#### 1. Minutes of Governing Body and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were **approved**.

#### 2. Domestic & Establishment Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were received.

The Governing Body **approved** the Volunteering Policy. The Principal Bursar noted that this was currently only for professional staff but that it might be extended more widely in future.

The increases in rents and charges for 2025/26 [ ] were **agreed**.

The changes to the Room Booking and Events Policy were also **agreed**.

### PRINCIPAL BURSAR

#### 3. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were received.

The Senior Tutor reported on a meeting of the Conference of Colleges Admissions Committee relating to admissions testing.

The Governing Body noted an issue about vacation residence grants and support from College for internships that would be fully addressed in the next academic year.

### SENIOR TUTOR

#### 4. Research Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** the following grants:

- a) a Welcome Grant [] to Professor Moody for ‘The epigenetic regulation of three-dimensional growth in plants’;
- b) a Welcome Grant [] to Professor Lall for ‘Administering the algorithms: mass preferences for the global governance of artificial intelligence’;
- c) a Large Grant [] to Dr. Miao for ‘Atomic imaging of carbon mineralisation’;
- d) a Visiting Researcher Grant [] from 16<sup>th</sup> July–10<sup>th</sup> August 2025, together with SCR membership and dining privileges in accordance with the scheme and college accommodation from 1<sup>st</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> August [], to Professor di Mare to fund research with Professor Russell Cummings;
- e) a Visiting Researcher Grant] from 31<sup>st</sup> August–28<sup>th</sup> September 2025, together with SCR membership and dining privileges in accordance with the scheme, to Professor Obloj to fund research with Professor Ivan Guo.

#### **FELLOW FOR RESEARCH**

#### 5. Sports Report

The Fellow for Sport’s annual report was received. He reminded Governing Body that all were welcome to the rounders game on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

#### 6. Garden Report

The Keeper of the Groves’ annual report was received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that, on the advice of Lear Associates, the College should open discussion about the Kendrew beech tree with Oxford City Council’s arboricultural officer and that a separate arboricultural report should also be commissioned.

#### **KEEPER OF THE GROVES**

#### 7. Bagley Wood Report

The Keeper of Bagley Wood’s annual report was received. She noted the problems associated with ash dieback in the wood.

#### 8. President’s Report

The President took stock of the past three years, highlighting the priorities she had set for the College: academic standards; widening participation; engaged alumni; and a diverse profile focused on holistic wellbeing and a strong community culture. She summarised the progress that had been made to date.

She noted with sadness the deaths of Professor Ioan James, Professor Edward Davies, and former President Bill Hayes. She highlighted the retirements of Professor Gottlob and Professor Stevenson, and the forthcoming retirements of Professors Weidberg and Omri, and thanked them for all they had done for the College.

Five new trustees had joined Governing Body in 2024/25 and the President pointed to the many achievements of Fellows throughout the year.

It had been a busy and successful year: the Bainton Road Nursery had been rated outstanding for the second time and the Inspire programme continued to go from strength to strength. The Governance Working Party had concluded its work and College's governance had been strengthened as a result. She looked forward to the further development of Oxford North and to the Masterplan, a major project for years to come, noting the work undertaken by the Principal Bursar.

9. Michaelmas Term 2025 Calendar

Governing Body **approved** the Michaelmas Term Calendar.

10. Any other business

The Senior Tutor reported that Mr Noah Kravitz (who had been elected as a new Career Development Research Fellow for the next academic year) had subsequently been successful in a highly competitive National Science Foundation Mathematics Postdoctoral competition. To comply with the terms of this award, the Governing Body **agreed** to offer him an association as Visiting NSF Postdoctoral Fellow for two years from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

**SENIOR TUTOR**

**BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE**

11. Development & Alumni Relations Committee The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were received.

12. Academic Services Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were received.

13. Update on Undergraduate Admissions Testing

The papers of the Conference of Colleges Admissions Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 were received.

14. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were received.