

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

## MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 2.15 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor S. J. Elston, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor P. K. Maini, The Revd Canon Professor W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor H. Skoda, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Dr. G Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane, Dr M. Nicholls, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr K. Doornik, Professor R. Hoye, Professor L. Hunt, Professor T. Qutbuddin, Professor A. Lak, Professor I. Williams, Professor G. Evans, Professor C. Munday, Professor S. Knott, Professor E. Batyra

Apologies: Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Professor S. Myers, Professor A. Wright, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor A. Russell, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor I. Klinke, Professor G. Rose, Professor E. Wonnacott, Professor N. K. Jones, Professor R. Lall, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor L. Moody, Professor P. Jha

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

## AGENDA 'C'

## ACTION

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were **approved**.

In matters arising the President addressed issues that had been raised [ ] and noted that a paper would be presented to Governing Body for discussion in due course.

2. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were received.

The Governing Body **approved** the Prevent Duty policy and documentation.

It was **agreed** to renew the Emeritus Research Fellowship of Professor C. Whistler for a second three-year period from 1st January 2026.

Professor M. Bruna was **elected** to an Associate Fellowship (without access to research funds and without membership of Governing Body), coterminous with her holding a professorship in the Mathematical Institute.

Professor Sendhil Mullainathan (MIT) was **elected** to an Associate Fellowship (without access to research funds and without membership of Governing Body) in Trinity Term 2026, coterminous with his holding the post of Sanjaya Lall Visiting Professor of Business and Development.

Professor Janet Currie (Princeton) was **elected** to an Associate Fellowship (without access to research funds and without membership of Governing Body) in Trinity Term 2027, coterminous with her holding the post of Sanjaya Lall Visiting Professor of Business and Development.

It was **agreed** to seek nominations for Honorary Fellows in 2026.

A two-hour stint reduction for Professor Nation in academic years 2026/27 and 2027/28 was **approved**. The Governing Body noted its appreciation for Professor Nation's work as Provost for Academic Affairs and asked that this be transmitted to Remuneration Committee.

**PRESIDENT**

The Governing Body considered restricting access to Agenda C Governing Body papers to trustees only and allowing trustees who had stepped down for a period to continue to access papers for Agendas A and B. It also reviewed the latest version of the Standing Orders for Governing Body and made some suggestions for amendment.

**PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

It was **agreed** to establish an ad hoc committee on Freedom of Speech to take decisions as cases arose and to report annually to General Purposes Committee.

**SENIOR TUTOR**

A three-year Creative Transformation Partnership with the Oxford Playhouse [] was **agreed**.

**PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**

3. Finance and Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were received.

It was **agreed** to undertake a detailed feasibility study and to develop a costed design to assess the optimum services interventions that would both meet the urgent needs in Kendrew Quad and consider future integration into the energy centre's heat network.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

4. Strategic Plan Working Party

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 were received.

The President reported that the final version of the Tier One Strategy would come to Governing Body for approval in Week 8.

5. Any other business

The President reported to Governing Body on a letter that had been received from the Junior Proctor. She noted that further information might be available at the next meeting of the Conference of Colleges. It was **agreed** that the President would respond on behalf of the College before the next meeting of the Governing Body in Week 8 if necessary.

**PRESIDENT**

6. President: review

The President left the meeting.

The Vice-President briefed Governing Body that, as the President was entering the fourth year of her first five-year term, it should consider the nature of the review that it wished to conduct.

It was **agreed** in the first instance to gather general feedback from trustees, together with views on the future priorities for the College.

**VICE-PRESIDENT, PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE**

7. Oxford North Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were received.

The Principal Bursar reported that Oxford North would be discussed in detail at the start of Hilary Term.