

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Friday 8th July 2022 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor S. J. Elston, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. K. Maini, The Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, 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 I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor E. Wonnacott, Dr M. Nicholls, Professor N. K. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr J. Richards (ECR Representative)

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Professor C. Whistler, Professor C. A. Larrington, Professor D. Martin, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Russell, Professor R. Ekins, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor E. Greensmith, Dr K. Doornik, Dr S. Derbyshire (ECR Representative)

In attendance: Revd. Dr E. Macfarlane (Fellow for Welfare), Mr M. Jennings, Mrs E. Marston, Mr Ian Stokes, Ms. D. Cripps

AGENDA 'B'

ACTION

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 21st June 2022 were **approved**.

In matters arising it was noted that Professor Jones would chair the Ball Steering Committee. He would keep Governing Body informed of plans with a full proposal next term and would circulate further ideas for the theme for the Ball for comment. He also noted that the Junior Members were concerned about their personal liability and had suggested setting up a limited company for the Ball. The Governing Body **agreed** that overall responsibility lay with the College and that this would not be necessary.

PROFESSOR JONES

The President noted that the report of the University's EJRA Review Group had now been published. The proposals, including a recommendation to raise the retirement age by one year to 30th September before the 70th birthday, would be published in the *Gazette* on 21st July and were subject to approval by Congregation in Michaelmas Term.

The President thanked demitting College Officers and particularly thanked the two Vice-Presidents, Professor Hills and Professor Larrington. She noted that Professor Larrington had been the inaugural Vice-President (Academic) and had held office for four years.

The Governing Body congratulated Professor Maynard on the award of the Fields Medal, a major achievement as the medal was only awarded every four years to a mathematician under the age of 40. There would be a celebration next term and the Keeper of the Pictures would consider commissioning a portrait of Professor Maynard.

PRESIDENT, KEEPER OF THE PICTURES

2. Research Committee

The minutes of the meeting held by email circulation on 1st July 2022 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** a Meeting of Minds grant [] to Professor Klinke, Professor Allen, Professor Blundell, Professor Burnett and Dr Omukuti for a project entitled 'How to change the minds of decision makers and policy creators and save the planet, a practical approach – Net Zero Working Lunches'.

It was noted that the project was a good example of knowledge exchange to bring on board policymakers and that a specific grant to encourage such projects might be considered for the future.

FELLOW FOR RESEARCH

3. Report on College welfare and well-being

The Fellow for Welfare reported that, following the recent review of the College's welfare provision, an implementation group was now taking the recommendations forward.

She reported on the range of current student needs and how these were being met. A number of initiatives were planned to increase awareness of the College's welfare support and a new Welfare Committee would be meeting from Michaelmas Term to keep a clear distinction between welfare and decanal issues.

The Fellow for Welfare reminded the Governing Body that she was always available to offer support. The Governing Body thanked her for her work across the College.

4. Staff–Student Relationships

The Governing Body **agreed** a policy towards close personal or intimate relationships between staff and students.

The policy would be further refined after consultation on a number of points.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR, FELLOW FOR EQUALITY

5. Donald Russell Memorial Lecture Series

Dr Kantor presented a proposal for a lecture series to mark the contribution of Professor Donald Russell to St John's and to Classics at Oxford and internationally, to start in 2023. The lectures would be annual and would be funded by Professor Russell's royalties. They would aim to attract a wide audience.

The Governing Body **agreed** the proposal.

DR KANTOR, PROFESSOR GREENSMITH, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

6. Sports report

The Sports Fellow's annual report was received. He noted his pleasure that it had been a more normal year with all teams getting a year's worth of activity. There were twenty-two active College clubs: the Dancesport team had won Cuppers, with two couples also taking first place in their chosen dances, and both the Saints men's rugby team and the women's football team had a very successful season. He especially congratulated Grace Molloy who now held eight Blues and who had also been awarded the University Sportswoman of the Year trophy.

Salto access had been installed at the sports ground, increasing usage of the facilities. He thanked everyone for their support of College sport, and most especially the Domestic Bursar, Work Bursar and his team, the Groundsman and Boatman.

The Governing Body thanked the Sports Fellow for his energetic support of sport in College.

7. Garden Report

The Keeper of the Groves' annual report was received. She had included a report by Professor Mark Laird on a plan for planting around the Sprott Wall informed by the historical context and the notes from a walk around the gardens with Dr Stirzaker, a previous Keeper of the Groves. She noted that the mowing schedule had been relaxed to encourage wildlife. This had allowed more focus on the smaller gardens around College.

The Governing Body thanked the Keeper of the Groves, the Head Gardener and his team for all their work in maintaining the gardens.

8. President's Valedictory Address

The President congratulated Professor Bray on her upcoming retirement, noting that she was the first woman to hold the role of the Abdulaziz Saud AlBabtain Laudian Professor of Arabic. In reflecting on the past ten years there were now many more women in leadership roles across the University, a significant change.

The President highlighted what had been achieved through numerous reviews and working groups and the renovations and new buildings undertaken over the decade, including the Greenhouse Bothy, the Library and Study Centre, the Bainton Road Nursery, and the new Lodge. She emphasised that the collective creativity of such a diverse group of Governing Body Fellows had ensured that the College's core objectives were met, through bringing different perspectives to issues and by acting with integrity, professionalism and sensitivity. The President set these achievements with the framework of the College's values to pursue excellence, act with integrity, care for the community and embrace equality, diversity and inclusion. She thanked everyone who had served as College officers during her tenure and all members of Governing Body for the myriad ways in which they supported the College.

The Vice-President (Domus) thanked the President, on behalf of the Governing Body, for all that she had done on the College's behalf over the past ten years.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

9. Oxford North Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2022 were received.

10. St John's College Staff Pension Fund

The minutes of the meeting of the Trustees of the St John's College Staff Pension Fund meeting held on 16th June 2022 were received.

11. Privacy Notices

The updated Privacy Notice (Applicants and Prospective Students) and the Privacy Notice (Student Data) were **approved**.