

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

An Adjourned Stated General meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 29th April 2015 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor J.C.G. Pitcher, Professor K. P. Tod, Professor I. J. Sobey, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor A. J. Parker, Dr. C. Whistler, Professor W. Mattli, Professor L. M. McDowell, Dr. C. A. Larrington, Professor R.M. Harding, Professor S. Myers, Professor A. Wright, Professor C. Jeffrey, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor C. Newton, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Bray

Apologies: Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. K. Maini, Revd. Dr. W. Whyte, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Starinets, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor K. Southwood, Professor J. J. Pandit

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 22nd April 2015 were **approved**.

2. Library and Study Centre

The Principal Bursar summarised progress on the proposed Library and Student Centre to date, reminding Governing Body of the main reasons for undertaking the project: a lack of reader seats in the College's current library provision compared to other colleges; the inefficient configuration of those seats; the desire of students for communal study areas; and the need for a proper storage area for the College's library archival material. The architect had benefited from very helpful discussions about the north end of the proposed building and the drawings were now specified to the point where major variation would be expensive and therefore not advisable.

The Principal Bursar detailed the costs of the new build area [] and explained why costs had increased from the previous estimate. He noted that the College would be gaining a large, very energy-efficient building and that lower running costs would contribute to containing the life-time cost of ownership of the building. He also suggested that College should be using its endowment in support of its primary charitable purposes. Donors and potential benefactors had been approached about contributing to the Library project and further efforts were being made. Nonetheless it was clear that benefactors, in line with a clear global trend in philanthropic giving, were more interested in donating to more clearly people-related projects (scholarships and fellowships, for example) than to bricks and mortar.

The Principal Bursar highlighted the detailed material provided by the architect, including a report on site access and work-in-progress photographs by Susanna Heron. The College had been granted planning permission for the new build and this gave a 36-month window within which to begin work. He commended the project to Governing Body.

Governing Body **agreed**, after a vote with 22 in support, 2 against and 1 abstention, that

- a) the project would proceed to tender (with tenders available for discussion and agreement between September and December 2015);
- b) the best estimates to date would be agreed as the project budget;
- c) an external building project manager would be recruited on a fixed-term part-time basis to protect the College's interests on an independent basis during the project.

Governing Body also **agreed** that a more project-orientated grouping would be created in place of the current advisory group. Interested Fellows should contact the President.

The Principal Bursar noted that the question of cashflow would be referred to Investment Committee.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR and PRESIDENT

3. Filming in College

The Principal Bursar reported on filming that would be taking place in College: A N Wilson would be filming a BBC4 documentary about Philip Larkin in the Library on 6th May and a major episode of *Lewis* would be filmed over two to three days in the second week of July.

4. Professor Craig Jeffrey

On behalf of Governing Body the President congratulated Professor Jeffrey on his appointment as Director of the Australia India Institute based at the University of Melbourne from September 2015.