

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

A Stated General meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 10.30 a.m. in the Senior Common Room.

**Present:** The President, Professor M. Davies, Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor R. G. Compton, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Dr. C Whistler, Professor M. Cannon, Professor W. Mattli, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor A. Wright, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor C. Newton, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor Sir R. Collins, Dr. I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem

**Apologies:** Professor P. P. Craig, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor K. Nation, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Prof. W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Starinets, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor A. Russell, Professor J. J. Pandit

**In attendance:** (except for Item 15) Dr. K. Doornik (Equality Officer), Dr. E. Clewlow (Academic Dean), Ms. A. Bielby (Director of Development and Alumni Relations), Ms. D. Cripps

**ACTION****AGENDA 'B'**

1. Professor L. Pratt, Professorial Fellow in English & Drue Heinz Professor of American Literature and Professor C. Beem, Official Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics were admitted to Governing Body.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were **approved**.

On behalf of Governing Body the President congratulated Professors C. Larrington, N. Lübecker and D. Martin on being awarded titles of distinction by the University. Congratulations were also offered to Professor Myers on the award of the Francis Crick Medal by the Royal Society.

3. Professor of Human Geography

The Senior Tutor reported that Gillian Rose, currently Professor of Cultural Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences, the Open University had been appointed to the Professorship of Human Geography in the School of Geography and the Environment and would take up her post from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Professor Rose was elected to a Professorial Fellowship of St John's College with membership of Governing Body, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

**SENIOR TUTOR**

4. Membership of Governing Body

The President reminded members of Governing Body about their obligations as charity trustees, drawing their attention to UK Government guidance (*Charity trustee: what's involved* [ ]) and to the College's Public Sector Equality Duty Policy. She also noted that trustees would be asked to update their declarations of any conflicts of interest.

**GOVERNING BODY**

5. Professor Georg Gottlob

The Senior Tutor reported that Professor Gottlob was taking up a post at TU Wien from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, to be held jointly with his University position (which would be at 40% FTE for the duration of his post in Vienna).

The Governing Body **agreed** that Professor Gottlob would step down as an active member of Governing Body in 2017 and 2018 and, during that period, would not be a Trustee of the College.

**SENIOR TUTOR and PRESIDENT**

6. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Laudian Chair of Arabic

The Senior Tutor reported to Governing Body that the University had accepted a donation to re-endow the Laudian Chair of Arabic and to rename it as the Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Laudian Chair of Arabic. It was noted that the College had not been consulted about the re-endowment and that the University was changing its procedures so that, in similar future circumstances, colleges offering Professorial Fellowships to holders of Statutory Chairs would be included in discussions.

General Purposes Committee would consider the matter in more detail and report back to Governing Body.

**PRESIDENT**

7. Bursary updates

The Principal Bursar updated Governing Body on a number of projects.

i) Library and Study Centre

The project was now 'out of the ground' after completion of a foundation for the main tower crane. It was noted that the risk of unforeseen expenditure was now reduced. A specification and costing for the refurbishment of the old Laudian Library was being prepared.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

The formal opening of the artwork in the Otranto Passage was planned for 12<sup>th</sup> October together with a display of chairs that might be chosen for the new Study Centre.

ii) Northern Gateway

Mr. Marcus MacKay had resigned as Director of Thomas White Oxford and Peartree Oxford; any proposals for new appointments would be brought to Governing Body for approval.

The Principal Bursar asked for suggestions for names for the site to be sent to him.

**GOVERNING BODY**

iii) Bainton Road Nursery

The Nursery had made significant progress and would be handed over to the Nursery Manager, Ms. Marie Gaughan, around 17<sup>th</sup> October for the planned opening on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

The Governing Body thanked the construction team at Edmont, Mr. Gordon Freeman and Mr. Nick Bradley (Savills in-house design team) and Mr. Nick Rees and Ms. Dawn Brodie of Savills (project management and planning support).

It was noted that the local press had contained some negative comment from residents of Bainton Road.

The Governing Body **agreed** that Professor K. Southwood and Ms. D. Cripps should be appointed as Directors of the Bainton Road Nursery Ltd. It was also **agreed** that a sum [], to be repaid to College over time, should be transferred to the nursery company account to help it meet its early financial commitments.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

iv) Refurbishment of Garden Quad Auditorium

The Establishment and Domestic Bursar reported on a feasibility study for work on the Garden Quad Auditorium to improve the seating layout (including to allow wheelchair access), sight-lines and acoustic properties of the Auditorium. Professor Stanyek detailed the history of the Garden Quad Auditorium, highlighting the acoustic issues that resulted from the design of parts of the building.

It was **agreed** to approve an outline budget [] for building costs and to authorise the Principal Bursar to approve costs for professional fees.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR and Establishment and Domestic Bursar**

v) Staff Pay Settlement 2016

The Principal Bursar reported that a pay settlement of 1.5% had been agreed for all staff on College-specific salary scales. He noted that pay for cleaners and scouts was now set at £8.25 per hour and was well within the current living wage as set by the Living Wage Foundation (which seeks the commitment of employers to pay staff at a rate above the national minimum wage calculated on the basis of the cost of living). Payment for library invigilation, usually carried out by students, was at the level of the minimum wage.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

8. Size and shape

The Senior Tutor reported that he and the Academic Dean were arranging subject-by-subject discussions on size and shape over the 2016/17 academic year. Discussions would focus on the subjects offered and academic priorities including the growth of subjects, the balance between undergraduate and graduate numbers, and the admission of part-time students.

**SENIOR TUTOR and ACADEMIC DEAN**

9. Fellows' Housing

The Principal Bursar reported on changes to Stamp Duty which affected the viability of the College's joint purchase scheme for Fellows' housing.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

10. Elections and renewals of scholarships

The list of scholarships was **approved**.

11. Michaelmas Calendar

The draft Calendar was **approved**.

12. Ball Steering Committee

The Senior Dean reported that a detailed proposal for a ball to be held in Trinity Term 2017 had almost been completed. It was **agreed** that a group including the Senior Dean, Principal Bursar, Vice President, Domestic and Establishment Bursar, and the Keeper of the Groves would review and approve the proposal.

**SENIOR DEAN**

13. Public Sector Equality Duty

The College's Public Sector Equality Duty was noted.

14. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 were received.

15. EJRA

The Senior Tutor briefed Governing Body on the status of the current EJRA appeal.

**PRESIDENT, PRINCIPAL BURSAR and SENIOR TUTOR**