

## ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

**MINUTES**

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

**Present:** The Acting President (The Revd. Prof. W. Whyte), Professor C. J. K. Batty, Professor A. Grafen, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor A. J. Parker, Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor S. Elston, Professor L. Tarassenko, Professor P. P. Craig, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, 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 M-S. Omri, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor A. Russell, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Dr. I. Klinke, Professor C. Beem, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura

**Apologies:** Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor W. Mattli, Professor H. Bouman, Professor A. Starinets, Professor C. Newton, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor L. Pratt

**In attendance:** Dr. K. Doornik (Fellow for Equality), Dr. S. Campbell, Ms. A. Bielby (Director of Development and Alumni Relations), Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were **approved**.

2. Academic Services Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that Dr J. Dresvina's contract should be extended until the end of September 2018, on the same terms, to complete work on the cataloguing of the College's picture and silver collection.

**KEEPER OF THE PICTURES**3. Research Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were received.

The Fellow for Research reported on a proposal to increase the annual limit for teaching and research expenses with a view to supporting and stimulating research activity. It was **agreed** that the details of the proposal required some fine-tuning and that a revised proposal would be discussed at General Purposes Committee in Hilary Term.

**FELLOW FOR RESEARCH and GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Governing Body **agreed** the following:

- i) a Small Research Grant [ ] for Dr M. Noonan for a project on 'Adolescents' goal-directed behaviour';
- ii) a Small Conference Grant [ ], subject to matched funding being secured from the John Fell Fund, for Dr D. Benbabaali for a conference in September 2018 on 'Struggles for

autonomy: cast, gender, indigenous, territorial and religious movements in South Asia’.

The Governing Body also **agreed** a Large Grant [] for Professor Pandit for a project on ‘Novel competitive behaviour of volatile anaesthetics in neonatal rat carotid body cells and TASK channel subtypes’.

#### **FELLOW FOR RESEARCH**

The Acting President thanked the Fellow for Research for his annual report after his first year in office.

#### 4. Promotion of the Arts Committee

The minutes of the meeting held by email circulation on 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that the number of music bursaries for the current academic year should be increased from four to five.

It was also **agreed** to support the ‘World’s Music at Oxford’ with a grant [], less any funding received from other sources.

#### **MUSIC & VISUAL ARTS OFFICER**

#### 5. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** two terms’ sabbatical leave for Professor Nation during Michaelmas Term 2018 and Hilary Term 2019.

It was **agreed** to appoint a six-hour Stipendiary Lecturer in Classical Archaeology, in association with an Assistant Curator’s role at the Ashmolean Museum, from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

It was also **agreed** to take part in the Africa Oxford Initiative and to offer up to two Africa Oxford Visiting Scholarships per year.

[]

The Governing Body **agreed** that the College would bid for association with the Associate Professorship in Mathematical Cryptography on the basis that this would be a proleptic replacement [].

It was also **agreed** that the College would bid for association with the Professorship of Paediatric Neuroimaging and would offer a Professorial Fellowship with membership of Governing Body.

The Acting President noted that thoughts on the composition of Governing Body should be fed into the ongoing discussions on size and shape.

The Senior Tutor reported that student accommodation would be tight during the Long Vacation in 2018 due to planned refurbishment work. He also requested that Fellows update the College Office on the names of graduate students teaching undergraduates.

#### 6. Admissions

Dr Campbell, in her role as Tutor for Admissions for Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, updated Governing Body on plans for the admissions round. She noted that 500 candidates would be interviewed.

She also reported that a new access and admissions office was being created in 15 St Giles. Staff would move to the new office in 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Hilary Term.

The Acting President noted his thanks on behalf of Governing Body to Dr Campbell, Professor Lübecker and Professor Murnane for taking on extra duties during the absence of the Academic Dean.

7. Fyfield development

The Principal Bursar updated Governing Body on the proposed development of land for housing at Kingston Bagpuize, near Fyfield. He had met a number of Honorary Fellows about the development on 21<sup>st</sup> November to brief them on the project.

The College had also received a petition from eighty-nine households in Fyfield opposing the development and the Principal Bursar read this out. He had met a group of Fyfield residents in College on 22<sup>nd</sup> November to hear their concerns and to explain the College's position.

The Principal Bursar noted the announcement in the recent Budget that Oxfordshire had committed to provide 100,000 homes by 2031.

Governing Body **confirmed** its support for the project.

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

8. Refurbishment of Fellows' houses

The Principal Bursar reported that Knowles and Son, the contractor working on the refurbishment of houses in St John Street, had gone into administration. The College Surveyor had acted quickly to identify a new contractor who would take some responsibility for work already completed. It was estimated that as a result costs would rise [].

**PRINCIPAL BURSAR**

9. Report on request to work beyond the EJRA

Professor Tarassenko reported a conflict of role and left the meeting.

Professor Craig presented the report of the College EJRA Panel. He noted that there were multiple recommendations as two decision-making bodies were involved: the University and the College. The University was meeting to consider the request on 8<sup>th</sup> December and the Panel's recommendations were therefore framed to respond to a number of different scenarios.

Professor Craig stated that, from his reading of the By-law, he was clear that the College should have a voice and input at this stage of the process and indeed the University had asked for the College's view before its meeting. []

A copy of the recommendations had been sent to the relevant University authorities. They had also been sent to [], who had responded []. Professor Craig had noted that the recommendations were not binding without Governing Body approval.

The Governing Body **agreed** the EJRA Panel's report, subject to consideration of some suggested revisions [] (dependent on the University's decision). Professor Craig would report back to the 0<sup>th</sup> Week meeting of Governing Body next term.

**PROFESSOR CRAIG**

10. USS update

The Finance Bursar updated Governing Body on the latest meetings between UUK and UCU about future options for the USS. The UCU was balloting its members on strike action; there would be two further meetings at the start of December.

The Finance Bursar would report again in the New Year.

**FINANCE BURSAR**

11. Hilary Term Calendar

The draft Calendar was **agreed** with one amendment.

**BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE**

12. Conference of Colleges

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Conference of Colleges on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were received.

The Acting President noted Conference's debate about graduate numbers. He also reminded Governing Body that the College would hold the Assessorship in 2018 and asked for interested Fellows to contact him.

**GOVERNING BODY**

13. Official guests to dinners, 2018

The list of official guests to dinners in 2018 was received. Three further guests for the Thomas White dinner had been added to the list: the Acting Master of St Benet's Hall and the French ambassador and his wife.