

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A Stated General Meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 2.00 p.m remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Present: The President, 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 S. Elston, Professor C. Whistler, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor M. Cannon, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd. Prof. W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Ms. S. Layburn, Professor M. Omri, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor J. Bray, Professor D. Kwiatkowski, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor E. Wonnacott, Dr. M. Nicholls, Professor N. K. Jones

Apologies: Professor F. A. Armstrong, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor G. Rose, Professor E. Greensmith,

In attendance: Dr. S. Campbell, Dr K. Doornik, Mrs E. Marston, Ms. D. Cripps

AGENDA 'B'

ACTION

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 7th October 2020 were **approved**.

In matters arising, it was noted that the Bainton Road Nursery Group was due to meet soon.

2. Election to Hillary Rodham Clinton Chair of Women's History

The Vice-President (Academic) reported that Brenda E. Stevenson, currently Nickoll Family Endowed Professor of History and Professor of African American Studies at UCLA, had been appointed to the Hillary Rodham Clinton Chair of Women's History and would take up her post from 1st July 2021.

Professor Stevenson was elected to a Professorial Fellowship of St John's College with membership of Governing Body, with effect from 1st July 2021.

VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

3. Honorary Fellowships

The President reported on the current composition of the Honorary Fellowship. She noted that the medical and social sciences were somewhat under-represented and that expertise in mental health would be helpful to College.

The Governing Body **agreed** to seek nominations for the coming year. Nominators would be asked to prepare their nominations by Monday of 0th Week of Hilary Term (11th January 2021). College Associations Committee would be constituted to consider nominations in 2nd Week of Hilary Term.

PRESIDENT

4. Fellowship in Politics

The Vice-President (Academic) reported that the Department of Politics and International Relations notified the College that the Social Sciences Division wished to unfreeze a number of posts. It had been suggested that the College might agree to an APTF in Politics on a five-year titular basis, to be appointed if possible during Hilary Term 2021.

It was **agreed** that the Vice-President (Academic) would take discussions forward with the Department, ensuring that the College's teaching need was given appropriate weight on any selection committee for a replacement post.

VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

5. Appointment of Principal Bursar

The President reported on the recruitment process for a new Principal Bursar, which had included a number of rounds of interview and meetings with a range of Fellows and staff. The preferred candidate had indicated her desire to accept the role if offered.

The Governing Body **approved** the appointment.

The President would proceed to make a formal offer and agree a start date. The position would be subject to a one-year probationary review.

PRESIDENT

6. Educational Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2020 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that the 2020/21 Academic Assistants scheme would be opened for a second round of applications, to be considered by the committee at its 7th Week meeting.

It was **agreed** that the College should take a share in a three-year Career Development Fellow from October 2021 (with one term of leave to be taken in the 3rd academic year) to cover the College's teaching need in Italian. The position would be hosted at Christ Church and the College would cover one-seventh of the costs.

It was **agreed** that Dr Pollard should be appointed to a one-year, six-hour Stipendiary Lectureship for the academic year 2021/22 to provide continuity of teaching provision in Classical Archaeology.

It was **agreed** that the Junior Research Fellowship of Dr Johnson should be renewed for a fourth and final period of one year from 1st October 2021.

SENIOR TUTOR

Sabbatical leave was **agreed** for Professor Skoda (Michaelmas Term 2021 to Michaelmas Term 2022), Professor Sugimura (Michaelmas Term 2021 and Hilary Term 2022), Professor Lübecker (Hilary Term 2022 and Trinity Term 2022) and Professor Toussaert (Trinity Term 2021).

It was further **agreed** to increase the undergraduate admissions quota for Experimental Psychology from three to four.

The Senior Tutor reported on the request by a Junior Research Fellow to vary the term of appointment to a less than full-time FTE. This would not impact on the research project. Subject to this clarification and with proportionate pro-rating of allowances, the Governing Body **agreed** this as an exceptional request.

SENIOR TUTOR

The Fellow for Access and Admissions updated Governing Body on the arrangements for online admissions. She reported that Professor Cannon would step in if she needed to quarantine during the process. She thanked the IT team for their help.

7. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2020 were received.

It was **agreed** to renew the Fellowships of Professor Schnell and Professor Klinke from 1st October 2020 for a period of seven years or until retirement, whichever was sooner.

The Governing Body **elected** Dr Kemp to an Emeritus Research Fellowships for a fourth and final three-year period from 1st October 2020.

It was also **agreed** that the College should participate in the FACTS pilot study for a self-administered, rapid test for COVID-19. The President noted that volunteers were now being sought to complete the training in how to administer the test; she would welcome offers to act as an advisor in co-ordination of the trial.

PRESIDENT

The Deputy Bursar noted the outcome and learning points from the College's new Reward and Recognition Scheme.

8. Finance Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2020 were received.

The Finance Bursar noted that she would present an overview of the Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st July 2020 at the 8th Week meeting of Governing Body. The Governing Body thanked the Finance Bursar and her team for their work on the accounts in difficult circumstances.

The strength of the endowment was noted and the Strategic Projects Officer and former Investment Officer were thanked again for their long-term stewardship of the College's assets.

The Governing Body **agreed** an investment [].

It was **agreed** to conserve, photograph and catalogue the Laudian vestments [].

It was also **agreed** to pay an inefficiency payment [] to the Bainton Road Nursery.

FINANCE BURSAR

The Governing Body **agreed** that any two out of the President, Principal Bursar, Deputy Bursar and Finance Bursar were authorised to sign on behalf of the College to open accounts, and any two authorised signatories were authorised to give future instructions to Edgewood, BNY Mellon and its subsidiaries.

FINANCE BURSAR

The Strategic Projects Officer reported on the Oxford North project. He updated the Governing Body on the current financial position and relationship between the College and its two subsidiary companies, Thomas White Oxford and Peartree Oxford Ltd and provided an overview of upcoming decisions on the development. He would prepare a full briefing paper for the Governing Body.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS OFFICER

9. Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2020 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that residents in Foxcombe Lane (who were accessing Bagley Wood through gates in their back gardens) should be advised that a boundary fence would be erected between their properties and Bagley Wood.

KEEPER OF BAGLEY WOOD

10. Any other business

The Governing Body discussed the needs of international students who had to be in Oxford over the Christmas vacation, balanced with the need for staff to have a break. The President assured the Governing Body that the health and welfare of students was the primary concern in decision-making and that individual cases would be considered on merit.

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

11. Investment Advisory Group

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2020 were received.

12. Domestic Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2020 were received.

13. Promotion of the Arts Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2020 were received.

14. Chapel and Patronage Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2020 were received.