

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. Elston, Professor Z. Molnár, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. Maini, Revd. Professor W. Whyte, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor A. Wright, Professor A. Starinets, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor M. Omri, Professor C. Newton, Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G. Kantor, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor R. Slater, Mr R. Crow, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor B. McFarlane, Dr. M. Nicholls, Professor E. Wonnacott, Professor N. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr. K. Doornik, Professor R. Hoye, Professor L. Hunt, Professor R. Lall, Professor A. Lak

Apologies: Professor M. Cannon, Professor H. Bouman, Professor J. Schnell, Professor H. Skoda, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor A. Russell, Professor B. Murnane, Professor J. J. Pandit, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. di Mare, Professor S. White, Professor B. Stevenson, Professor K. J. Patel, Professor T. Qutbuddin

In attendance: Rt Hon Alistair Burt (Chair of Audit & Risk Committee), Ms K. Jenkins (Finance Bursar); Ms. D. Cripps

ACTION

AGENDA 'C'

1. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 24th April 2024 were **approved**.

2. Audit and risk: issues for trustees to consider

Rt Hon Alistair Burt (Chair of Audit & Risk Committee) briefed the Governing Body on the role of the Audit & Risk committee in providing external scrutiny and assurance of the effectiveness of the College's risk management, legal and regulatory compliance and its procedures around disclosure and transparency. The role of the committee was to provide constructive challenge and to recommend areas where the College might improve or innovate, all within a framework of evaluating risk. Committee members were not responsible for the risks but were there to provide an external check.

Members of the committee had met a number of College Officers to understand their individual responsibilities both generally and with regard to the risk register, noting the breadth of many of these roles.

The committee's role was also to consider future risks with issues around freedom of speech particularly pertinent currently.

3. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2024 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to renew the Fellowships of Professor R. Ekins, Professor J. Obloj, Dr. G Kantor, Professor B. Murnane and Professor J. Stanyek from 1st October 2024 for a period of seven years or until retirement, whichever was sooner.

It was noted that, once the Statute changes had been approved, these renewals would not continue but that some form of review process would need to be put in place. Governing Body was invited to make suggestions for such a process to the Provost for Academic Affairs.

GOVERNING BODY, PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Professor G. Gottlob was **elected** to an Emeritus Research Fellowship for an initial period of three years from 1st January 2025.

It was **agreed** to renew the Emeritus Research Fellowship of Professor C. Batty for a second three-year period from 1st July 2024.

Professor A. Goodwin FRS was elected to a Supernumerary Fellowship (without membership of Governing Body), coterminous with his holding the position of Professor of Materials Chemistry at the University of Oxford.

PRESIDENT

The President had streamlined the list of part-time remunerated College Officerships after discussion with College Officers and some alumni. It was noted that the Fellow for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion brought together a number of roles into one overarching role. The Governing Body **agreed** the revised list.

It was **agreed** to reinstate the Long Vacation Committee (see Appendix One) for this summer and that its operation should be reviewed by the Governance Working Party in Michaelmas Term to consider if it should become a permanent feature of the College's governance.

The revised Staff–Student Relationships Policy was **agreed**.

It was **agreed** that a College Ball could go ahead in 2026 on the basis that it would be self-funding, would maintain a commitment to access for all, would offer affordable tickets, and that plans would ensure that there was no impact on those students taking examinations. Whether the Ball was a Commemoration Ball, and whether it was held in Week 9 of Trinity Term, would depend on the specific proposal made by Junior Members.

PRESIDENT

It was also **agreed** to support the Oxford Playhouse's Open House tickets and travel scheme for the 2024 pantomime and the Playmaker Workshops [] for 2024. Any future support would be decided based on evaluation of the effectiveness of the scheme.

4. Finance & Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2024 were received.

The Finance Bursar presented the 2024/25 budget, highlighting the budget process undertaken this year and the financial parameters within which the budget had been prepared. She noted that moving forward she intended to build more nuanced scenario planning into the process.

The Governing Body **agreed** the 2024/25 budget.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR, FINANCE BURSAR

BELOW THE LINE ITEMS – TO NOTE

5. Governance Working Party

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2024 were received.

6. Strategic Plan Working Party

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2024 were received.

APPENDIX ONE

BY-LAW XLIII – LONG VACATION

It is proposed that General Purposes Committee recommend to Governing Body a new version of By-Law XLIII to operate over the course of Long Vacation 2024.

The Committee is also asked to consider if such a By-Law should, in fact, not have an expiry date (see Clause 10).

BY-LAW XLIII – LONG VACATION

1. There shall be a Long Vacation Committee whose members shall include the President, the Vice-President, the Principal Bursar, and seven other Fellows who are members of Governing Body.
2. The Long Vacation period means the period that begins on 6 July 2024 and ends on the day of the first Stated General Meeting of Governing Body before the beginning of Michaelmas Full Term 2024.
3. The Committee shall meet as often as necessary across the Long Vacation period, whenever summoned by the President. The Committee may meet online or, in the alternative, members of the Committee may attend remotely and participate in a meeting of the Committee that is held in-person.
4. The Committee shall provide advice and guidance to the President and Principal Bursar in relation to matters that arise during the Long Vacation period.
5. The Committee shall make recommendations to Governing Body in relation to matters that arise during the Long Vacation period, provided that at least six members of the Committee agree that a decision cannot reasonably be delayed until after the expiry of the Long Vacation period.
6. If the Committee makes a recommendation to Governing Body, the President shall summon a meeting of Governing Body in accordance with Statute XVII.6 to consider the recommendations.
7. The notice period for a meeting of Governing Body summoned during the Long Vacation shall be five working days, unless at least six members of the Committee agree that an urgent need for decision requires a shorter notice period.
8. A meeting of Governing Body summoned during the Long Vacation period may meet online and in the alternative members of Governing Body may attend remotely and participate in an in-person meeting.
9. The quorum for a Governing Body that meets during the Long Vacation period is thirty members of Governing Body.
10. This By-Law expires on the day of the first Stated General Meeting of Governing Body before the beginning of Michaelmas Full Term 2024.