

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

MINUTES

A meeting of **GOVERNING BODY** was held on Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 2.00 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.

Present: The President, Professor S. J. Whittaker, Professor A. R. Weidberg, Professor S. J. Elston, Professor K. Nation, Professor P. K. Maini, Professor C. A. Larrington, The Revd Professor W. Whyte, Professor A. Hills, Professor R. M. Harding, Professor H. Bouman, Professor N. P. Harberd, Professor T. Burt de Perera, Professor M-S. Omri, Professor N. Lübecker, Professor P. R. Hayes, Professor R. Ekins, Dr G. Kantor, Professor B. Murnane, Professor K. Southwood, Professor Z. Olszewska, Professor I. Klinke, Professor L. Pratt, Professor C. Beem, Professor L. di Mare, Professor G. Rose, Professor S. Kiefer, Professor N. Sugimura, Mr R. Crow, Professor S. White, Professor E. Greensmith, Professor E. Wonnacott, Dr M. Nicholls, Professor N. K. Jones, Ms Z. Hancock, Dr S. Campbell, Dr K. Doornik, Professor R. Hoyer, Professor L. Hunt, Professor R. Lall, Dr J. Richards (ECR Representative)

Apologies: Professor R. G. Compton, Professor M. Cannon, Professor D. Martin, Professor A. Starinets, Professor J. Schnell, Professor H. Skoda, Professor A. Russell, Professor C. Newton, Professor G. Gottlob, Professor J. Obloj, Professor J. Stanyek, Professor Sir R. Collins, Professor S. Toussaert, Professor B. McFarlane, Professor K. J. Patel, Dr. Z. Cai (ECR Representative)

In attendance: Ms. D. Cripps

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

The minutes of the meeting of Governing Body held on 11th January 2023 were **approved**.

2. General Purposes Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2023 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** that the Fellowship currently held by Professor Nation should be named the Maggie Snowling Fellowship in Psychology.

Ms Sally Layburn was **elected** to an Emeritus Fellowship from the date of her retirement.

Professors Compton, Whittaker, Larrington and Harberd were **elected** to Emeritus Research Fellowships for a three-year period from 1st October 2023.

The Vice-President thanked Fellows for the quality of nominations and the increasing number of candidates from Medical Sciences. It was **agreed** that five candidates would be invited to accept an Honorary Fellowship from the College.

It was **agreed** to set up an Honours Committee as a sub-committee of General Purposes Committee with representation across College communities, firstly to decide how to address the issue of nominations both for learned societies and for national honours, and then to create a process for nominations.

PRESIDENT

It was **agreed** that the President would approach Green Templeton College about a possible association with the Sanjaya Lall Visiting Professorship of Business and Development from academic year 2023/24.

PRESIDENT

It was **agreed** that the College Officership of Vice-President (Academic) should be renamed Provost Academic Affairs.

A budget [] was **agreed** for the changes required to the Statutes and By-Laws.

The Governing Body considered a paper on the College's decision-making framework, particularly out of term time when there were no Governing Body meetings. After discussion of the issues, it was **agreed** to take a proposal for further consideration by General Purposes Committee at its first meeting in Trinity Term.

PRESIDENT

The President reported on the Welfare Advisory Group and a proposal for a St John's Welfare Hub and supporting network. She noted that the Chaplain would step away from the role of Fellow for Welfare at the end of Trinity Term and thanked her all her work.

After discussion, it was **agreed** to proceed with recruitment of a Head of Student Wellbeing, following review of the job profile by the Welfare Advisory Group to confirm reporting lines and the person specification. The Principal Bursar would report back further to the next meeting of Governing Body. It was also **agreed** to review the role after a year.

PRESIDENT, PRINCIPAL BURSAR

It was **agreed** to allow the Charity Commission to publish Trustee names and to enhance end-of-year reporting in line with good practice.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

Amendments to the Bribery and Fraud Policy, Complaints Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Freedom of Speech Policy, Public Disclosure Policy and Data Protection Policy were **agreed**. The Financial Sanctions Policy was also **agreed**.

The Environmental Sustainability Plan was **agreed**. The Principal Bursar would arrange a lunchtime session for Governing Body to discuss the plan further.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

3. Finance and Estates Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2023 were received.

The Governing Body **agreed** to invest [] in principle in the '[] development, subject to detailed due diligence.

The Finance Strategy and the 2023/23 Works Budget were also **agreed**.

The Principal Bursar reported on a possible change of provider for private healthcare. She would check the details of the provision for all categories of Fellow.

PRINCIPAL BURSAR

4. Charity Commission: governance

The Governing Body noted the Charity Commission's letter of 1st February to the Chair of the Conference of Colleges and the concerns expressed about some areas of Oxford colleges' governance.

The President reported on the first meeting of the new Conference of Colleges Governance Forum and the issues that had been raised. After discussion, it was **agreed** to undertake an initial review of governance through a series of informal meetings to determine what aspects of current governance arrangements worked well and what might be improved on.

PRESIDENT