GOVERNING BODY

Confirmed Minutes

Fifty-sixth meeting of Governing Body, 1 November 2017

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OPEN BUSINESS

Present: Dr Anthony Freeling (President, Chair), Dr Hilary Burton (Vice-President), Dr Lydia Drumright (Pro-Vice-President), Dr Paula Banca, Dr John Barker, Prof Michael Barrett, Dr Stephen Cave, Dr Othman Cole, Dr Bernard Devereux, Prof Gishan Dissanaike, Prof John Doorbar, Mrs Victoria Espley (Bursar), Prof Emanuele Giovannetti, Dr Fernando Gonzalez-Zalba, Dr Danika Hill, Prof Ian Hodge, Dr Sonia Ilie, Dr Agnieszka Iwasiewicz-Wabnig, Dr Philip Johnston (Senior Tutor), Dr Alastair Lockhart, Dr Sara Melville, Prof William Nuttall, Dr Ajith Parlikad, Dr John Park, Dr Charles Pigott, Prof Jonathan Powell, Dr Sarah Rough, Dr Corinne Roughley, Dr Carole Sargent, Dr Kishore Sengupta, Dr Eugene Shwageraus, Dr Jeffrey Skopec, Dr Jacob Stegenga, Dr Martin Steinfeld, Prof Paul Tracey, Dr Caroline Trotter, Dr Suzanne Turner, Dr Clive Wells, Dr Jessica White (from item 56.9.1).

In Attendance: Mr John Raffan, (Senior Independent Fellow, to item 56.10), Mrs Wendy Solomou (College Secretary and Fellowships Manager, Secretary).

Apologies: Dr Heather Blackmore, Prof Mary Buckley, Mr William Charnley, Prof Ming-Qing Du, Dr Peter Dudley, Mr Nick Gray, Prof James Kaufman, Dr Nidhi Singal, Dr Elizabeth Swann.

On leave: Dr Markus Gehring, Dr Sara Hennessy, Dr Arne Jungwirth, Dr Aisling Redmond, Dr Nigel Yandell.

Absent: Dr Mark Bale, Dr Bianca Jupp.

56.1. Welcome and introduction

The President welcomed Dr Stephen Cave to his first meeting of Governing Body.

56.2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

56.3. Minutes and Matters arising from the Fifty-fifth meeting of Governing Body on Wednesday 14 June 2017 (GB56 01)

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.
56.4. Minutes and Matters Arising from the Extraordinary meeting of Governing Body on Wednesday 11 October 2017 (GB56 02)

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

56.5. Governing Body Action List (GB56 03)

- **55.9** The Secretary to refer the issue raised by Dr Lockhart (concerning the quorum for Audit Committee) to Governance Committee for further consideration.
  - The President reported that Governance Committee had recommended an amendment, which had been circulated to Governing Body and would be on the agenda for the Governing Body meeting of 29 November 2017. This item can be marked as complete.

- **55.10** The Secretary to note the suggestions for increasing the number of doctoral student and pass to the Work Strand.
  - The President reported that the Admissions Work Strand had taken over the remit for increasing the number of doctoral students and would receive the suggestions. This item can be marked as complete.

- **55.11** The Secretary to request that Council make an amendment to the minute to clarify that Associate Tutors would not be Officers of the College and members of the Academic Staff.
  - The President reported that the minute had been amended. This item can be marked as complete.

- **53.4** Possible replacement options for painting in Dining Hall
  - Dr Lockhart, acting Chair of the sub-committee, informed Governing Body that several art museums in the region had been approached with the request for a single painting or a set of paintings. However, he thought it unlikely that the College would be successful in securing a loan; one of the problems faced (in addition to finding a piece or pieces of sufficient scale) was that the museums approached had charitable objectives and lending a painting to a private institution would not fulfil their aims of extending outreach. Dr Lockhart said that he had two further leads to follow with the Fitzwilliam Museum and Kettle’s Yard, but failing that, the sub-committee could not offer a solution. Members of Governing Body made some further suggestions, including approaching art museums overseas or commissioning a painting, but the President expressed the view that pursuing other possibilities went beyond the remit of the current sub-committee. Ongoing.

- **52.2.1** The Bursar to re-activate the Elizabeth Phillips Hughes Hall Company to deal with increased conference income.
  - To be reactivated following the VAT review in November 2017. Ongoing.

56.6. The President’s Report

The President took the opportunity to reflect on the College’s progress since he had taken up office in 2014. He reminded Governing Body that on his election he had set out a strategy for the College over the next eight years as well as the longer-term vision of where the College should be in twenty-five years’ time. This included an expansion of the College’s purpose, stated in its Charter: to
improve society worldwide through excellent teaching and research, bridging the academic and external worlds, and to foster an interdisciplinary environment that is global in outlook, egalitarian in ethos and cosmopolitan in character.

For the benefit of those who had more recently joined the Fellowship (a show of hands indicated over half of those present had joined in the last three years) Dr Freeling described the general state of affairs in College when the strategy was approved and outlined the nature of the problems that GB had sought to address. He went on to express how heartened he was by the progress that the College had made across all areas targeted and gave details of the improvements made. A significant step forward had been the reaching of milestones set for achieving financial transparency and operational efficiency, in almost all areas, which would allow the Fellowship to refocus on the longer-term vision and concentrate on the development of initiatives already set in train, such as the Study Centres and The Bridge. He informed the Fellowship that he would be consulting further and exchanging ideas on the future of the College via a series of ‘fireside chats’ with Fellows.

The President wished to acknowledge the work of the College Officers and their direct reports for their part in the progress made. He formally thanked the Senior Tutor, the Bursar, Officers and Post-holders for what had been a fantastic effort over the last three years. Members of Governing Body demonstrated their appreciation with applause.

Dr Barker thanked the President for his part in driving the positive changes that had taken place.

56.7. University Council consultation paper on membership of the Regent House (GB56 04)

The President spoke to the paper, which concerned the University Council’s proposed response to a Grace initiated by members of the Regent House that sought to abolish the current age limit (of 70 years) on membership of Regent House. The University Council was proposing an alternative amendment that, in addition to lifting the age restriction, would base eligibility for membership on new criteria of ‘active engagement’ in the affairs of the University; colleges were now invited to comment on the proposed mechanisms for identifying College Fellows as active participants in the University’s affairs. (Fellows employed by the University would automatically be classed as ‘active’; the issue was how to assess those who were not in University employment.)

The alternative options for confirming the standing of College Fellows meeting the definition of active participation given in the paper were:

(a) The Head of each College or a duly appointed deputy makes a determination in respect of the Fellows of that College and certifies this to the Registrary or a duly appointed deputy.

(b) The Fellows of the Colleges self-certify that they fall within the definition to the Heads of their respective Colleges, giving reasons, and copy that statement of self-certification to the Registrary or a duly appointed deputy.

In addition, the University Council welcomed any alternative suggestions for how ‘active participation’ might be defined or ascertained.
The President suggested that Governing Body focus on four issues:

- Did Governing Body accept the definition of active participation proposed in the paper?
- Should membership of a college’s Governing Body automatically equate with active participation?
- Did Governing Body have a point of view on options (a) and (b)?
- Finally, (not asked in the consultation paper) did Governing Body regard the appeal process (given in paragraph 12 of the paper) as satisfactory?

The definition and the options were discussed and the President was able to explain, from his position as a member of the University Council, why and how the proposed options had evolved. The Pro-Vice-President, recently retired as Chair of the Board of Scrutiny, was able to offer further background.

Governing Body did not reach a consensus, other than a clear rejection of option (a). On a show of hands, two Fellows were in favour of option (a), whereas approximately half gave support for option (b) and the other half for an (unspecified) alternative method (c).

The President suggested that he inform the University that the College could not give a definitive answer but could offer the following feedback:

- Governing Body was not in favour of option (a);
- Governing Body would be uncomfortable with a definition of ‘active participation in the University’ that implied that active participation within a college did not necessarily equate with active participation in the University;
- Governing Body would wish to see parity across the colleges as a guiding principle – for example, defining active participation via specifying roles such as ‘Trustee’ or ‘Steward’ would not yield equitable results;
- Some form of opt-out system seemed preferable to opt-in, in the interests of broadening University democracy, with the right to appeal if eligibility for membership were to be questioned. This would be a possible way forward, although, it was noted that the current appeals procedure might not cope if the number of appeals were to increase dramatically. Governing Body did not perceive ‘older’ Regents pursuing certain agendas to be a problem, providing others exercised their rights as Regents.
- A significant number of Fellows felt a simple set of rules to follow should be defined, reducing the scope of judgment and appeals, and that simply retaining the 70-year-old age limit would be an acceptable solution with regard to College fellows.

**ACTION:** It was agreed that the President would draft and circulate the response to be submitted.

**56.8. Minutes of committees**

The minutes of the following committees were received:

* College Council, of Wednesday 31 May 2017 (GB56 05)
* College Council, of Wednesday 5 July 2017 (GB56 06)
* Governance Committee, of 17 May 2017 (GB56 07)
56.9.1. Finances: Update on 2016-17 financial year (GB56 08)

[REDACTED]

56.9.2. Finances: Restated budget 2017-18 (GB56 09)

The Bursar reported that, at its meeting of 2 October, Finance Committee had reviewed the 2017-18 budget in light of the actual number of admitted students, which was higher than forecast, and had recommended that the 2017-18 budget be restated to reflect actual student numbers and the known associated costs. Council had approved the restated budget and recommended that it be approved as the reference point over the coming year so that budget reporting and analysis would be meaningful.

Governing Body approved the restated budget for 2017-18.

56.10. Any other Open Business

There was no other Open Business.

End of Open Business WS 01/11/2017

RESERVED BUSINESS

[REDACTED]