



GOVERNING BODY

Confirmed minutes

Seventy-fifth meeting of Governing Body 17 March 2021

Video conference at 5.30pm

{ } indicates that this item will be removed prior to publication on the College website.

Present: Dr Anthony Freeling (President, Chair, to item 75.18), Prof John Doorbar (Vice-President), Prof Jonathan Powell (Pro-Vice-President), Mrs Heidi Allen, Mr Mark Anderson, Dr Stephen Axford, Dr Paula Banca, Prof Michael Barrett, Dr Heather Blackmore, Dr Jimmy Chan, Mr William Charnley, Dr Othman Cole, Dr Bart de Nijs, Prof Gishan Dissanaiké, Prof Ming-Qing Du, Dr Peter Dudley (from item 75.3.1), Mrs Victoria Espley (Bursar), Prof Tamsin Ford, Prof Emanuele Giovannetti, Dr Sara Hennessy, Dr Sarah Hoare, Dr Sonia Ilie, Prof Bill Irish, Dr Agnieszka Iwasiewicz-Wabnig, Dr Philip Johnston (Senior Tutor, to item 75.21), Dr Yury Korolev, Dr Alastair Lockhart, Dr Andrew Mackintosh, Dr Timea Nochtá, Prof William Nuttall, Mrs Laurel Powers-Freeling (to item 75.18), Dr Corinne Roughley, Prof Ricardo Sabates, Dr Carole Sargent, Dr Kishore Sengupta, Dr Eugene Shwageraus, Prof Nidhi Singal, Dr Jeffrey Skopek, Dr Jacob Stegenga, Prof Andreas Stylianides, Dr Livia Tomova, Dr Caroline Trotter (to item 75.21), Dr Suzanne Turner, Dr Lars Vinx, Prof Rupert Wegerif, Dr Clive Wells, Dr Jessica White, Dr Nigel Yandell.

In Attendance: Mr Bill Conner (Director of Institutional Advancement, to item 75.6), Prof Neil Mercer (Senior Independent Fellow, to item 75.6), Mrs Wendy Solomou (College Secretary and Fellowships Manager, Secretary).

Apologies: Dr Claire Donnelly, Dr Markus Gehring, Dr Tobias Kohn, Dr Aisling Redmond.

On leave: Dr Riikka Hofmann, Prof Paul Tracey.

Absent: Dr Ajith Parlikad, Dr Martin Steinfeld.

OPEN BUSINESS

75.1. Introduction

75.1.1. Welcome and apologies for absence

75.1.2. Declarations of interests (Open Business)

There were no declarations of interests.

75.2. Minutes and Matters arising from the Open Business of Governing Body, of 10 February 2021

75.2.1. Approval of minutes (GB75 01)

Governing Body approved the minutes as an accurate record subject to the following correction for item 74.8, penultimate paragraph:

{[REDACTED]}

75.2.2. Governing Body action list: Open Business

There were no items on the action list.

75.2.3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

There were no other matters arising.

75.3. President's report

The President reported that Dr Steinfeld had been successful in his application to the Isaac Newton Trust for funding to support a year's sabbatical leave in 2020-21.

75.3.1. Q and A session – role of President

To assist in the presidential search the President took questions from Fellows on performing his role. He also described a typical week in his diary from four years previously (before he had taken on the additional responsibility of chairing the Colleges' Committee and the extra workload imposed by the pandemic) to give a sense of what the role normally entailed.

75.4. Update on dealing with COVID19

The Bursar and Dr Roughley jointly gave an update covering the following:

- Structure of meetings – the Gold Team and inter-departmental Silver Team were working well and continuing to meet weekly.
- Risk assessments were reviewed regularly in line with changing circumstances and following any new guidance. Access to the site was restricted to staff working in student support roles which could not be undertaken remotely. However, the Assistant Bursar was setting up a working group to plan for the effective and safe return of staff when the work-from-home instruction was lifted, and to consider the shifts in work patterns in the longer term.
- Furlough - in February 30 members of staff were on full-time or part-time furlough.
- Staff testing - the University's pilot asymptomatic testing programme for staff was working well but would shortly come to an end. However, in the meantime access to community testing had become more widely available to staff.
- Students in residence - small numbers of students were returning following recent Government guidance allowing a return for students on some courses. There was continuing uncertainty from the Department for Education (DfE) over plans for the Easter term, making it difficult to

give clear communications to students. However, the College had planned for different scenarios so that an agile response could be implemented as soon as firm guidance became available.

- Student testing – there had been no positive tests identified via screening; some research on participation and attitudes was being undertaken.
- Support for students residing in College and elsewhere - students continued to be appreciative of welfare support. Counselling provision had recently been reviewed with the provider. Students were expressing concerns about examinations: the timetable for the main examinations was not due for release until mid-April, and changes to the format of assessments were being finalised and communicated. The tutorial office and welfare team would be providing support as appropriate.
- Responses from the Postgraduate offer-holders' session had been positive.

75.5. *Cambridge Bursary Scheme (GB75 02)**

Governing Body noted that the Cambridge Bursary Scheme 2 (approved at the meeting of 10 June 2020 [GB70.7]) would commence in 2021 and run for a period of ten years.

75.6. *Use of the Common Seal**

Governing body noted that in accordance with Statute XII.1 the Common Seal of the College was affixed on 10th March 2021 to the deeds of two documents: The Transfer of Registered Title and the Contract for the Sale of the Freehold of the property known as 'Covent Garden Hall'. The deeds would take effect on the date of completion of the sale from Cambridge City Council to the President and Fellows of Hughes Hall.

{[REDACTED]}

75.7. Management accounts update (GB75 03)

The Bursar presented the management accounts to 31 January 2021. She reported that there had been a £89k increase in the forecast deficit compared to the previous month and she highlighted the main changes in income and expenditure which accounted for it. She added that the forecasts were conservative and that only a small amount of the contingency for COVID had been used to date.

In response to a question, she explained that the payment from the Colleges' Fund was not shown in the operational budget because, at the time the budget was set, it had not been confirmed that the funding could be used as operational income and that normally it was strictly designated for building the endowments of the poorer colleges.

75.8. Any other Open Business

The Honorary MCR Senior Treasurer informed Governing Body that a new MCR Committee had been elected and that, although some posts had been contended, there remained vacancies, including that of President. She noted that voter turnout had been disappointingly low.

End of Open Business WS