



HUGHES  
HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**COLLEGE COUNCIL**  
**Confirmed minutes**  
**Ninety-first meeting of COLLEGE COUNCIL 18 March 2020**

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

**Present:** Dr Anthony Freeling (Chair, President), Dr Hilary Burton (Vice-President), Prof Jonathan Powell (Pro-Vice-President), Dr Stephen Axford (Director of Research Translation), Mr Martin Coleman, Miss Alexandra Entwistle-Thompson (MCR President, to item 91.10), Mrs Victoria Espley (Bursar), Prof Bill Irish, Dr Agnieszka Iwasiewicz-Wabnig, Dr Philip Johnston (Senior Tutor), Mr Patrick Perillo (MCR Secretary, to item 91.10), Dr Corinne Roughley, Dr Eugene Shwageraus, Dr Lars Vinx.

**In Attendance:** Mr Bill Conner (Director of Institutional Advancement), Dr Markus Gehring (to item 91.10), Mrs Wendy Solomou (Secretary).

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**91.1. Introduction**

The President welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting to be conducted via video conference.

**91.1.1. Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interests.

**91.2. Minutes and Matters arising from the Open Business of College Council, of 26 February 2020**

**91.2.1. Approval of minutes (CC91 01)**

Council approved the minutes as an accurate record.

**91.2.2. College Council action list: Open Business (CC91 02)**

- [87.10] Review of Council's Term of Reference  
The Secretary to draft and circulate the proposed amendments.
  - Dealt with in item 91.8.
- [87.13] Smoking Shelter  
The Bursar to organise the removal of the smoking shelter and to implement a policy of non-smoking throughout the College site.

- The MCR President reported that a survey to collect the views of the student body was complete but results had not been analysed nor any conclusions drawn owing to her recent examinations and the departure of most of the student body following the Coronavirus outbreak. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to consider the item at a later meeting. Ongoing.
- [90.11] Diversity and inclusion in the Senior Membership  
Dr Roughley to organise the collection of data from the Senior Membership and to provide feedback from the Work Strand to Fellowships Committee.
  - Dr Roughley reported that 86 responses had been received to date and that a reminder to complete the survey would be sent to the Senior Membership. Ongoing.

### **91.2.3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda**

There were no other matters arising.

### **91.3. President's Report**

The President reported that as Chair of the Colleges Committee he had joined the University's Gold Team, which has overall responsibility for setting the strategy for responding to the emergency and challenges posed by the Coronavirus.

### **91.4. Update on business contingency planning for Coronavirus (CC91 03)**

The Bursar referred to the paper (the risk register at 6 March 2020 dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak) and said that it was apparent from its content how rapidly events were unfolding, and she agreed to update it with the current risk register. She informed Council that the College Silver Team (dealing with operational matters) were meeting three times a week but this would be increasing to daily meetings. She herself was leading on managing staff and operations whilst Dr Roughley was taking the lead in organising the support offered to students remaining in Cambridge. The Senior Tutor was handling queries concerning academic issues. The Bursar said that she was also involved in co-ordinating the approach across the colleges via her membership of the Bursars' Business Committee.

Dr Roughley provided a detailed summary of how the College was supporting those students who remained in College, including those that were in compulsory self-isolation according to Public Health England directives. The Bursar reported that all staff who could perform their work remotely were no longer coming into College.

The Bursar invited questions and she and Dr Roughley responded on points of detail.

The MCR President thanked Dr Roughley and the President for the emails that had been issued to clarify the situation and offered to share information via the MCR Facebook page. She asked that it be made clear in the next communication whether students living in private accommodation would be supported if they had to self-isolate and, also, that no-one should be inviting visitors to College nor to their college accommodation.

The President thanked the Officers and Post-holders who were working hard to implement the College's response to the crisis.

### **91.5. Chapter Zero: update**

The President reminded Council that Governing Body had set up a working group to consider the implications of formalising the College's relationship with Chapter Zero by becoming the sole member of Chapter Zero Limited [GB68.7]. He said that he wished to emphasise some points that may have been overlooked during discussion at Governing Body.

First, the compelling reasons for maintaining the partnership had not been sufficiently emphasised. These included: providing an effective forum where academics (from Cambridge and beyond) and practitioners in the areas of science, business and law could be brought together to tackle climate change; developing the link with Cambridge Zero; engaging the alumni of Hughes Hall and the University; and working directly with non-executive directors from over 1,000 companies to encourage them to be a force for change.

Secondly, whilst there would be risks, Chapter Zero was a company limited by guarantee, which would mean that the financial risk to the sole member (Hughes Hall) would be limited to £1. Thus the risks that needed to be evaluated by the Chapter Zero Governance Working Group and subsequently managed and mitigated were reputational and operational.

The President asked Council members whether they had any specific questions that the Working Group should consider {[REDACTED]}

**ACTION:** The President to pass the questions raised to the Chapter Zero Governance Working Group.

### **91.6. Financial and reputational risks of the May Ball**

It was agreed that the May Ball planned for June 2020 should be cancelled.

### **91.7. Post of Director of Strategy and the Bridge - amendment to Ordinances**

The President sought the views of Council as to how the constitution of Council should change when the Post of Director of Research Translation (a role which carried *ex-officio* membership) ceased to exist.

He reminded Council that at the previous meeting the proposal had been to revert to the previous composition of five *ex-officio* members, two student members and seven elected GB Fellows of whom two could be Fellows holding an Office or Post named on the Governance List.

However, following the meeting an alternative had been suggested whereby the *ex-officio* Post of Director of Research Translation would be replaced by some form of representation of the Bridge on Council either by a nomination from Bridge Committee or the election of a Fellow who met given criteria.

Council agreed that that the latter option was preferred.

**ACTION:** The Secretary to convey the preferred option (some form of representation of the Bridge on Council) to Governance Committee.

### **91.8. \*\*\*Proposed amendment to the remit for Council (CC91 04)**

Council agreed without discussion that the proposed amendment be recommended to Governance Committee.

### **91.9. MCR Business**

#### **91.9.1. Approval of amendments to the MCR constitution (CC91 05)**

The MCR President requested that Council ratify the updated constitution recently approved at the MCR's AGM. However, she reported that the Senior Tutor had identified some sections of the constitution that lacked clarity and consistency, and that she planned to meet with him in the summer to consider how the constitution might be improved in a future round of revisions.

It was noted that there was an inconsistency within the MCR constitution whereby the role of 'Male & Non-Binary Officer' was restricted to a male candidate and that of 'Female and Non-Binary Officer' to a female candidate. The MCR Secretary responded that the adverts for the two roles had made it clear that non-binary candidates would be welcome to stand for election but acknowledged that the constitution did not reflect this.

Council approved the amendments to the MCR constitution with the proviso that the Senior Tutor's suggestions for improvement be considered in the next round of revisions.

#### **91.9.2. Results of the MCR Committee elections (CC91 06)**

Council noted the results of the MCR Committee elections. The President congratulated Miss Entwistle-Thompson on her re-election as MCR President, thanked the outgoing MCR Secretary Mr Perillo for his input, and gave a vote of thanks to the MCR Committee for their work over the past year.

### **91.10. Any other Open Business**

There was no other Open Business.

End of Open Business WS