







A discussion followed which included the following points:

- agreement that cases of sexual misconduct should not be investigated by the College
- a widely shared concern that the current document was too long and complex to be helpful and supportive to students in distress (either a complainant or respondent) and that there therefore needed to be a separate and distinct section for students to give guidance in a language that was more accessible and that set out options for given scenarios
- some of the questions raised about the process itself indicated that the text was open to misinterpretation

The President, the Senior Tutor and Dr Steinfeld responded to a number of specific points raised:

- the guidance dealt only with harassment and sexual misconduct and needed to be read in conjunction with the College's Disciplinary Policy, which was also being updated in light of the changes to the University's disciplinary policy recently approved by Regent House
- the procedure applied to a student making a complaint against another student or students, whereas complaints made by a member of staff against a student would be dealt with by the College's disciplinary policy
- when a case of sexual misconduct was referred to the University, the student, whether a complainant or respondent, would continue to be offered support by their Tutor
- the Dean would expect to be kept informed of the outcome of the University's process
- agreement with the suggestion that the guidance should include a specific recommendation to seek medical advice in cases of sexual assault

The President proposed that Governing Body accept the amendments to the existing policy as they stood [with effect from 1 October] so that the College's policy would be consistent with the University's new procedure when it was introduced. This would be on the understanding that a redrafted harassment and sexual misconduct policy (to include an additional, separate section to serve as a student-centred guide), together with the updated disciplinary policy would be submitted at the next meeting of Governing Body.

Governing Body approved the proposal.

**ACTION:** Prof Nuttall offered to send the Senior Tutor his notes and observations on the existing text. Mrs Powers-Freeling offered to provide examples of 'how to' guides used in commercial settings that might inform the approach for the guide for students.

#### **64.9. \*\*\*Use of the Common Seal**

The Bursar reported that in accordance with Statute XII.1 the Common Seal of the College was affixed on 26 June 2019 to a deed of amendment relating to the leasing of postgraduate accommodation on Harvey Road from Gonville and Caius College.

#### **64.10. Any other Open Business**

There was no other Open Business.

End of Open Business WS 10/07/2019