



HUGHES  
HALL

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## GOVERNING BODY

### Confirmed minutes

### Seventy-eighth meeting of Governing Body 27 October 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), Prof Nidhi Singal (Vice-President), Dr Stephen Axford, Dr Paula Banca (from item 78.3), Dr Jimmy Chan, Mr William Charnley, Dr Othman Cole, Dr Bart de Nijs, Prof Gishan Dissanaïke (to item 78.6.2), Dr Peter Dudley, Prof Tamsin Ford, Dr Sarah Hoare, Dr Sonia Ilie, Dr Agnieszka Iwasiewicz-Wabnig, Dr Tobias Kohn, Dr Yury Korolev (from item 78.6.2), Dr Alastair Lockhart, Dr Andrew Mackintosh, Dr Tori McKee (Senior Tutor), Prof William Nuttall, Mrs Laurel Powers-Freeling, Dr Corinne Roughley, Prof Ricardo Sabates, Dr Carole Sargent, Prof Eugene Shwageraus, Prof Andreas Stylianides (from item 78.3), Prof Paul Tracey, Prof Suzanne Turner, Dr Lars Vinx, Prof Rupert Wegerif, Dr Clive Wells, Dr Nigel Yandell (to item 78.6.1).

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

**Apologies:** Mrs Heidi Allen, Mr Mark Anderson, Prof John Doorbar, Dr Markus Gehring, Prof Emanuele Giovannetti, Prof Sara Hennessy, Miss Mahnaz Malik, Prof Ajith Parlikad, Prof Kishore Sengupta, Prof Jacob Stegenga, Dr Livia Tomova, Dr Caroline Trotter, Dr Jessica White.

**On leave:** Prof Michael Barrett, Dr Jeffrey Skopek, Dr Martin Steinfeld.

**Absent:** Dr Riikka Hofmann, Prof Bill Irish, Prof Jonathan Powell.

## OPEN BUSINESS

### 78.1. Introduction

#### 78.1.1. Apologies

#### 78.1.2. Declarations of interests (Open Business)

There were no declarations of interests.

## **78.2. Minutes and Matters arising from the Open Business of Governing Body, of 16 June 2021**

### **78.2.1. Approval of minutes (GB78 01)**

Governing Body approved the minutes as an accurate record.

### **78.2.2. Governing Body action list: Open Business**

There were no items on the action list.

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

There were no other matters arising.

## **78.3. President's report**

The President reported the following:

- He offered his congratulations to Fellows who had become professors in the new academic year and to Dr Kohn, who had been appointed to a lectureship in the Netherlands from April 2022.
- Council had approved standing down the Gold and Silver Teams (established to undertake rapid decision-making and implementation of policies during the peak the COVID pandemic) with the proviso that they would be reinstated if there were to be a spike in cases and circumstances demanded it. Current levels of COVID infection were very low within the student population in Cambridge.
- Surprisingly, given the challenges of the pandemic, the past year had been a very good one on most of the usual metrics. Financially, it had been the best year ever; the Bridge was growing and doing well; and students had been giving a lot of positive feedback.
- There were, however, problems of which Fellows should be aware. There were tensions among some of the staff, with grievances raised, and staff shortages in operational areas to which it was proving difficult to recruit (a problem shared with some of the other colleges). There were also some issues raised by students, including allegations of harassment and drink-spiking, to which the Senior Tutor and Deputy Senior Tutors were paying close attention. However, the financial position was very strong and would allow the College to invest in its staff, students, and Senior Members.
- An election to fill a vacancy on Council would be held at the next meeting of Governing Body on 1 December. Fellows were encouraged to consider standing for election.
- Together with the Master of Gonville and Caius College the President was co-chairing the committee conducting the search for a new Vice-Chancellor of the University.

## **78.4. {[REDACTED]}**

## **78.5. \*\*\*Centre for Climate Engagement (CCE) funding (GB78 03)**

At its meeting of 6 May 2020 Governing Body approved accepting an additional donation from the Hatton Trust to support the Hughes Hall Centre for Climate Change Engagement (HHCCCE) and Chapter Zero [GB69.5]. Governing Body noted that a deed of variation had recently been signed by the President and the Senior Tutor on behalf of the College, which would allow the Normelle Trust and Conduit Trust to make payments as well as the Hatton Trust under the terms of the original donation agreement made on 19 August 2019.

Governing Body noted that the (former) Centre for Climate Change Engagement had shortened its name to 'Centre for Climate Engagement' and had refreshed its website and brand, including aligning its logo to work well with its key partners and initiatives - Chapter Zero, Cambridge Zero, and the Climate Governance Initiative.

## **78.6. Finances**

### **78.6.1. Management accounts for year ending 31 July 2021**

The President presented a commentary on the 2020-21 financial year-end position, together with a detailed summary of how income and expenditure compared to the 2020-21(restated) budget and the outturn for 2019-20. He highlighted the significant reversal of fortune in the outturn: in contrast to the forecast deficit, a net surplus of around £270k had been achieved. He informed Governing Body that the audited accounts would be presented at the next meeting and would show the income previously reported from the Colleges' Fund which had not been incorporated into the management accounts, although it had been available for operational spend in the 2020-21.

### **78.6.2. Restated budget 2021-22 (GB78 04b)**

The President presented a restated budget for 2021-22, which had been reviewed by Finance Committee on 18 October 2021. Finance Committee recommended that the 2021-22 budget be restated to reflect confirmed student numbers (which included a higher number of undergraduates and a lower number of doctoral students than forecast) and other changes to the original forecast.

In response to a question the President said that one reason for fewer students registering than had been forecast was the fall in doctoral conversion rates, a pattern seen across the University.

Governing Body approved the restated budget for 2021-22.

## **78.7. Any other Open Business**

There was no other Open Business.

End of Open Business WS