



HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COLLEGE COUNCIL

Confirmed Minutes

One hundred-and-twenty-fifth meeting of College Council 23 January 2024

Council Room at 16.30

Present: Sir Laurie Bristow (Chair, President), Prof Nidhi Singal (Vice-President), Dr Tori McKee (Senior Tutor), Mr Jonathan Newby (Bursar), Mrs Emily Farnworth (to Item 25.3), Prof Bill Irish, Dr Bart de Nijs, Veronica Hera (MCR President), Diana Bridgman (MCR Secretary)

In Attendance: Mrs Kerry Wilson (Development Director), Mrs Julia Watkinson (Secretary), Sarah Langford (Communications Manager)

Apologies: Dr Carole Sargent, Dr Lars Vinx, Mahnaz Malik

OPEN BUSINESS

25.1. Introduction

25.1.1. Welcome

The President welcomed the Development Director to their first meeting of Council.

25.1.2. Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

25.2. Minutes and Matters arising from Open Business of College Council, 5 December 2023

25.2.1. Approval of minutes (CC25 01)

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

25.2.2. College Council action list: Open Business (CC25 02)

[CC22.2.2] Terms of Reference for Capital Campaign Board

The Development Director informed Council that the capital campaign needs to be defined before board members can be identified; this action therefore remains open.

[CC22.3.1] Operationalising the 2030 Vision

College Officers will have an extended College Officers meeting on 7th February to discuss the 2030 Vision.

[CC24.6] DEFI Financials

Managing Director to provide a summary of future funding and the impact of additional 2023-2024 staffing on DEFI's surplus position at June 2024 Council meeting.

25.2.3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

25.2.3.1. * Senior Member Responsibilities and Privileges proposed changes (CC25 02a)**

Council noted without discussion the changes to Senior Members minor privileges.

Strategic and operational items

25.3. President's Report

The President reported:

- Internal discussions on the Impact Pillar of the 2030 Vision and the Bridge will generate an action plan for the year and the recruitment of the Impact Director and the next generation of Bridge Fellows will support this work.
- The fundraising campaign required to support the significant investment in the Pavilion project will be a key focus for the Development Director and Development Team this year.
- CCE/CGI/Chapter Zero strategic direction proposals are in progress and will require decision by Governing Body.
- The Fellowships Committee are overseeing the recruitment of Research/By Fellows and, in slower time, Bridge Fellows, along with consideration of the wider GB Fellowship.
- The Freedom of Speech Act 2023 has imposed legal requirements in relation to free speech and academic freedom, with the OfS as regulator. The College must have a code of practice and complaints scheme in place by 1 August 2024, with additional conditions of registration and monitoring of overseas fundraising in force by 1 September 2025. The College is awaiting the University's Prevent and Freedom of Speech Committee's guidance.
- The University is due to release its policy on relationships between relevant staff and students for whom they have any direct or indirect academic responsibilities, or other direct professional responsibilities. The policy may involve a ban on intimate relationships between individuals within these groups and discourage close personal relationships. The college will need to consider its policies in the light of the University's policy when announced.

The Communications Manager provided an update on the dissemination of the College video and student stories across media channels and its usefulness in alumni engagement.

The Development Director reported on their first three months, and thanked the College community for their time and information sharing. The Director outlined their key priorities: engagement, stewardship, pledges and commitment honouring, prospect research and campaign fundraising. The Development Director noted that the Development team will no longer be present at graduation ceremonies but will instead increase interaction with students during their time at the College and build relationships via the MCR.

Council noted CUDAR request permission from the Development team to contact specific high net-worth alumni, and Development ensure they are in contact with these alumni before agreement.

25.4. MCR Business

The MCR President reported the current officers will pass on to the new committee at the end of Lent Term 2024. Council noted that there would be no increase in committee roles but that responsibilities would be absorbed within existing roles.

The MCR President also reported that welfare events will move from weekly to fortnightly to provide more planning time, and upcoming events include; a formal hall swap with St John's, a Hughes Hall Research Day, Hughes Hall Art Festival (March 2024) and the Hughes Hall Bridge Awards, which has seen participants double from 2023. The May Ball Committee has also been selected, with the theme to be announced at Valentine's Day Bop in February 2024.

25.5. Recruitment of Impact Director: For approval (CC25 03)

The President outlined the vacant role of Impact Director and the options for recruitment. Following discussion of the objectives for the role, Council approved the recommendations for: a full-time role (with the flexibility to appoint at <1.0 for the right candidate), a College managed recruitment process, the post holder to be an ex-officio member of and report to Council, and an increase in the salary banding commensurate with the seniority of the role, if needed to attract the right candidate.

Council requested the salary recommendation be made by Remuneration Committee for approval at Governing Body. Council noted the importance of EDI objectives during the recruitment process.

25.6. CCE Generation Foundation Funding: For information (CC25 04)

The CCE Director provided detail on a potential new funder, Generation Foundation, valued at £1m in funding over a 2 year period. The grant agreement will be reviewed by the CCE Oversight Committee and ultimately pass to Governing Body for approval. The majority of the funding would be held within CGI and is anticipated within the next six months.

{{REDACTED}}

Standing items

25.7. Bursarial:

25.7.1. {{REDACTED}}

25.7.2. Budget 2023/2024 - Reforecast 2: For information (CC25 06)

The Bursar presented the annual Reforecast 2, with total income increasing by £261k; a significant tranche of this is due to academic fee income, via the University's backstop agreement which supports postgraduate admissions to the Accept All colleges. Other increases are due to the success of the summer school programme generating repeat clients, catering income being 40 % higher than 2022-2023, and bank interest increases.

The Bursar noted that operational expenditure had increased by £86k. Staffing costs were responsible for just over half the increase, relating to interim consultancy, partly offset by staffing vacancies, Porters team changes and training, implementing the Real Living Wage from 1st January 2024. Non-staff costs link to senior recruitment and office refurbishment.

Council noted that Reforecast 2 was scrutinised by Finance Committee who recommended it for approval by Governing Body.

25.7.3. Management Accounts to 31 December 2023: For information (CC25 07)

The Bursar noted the YTD performance in December 2023 was indicative of the data presented in Reforecast 2.

25.8. Tutorial and Admissions

There were no questions on tutorial.

25.9. * Minutes of committees: For information**

25.9.1. Unconfirmed minutes Prevent Committee, 21 November 2023 (CC25 08)

25.9.2. Unconfirmed minutes Admissions Committee, 27 November 2023 (CC25 09)

The minutes were approved as accurate records.

25.10. Any other Open Business

There was no other Open Business.

End of Open Business JW