



HUGHES
HALL

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

GOVERNING BODY

Confirmed minutes

Ninety-second meeting of Governing Body 14 February 2024

In person at 5.30pm

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

Present: Sir Laurie Bristow (President, Chair), Prof Nidhi Singal (Vice-President), Dr Farah Ahmed, Prof Michael Barrett, Mr William Charnley (to item 92.7.1 and for item 92.15), Dr Bart de Nijs (from item 92.3), Prof Gishan Dissanaika (from item 92.3), Prof John Doorbar, Dr Peter Dudley (from item 92.4), Ms Emily Farnworth, Prof Tamsin Ford (from item 92.4), Dr Markus Gehring (from item 92.4), Prof Sara Hennessy, Prof Riikka Hofmann, Dr Sonia Ilie, Prof Bill Irish, Dr Agnieszka Iwasiewicz-Wabnig, Ms Mahnaz Malik, Dr David McCay, Dr Tori McKee (Senior Tutor), Mr Jonathan Newby (Bursar), Prof William Nuttall, Prof Ajith Parlikad (from item 92.3), Mrs Laurel Powers-Freeling, Dr Corinne Roughley, Dr Carole Sargent (from item 92.3), Prof Kishore Sengupta, Dr Guillermo Serrano Nájera, Prof Eugene Shwageraus, Dr Jeffrey Skopek, Prof Andreas Stylianides, Prof Caroline Trotter, Prof Suzanne Turner, Prof Harro van Asselt, Dr Lars Vinx, Prof Rupert Wegerif, Dr Clive Wells, Dr Jessica White (from item 92.5), Dr Nigel Yandell.

In Attendance: Dr Alastair Lockhart (Statutes & Ordinances Review Lead, for item 92.4), Prof Neil Mercer (Senior Independent Fellow, to item 92.12), Mrs Wendy Solomou (Secretary to Governing Body), Mrs Kerry Wilson (Associate Development Director, to item 92.11).

On leave: Prof Jorge Santos, Prof Jacob Stegenga.

Apologies: Dr Jimmy Chan, Prof Emanuele Giovannetti, Dr Sarah Hoare, Dr Vasiliki Mavridou, Prof Jonathan Powell, Dr Perla Pucci, Prof Ricardo Sabates, Dr Martin Steinfeld, Dr Livia Tomova, Prof Paul Tracey.

Absent: Dr Paula Banca, Dr Othman Cole.

OPEN BUSINESS

92.1. Introduction

92.1.1. Welcome and apologies

The President welcomed Mrs Kerry Wilson and informed Governing Body that Dr Alastair Lockhart would join the meeting for item 92.4.

The President informed Governing Body that Dr Mish Ebrahim had recently resigned her Fellowship and that Dr Liva Tomova would leave at the end of February when her term as Henslow Research Fellow was complete. He acknowledged their respective contributions to the College.

92.1.2. In memoriam

In memoriam
Mr John Horace Williams, MA,
By-Fellow, died on 17 December 2023, aged 87 years.

92.1.3. Declarations of interests (Open Business)

There were no declarations of interests.

92.2. Minutes and Matters arising from the Open Business of Governing Body, of 29 November 2023

92.2.1. Approval of minutes (GB92 01)

Governing Body approved the minutes as an accurate record.

92.2.2. Governing Body action list: Open Business

- [GB91.5] The Secretary to request Governance Committee to re-evaluate the Annual Reviews process for College Officers and Post-holders.
 - The President reported that the issue had been raised at the last meeting of Governance Committee and would be followed up. Action completed.

92.2.3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

There were no other matters arising.

92.3. President's report

The President outlined the priorities for delivering the 2030 Vision during the Lent term, referring to several items on the agenda. He also drew attention to two strands of ongoing work on college policies and procedures: to bring alignment with the University's forthcoming revised policy on staff-student relationships; and to meet the statutory requirements of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023.

The President informed Governing Body that Mrs Sarah Squires had accepted the senior member status of 'Former President'.

92.4. Statutes and Ordinances Review – trusteeship (GB92 02)

Dr Lockhart spoke to the paper, which put the case for reducing the number of charity trustees, based on the guidance and advice of the Charity Commission, the College's auditors, and the recent experiences of other Cambridge colleges and an Oxford college. He noted that reducing the number of trustees did not imply a reduction in the number of Governing Body Fellows.

Governing Body approved the Review Working Group's proposal that they should proceed on the basis of developing various options for achieving a reduction in the number of charity trustees, if possible, introducing an interim solution that would allow the number of trustees to be reduced without the need for an immediate amendment of Statutes. Options would be brought to Governing Body for full discussion and decision-making.

Dr Lockhart confirmed that the Working Group would consider the models adopted by other colleges and clarify any legal ramifications. He invited Fellows to send him ideas, comments and questions to inform the work.

In response to a question the Bursar said that whilst reducing the number of trustees was the first priority, the Working Group was aiming to identify other areas of Statutes and Ordinances that were problematic and would propose interim and longer-term solutions. He said that he was investigating how external legal advice could support the review, but that it was not the intention to outsource it entirely.

92.5. [CONFIDENTIAL] Estates strategy update (GB92 03)

{[REDACTED]}

92.6. [CONFIDENTIAL] Delegated authority for expenditure and grants

92.6.1. Policy for setting and controlling spending limits (GB92 04)

Audit and Risk Committee and Governance Committee Governing Body recommended the adoption of a new policy for setting and controlling spending limits (delegated authorities) of budget-holders. The President spoke to the paper as the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee was not present.

{[REDACTED]}

The policy was approved subject to an amendment to correct the rounded figures in Appendix 2. The corrected version is given in an appendix to the minutes of Reserved Business.

It was noted that references to specific expenditure limits stipulated in Ordinances (as detailed in the paper) would need to be amended. Governing Body approved acting immediately upon a decision which required existing Ordinances to be amended so that the policy could be implemented straightaway. It was agreed that the amendments to Ordinances be brought to the meeting of 13 March for formal approval.

92.6.2. Review and sign-off process for funding proposals and reports (GB92 05)

The President spoke to the paper, which proposed the thresholds at which either the Bursar, Council or Governing Body should be involved in reviewing and signing off Bridge centres' grant applications and grant reports to donors.

Governing Body approved the policy (given in the appendix to the minutes of Reserved Business).

92.7. Centre for Climate Engagement (CCE)

92.7.1.{{REDACTED}}

92.7.2. Centre for Climate Engagement funding proposal (GB92 06b)

Ms Farnworth spoke to the paper, which gave details of a proposed grant application to support the work of the Climate Governance Initiative (CGI). The proposed application, for a grant of approximately £1million over two years, would be submitted to Generation Foundation, a UK charity.

Governing Body approved the submission of the application.

92.8. Recruitment of Impact Director (GB92 07)

The President reported that Council had agreed to recruit an Impact Director to replace the currently vacant role of Director of Strategy and the Bridge. The role would be full-time and the Post-holder would report to Council. Council recommended that the Post-holder be a voting, *ex-officio* member of Council, which would require an amendment to the College Ordinances, to be brought to the next meeting.

Governing Body noted the job description and endorsed Council's decision to recruit to the role.

90.9. Update on Development strategy (GB92 08)

The Associate Development Director spoke to the paper, which set out the key priorities for the Development and Alumni Relations Office in the coming six months. She invited Fellows to assist in engagement with alumni, and said that Fellows would be supported in hosting overseas events.

92.10. Reforecast 2 2023-24 (GB92 09)

The Bursar spoke to the paper and reported that income was rising faster than costs and that Reforecast 2 indicated that the net deficit had improved by £120k to produce a revised net surplus. There were no questions raised.

Governing Body approved the Budget Reforecast 2 for 2023-24.

92.11. *Use of the Common Seal**

Governing Body noted that in accordance with Statute XII.1 the Common Seal of the College had been affixed on 6 February 2024 to nine deeds relating to the leasing of nine properties for student accommodation.

92.12. Any other Open Business

There was no other Open Business.

End of Open Business WS