HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

GOVERNING BODY

Confirmed minutes

Ninety-sixth meeting of Governing Body 23 October 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 Jimmy Chan, Mr William Charnley (to item 96.8), Dr Othman Cole, Dr Bart de Nijs, Prof Gishan Dissanaike, Prof John Doorbar, Dr Joe Ellis, Ms Emily Farnworth, Prof Tamsin Ford (from item 96.2.2), Dr Markus Gehring (from item 96.5), Prof Emanuele Giovannetti, Prof Sara Hennessy, Dr Sarah Hoare, Prof Riikka Hofmann, Dr Sonia Ilie, Prof Bill Irish, Dr Agnieszka Iwasiewicz-Wabnig (from item 96.2.2), Dr Spencer Johnston, Dr Lois Kim, Dr Vasiliki Mavridou, Dr Kennedy Mbeva, Dr Tori McKee (Senior Tutor), Mr Jonathan Newby (Bursar), Prof William Nuttall, Prof Jonathan Powell, Dr Sally Raudon, Prof Ricardo Sabates, Prof Kishore Sengupta (to item 96.14), Prof Eugene Shwageraus, Prof Jeffrey Skopek, Prof Andreas Stylianides, Prof Paul Tracey, Prof Caroline Trotter (to item 96.8), Prof Rupert Wegerif, Yi Wei, Dr Clive Wells, Dr Jessica White, Dr Alexis Willett, Kerry Wilson, Dr Nigel Yandell, Dr Matteo Zallio (from item 96.4).

In Attendance: Prof Neil Mercer (Senior Independent Fellow (from item 96.1 to item 96.14), Mrs Wendy Solomou (Secretary to Governing Body).

On leave: Prof Lars Vinx.

Apologies: Dr Farah Ahmed, Prof Michael Barrett, Dr Florian Jaeckle, Ms Mahnaz Malik, Dr David McCay, Dr Tabitha Mwangi, Prof Ajith Parlikad, Dr Perla Pucci, Dr Corinne Roughley, Prof Jorge Santos, Dr Guillermo Serrano Nájera, Dr Martin Steinfeld, Prof Harro van Asselt.

Absent: Prof Suzanne Turner.

OPEN BUSINESS

96.1. Introduction

96.1.1. Welcome and apologies

The President welcomed three new Fellows, Dr Sally Raudon, Yi Wei, and Dr Matteo Zallio, who were attending their first meeting of Governing Body.

96.1.2. Declarations of interests (Open Business)

Ms Farnworth declared an interest in item GB96.9.

96.2. Minutes and Matters arising from the Open Business of a Special meeting of Governing Body, of 3 October 2024

96.2.1. Approval of minutes (GB96 01)

Governing Body approved the minutes as an accurate record.

96.2. Minutes and Matters arising from the Open Business of Governing Body, of 12 June 2024

96.2.1. Approval of minutes (GB96 02)

Governing Body approved the minutes as an accurate record.

96.2.2. Governing Body action list: Open Business (GB96 03)

- **[GB95.6.2] Budget 2024-25**
  The Bursar to provide further detail on the larger Bridge centres by circulation.
  - The Bursar informed Governing Body that details for the Bridge centres would in future be detailed in the management accounts and had been included in the restated budget (item 96.7.1).

- **[GB95.6.3] Update to limits to delegated authorities**
  The Bursar to provide clarification on the limits of delegated authority.
  - The Bursar gave a thorough explanation of the internal controls in place to monitor the expenditure patterns of individual budget-holders.

96.2.3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

96.2.3.1. {[REDACTED]}

96.2.3.2. ***Use of the Common Seal

Governing Body noted that in accordance with Statute XII.1 the Common Seal of the College had been affixed to three deeds on 31 July 2024 in connection with the purchase of two parcels of land at the edge of Cambridge University Cricket and Tennis Ground (Fenner's) from the University of Cambridge. The deeds were: the release of a restrictive covenant from Gonville and Caius College; a lease of the maintenance building to University of Cambridge Sport; and a time-limited overage deed with the University of Cambridge relating to future development of the land.

96.2.3.3. [95.11] ***Freedom of Speech – Code of Practice (GB96 05)

In preparation for the implementation of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act Council had approved [CC29.6] and Governing Body had noted [GB95.11], a Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and a process for meetings and events on college premises. The Government had subsequently announced on 26 July that it would not be implementing the Act. Governing Body noted that in light of the Government's decision, Council had agreed that the Code of Practice be reviewed, but that the College should proceed to implement the improved process for meetings and events as planned.

96.3. President's report

The President gave an overview of the main aims for the coming academic year and highlighted items on the agenda which were integral to the delivery of the 2030 Vision.

He also reported that following the University's recent decision to amend its retirement age for University Officers, the College would reconsider its own retirement policy. He noted that the College's Statutes and Ordinances tie the retirement age for Governing Body Fellows to the University's previous position and would therefore need to be amended. He said that this could be addressed as part of the current programme of work to revise Statutes and Ordinances.

96.4. Development Director's report (GB96 06)

Governing Body received the Development Director's report which included a summary of engagement activities with alumni, fundraising successes, and current priorities for the Development Team (now fully staffed following the recent recruitment of three new members).

96.5. Impact Director's report (GB96 07)

Governing Body received the Impact Director's report, Dr Willett's first report since taking up post. It set out plans and immediate priorities for driving the impact agenda and embedding impact-oriented thinking within college culture. Following discussion Dr Willett said that she would meet with individual Fellows to follow up their suggestions and comments.

96.6. Statutes and Ordinances Review

The Bursar reported that good progress was being made and that the timetable remained on track. Fellowships Committee had met on 16 October and had provided feedback to the Statutes and Ordinances Review Working Group. The Working Group had met on 22 October to conduct a line-by-line review of the draft Statutes, with a second meeting planned to complete the detailed proofing work.

96.7. Bursarial

96.7.1. 2024-25 Reforecast 1 – restatement of budget (GB96 08)

The Bursar presented the restated budget for 2024-25, which had been reviewed by Finance Committee (14 October) and Council (15 October). Each recommended that the 2024-25 budget be restated to reflect confirmed student numbers (higher than the original forecast) and take account of the material changes in assumptions since June 2024. {[REDACTED]}

Governing Body approved the restated budget.

96.7.2. 2023-24 year-end management accounts (GB96 09)

The Bursar presented the year-end management accounts to 31 July 2024, which showed a net surplus of £52k (compared to £16k in 2022/23) after a transfer of £350k to capital reserves at the year-end (not included in the original forecast budget) to fund future debt repayments.

The Bursar reported that the 2023-24 audit was nearing completion and that he did not anticipate any issues of significant concern to be raised by the auditors.

96.8. {[REDACTED]}

96.9. {[REDACTED]}

96.10. Digital Education Futures Initiative (DEFI): Update report and 2024-25 budget (GB96 12)

At the President's suggestion Governing Body agreed to hold the item over to the next meeting.

96.11. Cambridge Teacher Research Exchange (Camtree): Update report and 2024-25 budget (GB96 13)

At the President's suggestion Governing Body agreed to hold the item over to the next meeting.

96.12. New Fellows' accommodation allowance (GB96 14)

At its February 2024 meeting, Governing Body accepted Remuneration Committee's recommendation of a £5k per year housing allowance for up to two Fellows, capped at three years, and subject to the development of criteria and an application process to be agreed by Fellowships Committee [92.15.4].

The Senior Tutor presented the proposal recommended by Fellowships Committee. Dr McKee noted that the primary purpose of the accommodation allowance, in common with other colleges, would be to attract and recruit new Fellows where there was a strong business case for doing so. Eligibility would be restricted to new Fellows in Class A joining the College to fulfil a specific need, whether teaching or otherwise, and would not be subject to means-testing.

Governing Body approved the proposal, noting Fellowships Committee's recommendation that the scheme be reviewed after two years to assess its efficacy.

96.13. {[REDACTED]}

96.14. Any other Open Business

There was no other Open Business.

End of Open Business WS