HUGHES HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COLLEGE COUNCIL

CONFIRMED MINUTES

One hundred-and-thirty-seventh meeting of College Council 29 April 2025

Council Room at 16.30

Present: Sir Laurie Bristow (Chair, President), Dr Sonia Ilie (Acting Vice-President), Prof John Doorbar Dr Bart de Nijs, Prof Bill Irish, Dr Aga Iwasiewicz-Wabnig, Dr Tori McKee (Senior Tutor), Mr Jonathan Newby (Bursar), Prof Ajith Parlikad, Dr Guillermo Serrano Najera, Mrs Kerry Wilson (Development Director), Dr Alexis Willett (Impact Director), Dr Nigel Yandell, Alex Zimmerman (MCR President, from item 37.8.).

Apologies: Daniel Wolfe (MCR Treasurer)

In attendance: Patrick Dunne (Assistant Bursar, to item 37.14), Sarah Langford (Head of Communications, to item 37.14), Katherine Springthorpe (College Secretary).

OPEN BUSINESS

37.1. Introduction

37.1.1. Welcome and apologies

37.1.2. Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

37.2. Minutes and Matters arising from Open Business of College Council, 25 March 2025

37.2.1. Approval of minutes (CC37 01)

The Minutes were approved as an accurate record.

37.2.2. College Council action list: Open Business (CC37 02)

Council received the action list and noted:

- [CC30.9.1]: Acceptable Use of IT Policy across Assistant Staff and Students – would come to a later meeting. Deferred.
- [CC32.10.1]: Given the timing, Council agreed with the Senior Tutor's proposal to include the additional analysis within the next round of exams data to be presented to Council in Michaelmas Term. Complete.
- All other actions rolled over.

37.2.3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
There were no matters arising.

Strategic and operational items

37.3. President's Report

The President reported:

- Friday 9th May would mark the College's one-hundred and fortieth birthday, which was being celebrated with an anniversary Commemoration Dinner, as well as other events and activities.
- The advert for the Bursar recruitment would close on 2 May. A progress report would follow at the next meeting.
- Acknowledgement of the Supreme Court Ruling on sex and gender, which had recently been announced. Interim guidance had been received from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the University. More specific advice for HE institutions was awaited. Council noted that compliance with the law and the welfare of members of the Hughes community were the top priorities.
- The need for Council to play a critical role in monitoring the College's budgeting and cost control over the coming months and years.

The Development Director reported that listening to the recordings of the detailed discussions from the Governing Body (GB) Development Deep Dive had been illuminating and largely consistent; focusing on the development areas which had the greatest impact to the College would be critical. A detailed read out would come to the next GB meeting, with the team now working up Development plans accordingly. In parallel, business as usual events and activities continued apace.

The Impact Director reported that a number of impact-related activities were planned during Easter Term, including the Senior Members' Symposium and three networking lunches for College researchers being held at sites across Cambridge, branded as 'Hughes comes to you'. A proposal for a new Bridge initiative featured later in the agenda (item 37.8.) and a proposal for refreshing the governance arrangements for the Bridge and its Centres would come to Council at the next meeting.

The Head of Communications reported on a wide range of activities underway and planned, including a Happy Birthday reel to mark the college's anniversary and related news pieces within the growing 140th Showcase. Council noted that the Team's biggest project for the term would be the culmination of work to compile films of Life Fellows, Governing Body Fellows and postdoctoral researchers to publish twenty-four Research Stories over the course of the term to highlight the research excellence and impact of the College.

37.4. MCR Business

The MCR President reported that:

- The student accommodation survey had been completed and the MCR were in discussion with the Tutorial team and Accommodation Manager about the results.
- An upgrade to the Welfare Cabinet outside the toilets was underway.
- Discussion with the Tutorial and Pathways teams was also taking place to consider how the college family system could better align with peer mentorship.
- MCR events in Easter Term would be largely low key and welfare-centric.

37.5. Report of Honorary Post-holder - Director of Research

The Acting Vice President reported on behalf of the Director of Research that the College's Senior Symposium would take place on 15 May with 20 speakers presenting over a two- and half-hour programme.

Council noted that 15 Fellows and Research Fellows had made research expenses claims, with the fund currently underspent. Clarity was sought on the scope of claims, with Council noting that the vast majority related to support for the costs of attending conferences, undertaking training or purchasing IT equipment. The Acting Vice President gave a vote of thanks to Suzanne Draper for her ongoing support to administer the fund.

37.6. Pavillion Project: For information

{REDACTED}

37.7. Statutes & Ordinances Project: For information

The Bursar reported that a workshop combining Governance Committee members and the Statutes and Ordinances Working Group had met in mid-April to agree a final version of Statutes to be recommended to Governing Body on 7 May.

The Group had also considered the composition of Council as the College's future trustee body, with the Group indicating a preference for the membership of Council to comprise four executive members ex officio (President, Vice-President, Bursar and Senior Tutor) together with 10 members elected from the Governing Body, including no more than one named on the Governance List. Whilst Governing Body would not formally approve the composition of Council this academic year, it would be important to get agreement in principle to both underpin the approval of Statutes, as well as to allow drafting of Ordinances to be undertaken over the summer.

37.8. Potential Bridge Initiative (CC37 03): For discussion and endorsement to GB

The Impact Director summarised the proposal and introduced discussion of the Innovation Policy Ignition Programme.

Council noted that the proposal had been the product of in-person and online discussions between the proposer and the President, Impact Director and Bursar, with a number of Governing Body Fellows also having been consulted. The conclusion of these discussions had resulted in broad consensus that the proposal had merit, with the potential to scale should the pilot prove successful. However, time restrictions had meant that proposal had been developed at pace, with the finer details still to be worked through.

Council discussed the proposal in detail, with agreement about both its strategic alignment with the College and as a relatively low risk proposition. **{REDACTED}**

Council agreed to recommend to Governing Body that the pilot programme proceed with caution.

Standing items

37.9. Bursarial:

37.9.1. Bursar's Report: For information (CC37 04)

Council received and noted the Bursar's report. The Bursar highlighted that the Finance team were currently undertaking planning for the 2025-26 Budget, which would come to Council's next meeting.

37.9.2. Management Accounts to 31 March 2025: For information (CC37 05)

Council received and noted the Management Accounts to 31 March 2025. The Assistant Bursar summarised the monthly finance dashboard and the Bursar reported that, assuming the final quarter tracked as projected, year-end finances would be in a good place.

37.10. Tutorial and Admissions: For information

The Senior Tutor confirmed there was little to report so early on the term and that a more detailed report would come to the next meeting.

37.11. Any other Open Business

There was no other Open Business.

End of Open Business KS