HUGHES HALL
CAMBRIDGE

COLLEGE COUNCIL

MINUTES

One hundred-and-forty-seventh meeting of College Council 2 June 2026

Council Room at 16.30

Present: Sir Laurie Bristow (Chair), Dr Joe Ellis (Acting Senior Tutor), Ms Zahra Grieve (MCR Vice President), Prof Sonia Ilie, Dr Aga Iwasiewicz-Wabnig, Prof Ajith Parlikad, Mr Laurie Smith (Bursar), Mrs Kerry Wilson (Development Director, online)

Apologies: Dr Bart de Nijs, Prof John Doorbar, Prof Nidhi Singal (Vice-President), Mr David Wolffe (MCR President), Dr Nigel Yandell

Absent: Dr Guillermo Serrano-Nájera

In attendance: Pat Dunne (Assistant Bursar) and Sarah Langford (Head of Communications) for Open Business, Katherine Springthorpe (Secretary) and Theresa McKeon (Fellowships and Governance Officer).

OPEN BUSINESS

Preliminary Business

47.1. Introduction

47.1.1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members and noted apologies as above.

47.1.2. Declarations of interests

There were none.

47.2. Minutes and Matters arising from Open Business of College Council, 28 April 2026

47.2.1. Minutes (47CC 01)

Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting as an accurate record.

47.2.2. College Council action list: Open Business (47CC 02)

The Secretary reported that all three outstanding actions were now complete.

47.2.3. Approval of starred items (***)

47.2.4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

Standing Items

47.3. President's Report

47.3.1 Strategic priorities (47CC 03)

Council noted the report, with the following points raised in discussion:

Students:

- Progress had been slow to develop the widening participation programme targeted at Home (UK) undergraduates due to reduced capacity in the team. Work would continue on proposals for the 2026-27 academic year over summer.
- It was noted that the University had appointed a Director to consider part time student provision and engagement, with Prof Ilie agreeing to share information with Dr Ellis on the matter. **ACTION: Prof Ilie.**

Estates:

- Feilden Fowles was progressing the redesign for Covent Garden Hall. Planning would be submitted in July and the appointment of a contractor would take place over the summer.
- RIBA Stage 3 was underway for the main scheme and was entering into a Stage 1 procurement shortlist with the planning application on track for an autumn submission.
- The team continued to closely monitor disruption and financial implications over the current period and into the longer term.
- Internal consultation had taken place with staff, students and senior members. The next public consultation was planned for 9 June.

Systems:

- The move to migrate finance systems to a cloud platform had been delayed to 2026-27 to allow focus on the shift in the financial year to 30 June from 31 July.
- The exploratory AI pilot was well underway with good engagement.

Governance:

- Statutes were approved by GB on 13 May 2026 and submitted to Privy Council. Due to Privy Council timelines, approval would not be forthcoming until Michaelmas Term (estimated November) and GB was to continue acting as the Trustee body for at least one meeting in the 2026-27 academic year.
- Ordinances were to be presented at the 17 June GB meeting.

Impact:

- A revised job description for the Impact Director role was expected at the 23 June Council meeting with recruitment to take place over the summer.
- Council members noted that publicity had begun around the Afghan women's cricket team visit with a dinner and two matches on Fenner's planned at the end of month.

Development:

- The case for support was expected to go to GB on 17 June before being finalised for the end of July.
- Giving Day had not been as successful as the previous year. Work was ongoing to analyse the low click-through rates and lessons learned, and to consider ways to further engage alumni.
- The legacy campaign and work on the major donor pipeline was progressing positively.

A comment was raised about the presentation of risks and delays in the Strategic Priorities Report and whether it was possible to indicate where an issue with one of the priorities was related solely to timing or if there was a fundamental challenge to its delivery. It was agreed this would be given consideration and amendments made for the 2026-27 iteration of the Priorities. **ACTION**: College Secretary.

47.4. Officers' Report (47CC 04)

Council received a combined Officers' Report covering business-as-usual activity. The following items were noted:

- A RIDDOR reportable incident had occurred and an investigation was underway.

Council noted the report.

47.5. MCR Business (Oral update)

The MCR Vice-President reported that the term's welfare events had been going well and had received an excellent turnout. Likewise, tickets for the June event were selling quickly and were anticipated to sell out. The MCR had also been working with the Head of Domestic Operations to recruit a new Bar Manager and noted that the increase to living wage for bar staff had been gratefully received.

Both the MCR President and VP had attended the MCR President's Forum at St John's College and raised the possibility of planning a similar event at Hughes Hall in the new academic year.

Council thanked the MCR for the update.

Strategic and Operational items

47.6. Proposed Budget for 2026-27 (47CC 05)

The Bursar and Assistant Bursar presented the proposed budget for the 2026-27 academic year.

Council recommended the budget to Governing Body for approval.

47.7. Honorary Archivist Post (47CC 06)

The Acting Senior Tutor summarised a paper from the library team proposing the abolition of the Honorary Archivist Post. The role had been held vacant since 2023 and during that time the library team had carried out an extensive archives project commissioned by Council. The project had been delivered on-time and under budget and a full report had been provided to Council for information. The project had demonstrated that management of the college archives was better coordinated by the library team rather than a part time and voluntary post. The report sought approval for the archival responsibilities to be transferred to the Library Services team, with that change reflected in the team name and in their position titles, but with no effect on salaries. This change would result in the abolition of the Honorary Archivist Post.

Council agreed to recommend the proposal to GB for approval and extended a vote of thanks to the Library Services Manager and their team for their excellent work and report on the archives project.

47.8. Music Director's Annual Report (47CC 07)

Council noted that the Music Director, Dr Yandell, had sent his apologies and Dr Iwasiewicz-Wabnig presented the Report in his stead. Members highlighted that music programme events were very well attended and had proven beneficial for community engagement. At some point updates would be

needed to equipment and practice spaces; this was well understood and would be incorporated in the development campaign.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Director of Music and to Amy Klohr who had led the choir for many years and recently stepped down. The new leader, Arthur Tombs, would take over as choir master from October.

47.9. Acceptable Use of IT Policy (47CC 08)

Council discussed the Acceptable Use of IT Policy.

Key points of discussion included:

- Some concerns around a number of provisions that were not clearly applicable to students.
- A suggestion that a clause could be inserted regarding the use of systems that were available to members of the college but were not to be used beyond their remit. For example, library subscriptions were intended for academic work, not commercial use, an issue which was not felt to be addressed.
- A concern was raised about whether the data protection wording was too narrowly focused on the EU rather than broader international obligations. Transparent wording was required to underline that GDPR requirements extended to all members of the college despite nationality or residency.
- A practical issue with the bring your own device / MFA requirements was raised with concern that the policy appeared to assume everyone had access to a personal phone or device when this may not always be the case - the College needed to consider whether an alternative arrangement or workaround was available.

It was agreed that the policy required some targeted revisions, with the intention to bring it back to Council on 23 June as a starred item for approval.

47.10. CCE Funding Proposal on 'Legal Levers for Decarbonizing State-owned Enterprises' (47CC 09)

The Bursar noted that the remaining CCE staff were being supported to apply for a funding bid in partnership with the National University of Singapore to the Sequoia Climate Foundation. CCE would receive £325k to cover staff costs. If successful, the programme would run from August for two years and potentially strengthen and facilitate external validation of LCAP.

Council supported the proposal.

47.11. ***Code of Conduct (47CC 10)
Council endorsed the revised version of the Code of Conduct and recommended it to GB for approval without discussion.

The President gave a vote of thanks to the Vice-President.

47.12. ***Management Accounts (47CC 11)
Council noted the Management Accounts and commentary to 30 April 2026 without discussion.

Minutes

47.13. ***Minutes of committees

There were none.

47.14. Any other Open Business

The Bursar reported on an amendment to the Expenses Policy which had been endorsed by the Finance Committee. In line with an increase in mileage rates announced by HMRC, the college proposed raising its expense rate from 45p per mile to 55p per mile for the first 10,000 miles driven. The policy would be backdated to 6 April 2026.

Council approved the change in rate with immediate effect.

End of Open Business.

Meetings 2026: 23 June 2026.