HUGHES HALL
CAMBRIDGE

# COLLEGE COUNCIL

## MINUTES

## One hundred-and-forty-fifth meeting of College Council 24 March 2026

## Council Room at 16.30

**Present:** Sir Laurie Bristow (Chair), Dr Bart de Nijs, Prof John Doorbar, Ms Zahra Grieve (MCR Vice President), Dr Aga Iwasiewicz-Wabnig, Prof Ajith Parlikad, Mr Laurie Smith (Bursar), Mrs Kerry Wilson, Prof Sonia Ilie, Mr David Wolffe (MCR President).

**Apologies:** Dr Joe Ellis (Acting Senior Tutor), Dr Guillermo Serrano-Nájera, Dr Alexis Willett, Prof Nidhi Singal (Vice-President), Dr Nigel Yandell.

**On leave:** Dr Tori McKee (Senior Tutor).

**In Attendance:** Sarah Langford (Head of Comms) and Pat Dunne (Assistant Bursar) for Open Business and Katherine Springthorpe (Secretary) and Theresa McKeon.

### OPEN BUSINESS

### Preliminary Business

**45.1. Introduction**

**45.1.1. Declarations of interests**

There were none.

**45.2. Minutes and Matters arising from Open Business of College Council, 24 February 2026**

**45.2.1. Minutes: (45CC 01)**

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

**45.2.2. College Council action list: Open Business (45CC 02)**

The Secretary noted progress on IT Acceptable Use Policy. The Code of Conduct featured on the agenda.

**45.2.3. Approval of starred items (***):**

Council noted the starred items without discussion.

**45.2.4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda**

There were none.

## Standing Items

### 45.3. President's Report

#### 45.3.1 Strategic priorities (45CC 03)

Council received updates on the strategic priorities and success measures with the President emphasising a need to look ahead to Easter term and in particular Estates and the Development campaign.

Council noted the following updates:

- Development: The development campaign was reported to be on track, with work continuing ahead of the May Governing Body meeting.
- Impact: The Communications team were managing key activities following the Impact Director's departure to maintain momentum until a successor could be appointed.
- Statutes & Ordinances: The Privy Council Office (PCO) had confirmed it had no further comments on minor Statute revisions submitted at the end of 2025, though final approval was expected to be delayed until autumn 2026 due to a requirement to resubmit the revised Statutes in their entirety.
- Systems: The transition to a cloud-based financial system would be delayed following the decision to move the financial year-end to 30 June. An AI pilot group was being introduced for staff to explore productivity and efficiency opportunities.

### 45.4 Officers' Report (45CC 04)

Council received and noted a combined Officers' Report providing a high-level summary of ongoing business as usual activity.

### 45.5 MCR Business

The MCR President and Vice President reported on the following matters:

- It had been a busy few weeks and although activities wound down at end of term, on the advice of the Head of Student Wellbeing and Welfare, some out-term-events continued for students that had stayed on in Cambridge.
- Work on the clubroom was mostly complete, making the room more accessible and inviting.
- In Easter term the role of the MCR would pivot away from mainly social events and towards welfare support during exam season.
- The MCR extended thanks to the College for supporting them throughout a successful term.

## Strategic and Operational items

### 45.6 Management Accounts (45CC 05)

The Bursar summarised the management accounts for the period ending 28 February.

### 45.7 Room License and Early Termination Policy (45CC 06)

Council received Room Licence Agreements for 2026-27 and noted that the Head of Domestic Operations had included a new policy to manage late departures at the end of student tenancy periods.

The MCR noted they were supportive of the policy change but emphasised the need for clear communications to students in advance of the departure period.

Council approved the proposed addition to the Licence Agreements stipulating that failure to vacate rooms by 11:00 am would incur a £70 charge.

### 45.8 Giving Circles Paper (45CC 07)

The Development Director introduced the paper proposing to update and consistently apply new levels of recognition and stewardship. These levels were intended to replace categories or giving circles to which donors may have previously been assigned, though the thresholds would correlate to existing giving arrangements at Hughes Hall.
New additions to the giving circles would be recent leavers, with some members of Council emphasising that the offer needed to be compelling for recent leavers to encourage long-term giving. It was agreed that the giving circle names should be improved with appropriate and meaningful titles in due course.

Council approved the proposal.

### 45.9 Code of Conduct for all members (45CC 08)

Council received a Code of Conduct, which was intended to serve as a high-level statement, setting the general expectation of behaviour for everyone associated with the College, including Senior Members – a group for which there was a policy gap. The Code would be read in conjunction with and complement existing policies and procedures, rather than replace them.

Most Council members expressed broad support for the Code and its goal of setting minimum standards that applied to everyone. There was discussion about alignment between the College's Code with the University's Code of Conduct to avoid any contradictions between the two. There was some concern around the use of the word 'member' not readily applying to assistant staff. Council members also suggested the Code's position in relation to other regulatory and legal frameworks (eg Freedom of Speech) ought to be clarified, with a generic statement confirming the code sat alongside the College's statutory and regulatory obligations, which would take precedence should any conflict arise between them.

Council agreed that feedback should be incorporated and the wording reviewed by the College's external HR advisors. It would be brought back for approval thereafter.

## Minutes

There were none.

### 45.11. Any other Open Business

There was none.

**Meetings 2026:** 28 April 2026, 02 June 2026, 23 June 2026.

End of Open Business.