



MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council
at 1.10pm on Tuesday 14 March 2023*

There were present the Master, the Senior Tutor, the Bursar, Dr Bardhan, Dr Beauregard, Ms MacDonald, Mr Matheson, Mr Nicholson, Dr O'Donnell, Dr Reinbold; the JCR President, Ms Elina Smith; the JCR Treasurer, Mr Ben Harper; and the MCR President, Mr Joel Kandiah. The MCR Treasurer, Ms Signe Reitz was in attendance. Dr Woodford was in attendance as secretary.

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

- cc2023.47 *Starred Items*
Council confirmed that starred items should not be discussed.
- cc2023.48 *Statement of Conflicts of Interest*
There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.
- cc2023.49 *Apologies for Absence*
Apologies were received from Dr O'Sullivan and Dr V Young. Dr Bardhan left after cc2023.52.
- cc2023.50 *Minutes of the Unreserved Council meeting held on 14 February 2023*
The minutes were agreed and signed.
- cc2023.51 *Matters arising*
There were no matters arising.
- cc2023.52 *College Finances - A view from early 2023*
The Bursar reported to Council on her in-depth examination of the College's financial position (CP2023/019) and her concerns in relation to medium term College finances. The reforecast for capital expenditure for 2022/23 stands at £1.8m over budget, including the hostels overrun, though the donation of 73 Compton Street will offset some of the shortfall. The Bursar noted a decline in the generation of operational cash, since an increase in conference income has been offset by rising staff costs, and growth due to high general inflation, most notably high energy charges. Whereas in the past, the College planned in most years for its capital

expenditure to be met from its cash generation, the current situation is that around £0.5m of capital expenditure annually is essential for the continuation of College activities but cannot be matched by the cash generated by operations. The College's income has not kept pace with the inflationary pressure on costs, with regulated educational income from undergraduate fees frozen, although postgraduate fee income has grown in recent years. Action to reduce costs proactively would be required in the coming months; alongside support for income generative activity such as conferencing. The use of philanthropic donations was also discussed. The Bursar emphasised the need to protect educational spending and offered insights into future cost trends. The Bursar stated her intention to plan for the next three years when setting the budget for 2023-24 to give the Council improved insight and support future decision making and noted work was already underway with several Heads of Departments in reviewing cost and income improvement opportunities for the coming year.

- cc2023.53* *Library & Archives Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Library & Archives Committee held on 8 February 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/020). It was noted that the College should own the copyright to photography undertaken on the premises such as matriculation photographs.
- cc2023.54* *HR Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the HR Committee held on 9 February 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/021). The HR manager would be drafting principles regarding core working times in College in order to inform consideration of requests for flexible working. It was noted that office-based hybrid working can help with recruitment, while in-person working has advantages in terms of working across teams.
- cc2023.55* *Alumni & Development Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Alumni & Development Committee held on 10 February 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/022). Discussions are continuing in the Department of Materials Science around the interest of Dr Chris Dobson (SE 1957), Honorary Fellow, in funding a Chair and a PhD post which could be linked to the College.
- cc2023.56* *Access Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Access Committee held on 15 February 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/023). The Senior Tutor drew attention to the School Liaison Officers' impressive report on their recent outreach activities as an indication of the significance of donor funding in supporting the College's activities.
- cc2023.57* *Gardens Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Gardens Committee held on 17 February 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/024).



- cc2023.58 *Paintings Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Paintings Committee held on 22 February 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/025). Kelvin Chiu (SE 2005) will be visiting the College on 4 April 2023 and will be asked to support the costs of the agreed hosting of the Lincoln Sea portrait.
- cc2023.59 *Compliance Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Compliance Committee held on 23 February 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/026).
- cc2023.60 *Finance Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 3 March 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/027).
- cc2023.61 *Accommodation Committee*
The minutes of the meeting of the Accommodation Committee held on 7 March 2023 (CP2023/028a) were received and noted. Council approved the rents for 2023-24 (CP2023/028b), an increase of 10%, though this is lower than the 12% rise in the underlying cost of provision to the College for 2023-24 and will leave a deficit of around £65,000. The Bursar and the Senior Tutor expressed their thanks to the student representatives for their constructive support. In order to soften the impact of the increase, a review of rent codes by student representatives, the Senior Tutor and the Fellow for Rooms will seek to ensure some lower code rooms remain cost effective.
- cc2023.62 *College Diary 2023-24*
The first draft of the College Diary for 2023-24 was circulated (CP2023/029).
- cc2023.63 *Professor T Filming*
The Master reported that the ITV series Professor T would be filming in Old Court in the afternoon on Friday 14 April.
- cc2023.64 *Any Other Unreserved Business*
There was no other unreserved business.

