



## MINUTES

*of a meeting of the College Council held at 1.10pm on Tuesday 23 May 2023*

There were present the Master, Dr Beauregard, Mr Matheson, Mr Nicholson, Dr O'Donnell, Dr O'Sullivan, Ms Phillips, Dr Reinbold, Dr Sewell, Dr V. Young; the JCR President, Ms Elina Smith and the JCR Treasurer, Mr Ben Harper. Dr Woodford was in attendance as secretary and Mr Simon Gascoyne, Conference and Events Manager, attended for item cc2023.104.

### UNRESERVED BUSINESS

cc2023.99 *Starred Items*

Council confirmed that starred items would not be discussed.

cc2023.100 *Statement of Conflicts of Interest*

There were no conflicts of interest arising from the Unreserved Agenda concerning any of those persons present.

cc2023.101 *Apologies for Absence*

Apologies were received from Dr Bardhan, Ms MacDonald, the MCR President, Mr Joel Kandiah, and the MCR Treasurer, Ms Signe Reitz Krarup.

cc2023.102 *Minutes of the Unreserved Council meeting held on 2 May 2023*

The minutes were received and signed.

cc2023.103 *Matters arising*

*i. cc2023.61 Accommodation Committee*

The Senior Tutor noted that the JCR room ballot had taken place and he thanked Professor James Moultrie, the Fellow for Rooms, and the JCR officers for the smooth and successful running of the ballot. He also thanked the JCR representatives for their constructive dialogue regarding the re-coding of rooms. Initial findings by the Fellow for Rooms have suggested that the re-coding of rooms has had the intended effect of providing enough rooms on a lower rent code, and noted that, throughout the ballot, a choice of rooms at a lower price code had been available to every student.

- cc2023.104      *Conference Business*  
The Conference and Events Manager, Mr Simon Gascoyne, gave a presentation on plans for growing the conference business (**CP2023/043**). He observed that the College may be underselling some facilities and that some greater efficiencies in process can be achieved, taking into account some challenges in staffing in hospitality and housekeeping. He also noted that increased attention to sustainability in business practices, confidence in videoconferencing techniques, and restrictions in recent years on international travel have impacted on business. Two thirds of the annual revenue to the College from the conference business comes during the long vacation. The highest profit margins are on bedrooms, and the accommodation revenue in the long vacation is forecast to grow to £1m by 2024/25. Best practice is to spread the focus of the conference business across a range of sectors to avoid concentrating risk in any single customer type. One consequence of this is that Mr Gascoyne proposes to increase the number of twin rooms by 30 in order to make the rooms more attractive for commercial and alumni demand. Additional income can be gained by adjusting the charging rate for conference rooms and the discounts available for rooms when booked through fellows on a referral basis. The charging policy would be agreed at a separate meeting of Council and clearly communicated to the Fellowship. Dr Beauregard thanked the Conference team for working closely with the Admissions office to ensure the availability of rooms for admissions events. Council thanked Mr Gascoyne for the clear focus on the commercial potential of the conference income.
- cc2023.105      *Nine-Month Accounts*  
The Bursar reported on the nine-month accounts (**CP2023/044a-b**). The reforecast is £1.3m better than the budget, thanks entirely to the donation of 73 Compton Street by Dr Chris Dobson (SE 1957) and to legacies. A £2m deficit is forecast excluding these donations. The cash position remains £0.9m worse than originally budgeted, in the light of the higher costs of the hostel project. The Bursar noted that the structural cash generation continues to be insufficient for the College's capital expenditure, and budget plans will need to focus on increasing cash generation in order to cover capital spending.
- cc2023.106      *Sale of 73 Compton Street*  
The Bursar noted that the land registry transfer of ownership to the College had taken place and that the sale was progressing.
- cc2023.107      *Statutes and Privy Council*  
The Bursar reported that the statutes will go before the Privy Council in June for approval.
- cc2023.108      *Hostels Project*  
The Bursar reported that detailed discussions are continuing between the quantity surveyors regarding finalizing the costs of the project. A



commercial discussion will then follow regarding the cost of overrun, likely to be later this year.

- cc2023.109      *Snowball*  
Council gave permission for the JCR to hold the Snowball on 1 December 2023 (CP2023/045). The JCR were urged to bring plans for the use of Old Court lawn to the meeting of the Gardens Committee on 16 June and reminded to bring an updated plan to Council on 11 July.
- cc2023.110      *Stewards Committee*  
The minutes of the meeting of the Stewards Committee held on 16 May 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/046). Appendix 4 of the Fellows' Guide will be brought to the meeting of Governing Body on 20 June.
- cc2023.111      *Paintings Committee*  
The minutes of the meeting of the Paintings Committee held on 17 May 2023 were received and noted (CP2023/048). It was noted that the watercolour painting by Gillian Wearing of her sculpture of Millicent Fawcett, donated by Jonathan Wearing (SE 1971), has been received by the College. The painting *Lincoln Sea*, loaned by Kelvin Chiu (SE 2005), will arrive on 4 September for hanging in the Harrison Room.
- cc2023.112      *Old Library Work Group*  
The report of the meeting of the Working Group on decorations in the Old Library was received and noted (CP2023/049). Council agreed with the direction of travel.
- cc2023.113      *Any Other Unreserved Business*  
The Master and the Senior Tutor updated Council on the implications of the UCU marking and assessment boycott and noted that the University is consulting with the Russell Group over mitigations, and with the government over visas. The University had communicated to students its efforts to manage the situation for students who do not have complete results.

