

Sidney Sussex College

The Minutes of
COLLEGE COUNCIL
Held in William Mong Hall
on Wednesday 25 January 2023 at 2pm

In attendance:

Senior members:

The Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar, Ms Baskerville, Dr Bordin, Dr Fulda,
Professor Garcia-Mayoral, Dr Groom, Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Stasch

Student representatives:

Ms Horvat Menih (MCR President), Ms Lawson-Todd (JCR Vice-President),
Ms Morgan (JCR President)

Also present:

Ms Adams (College Registrar / Council Secretary)

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

1. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Master welcomed Ms Morgan, the new JCR President, to the Council.
Dr Bordin was welcomed back from sabbatical leave.

Apologies were received from the Acting Vice-Master, Dr Öner, Professor
Reynolds and Mr Robertson.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved**.

1.3 Declarations of Interests

The Master declared an indirect interest in item 2.3c.

**1.4 Confirmation of the minutes of the unreserved business of the
Meeting of Council on 30 November 2022 (CC.2023.01.25.1.4)**

The minutes were **approved**.

a) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

2. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

2.1 **Master's Business**

a) **Inter-collegiate business**

The Master outlined two topics that had been discussed at Senior Tutors' Committee:

- The Committee had received and supported the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan 2022-25, which included the Suicide-Safer Strategy of the University and the Colleges. The Plan had now been published.
- The Committee had received and supported the draft Sports and Physical Activity Strategy 2023-27, and welcomed the development of an implementation plan.

b) **Freedom of Speech Statement and Meetings on College Premises Code of Practice (CC.2023.01.25.2.1b.i)**

The Master drew attention to freedom of speech issues elsewhere in the Collegiate University, increased press and political interest, and the forthcoming legislation. The Prevent Committee had most recently reviewed the Statement in 2021 (CC.2021.02.24.3.3a) and had concluded that no changes were required at that time.

The Code of Practice regulations, which applied to all meetings and events in College, currently formed part of the White Book for students which is not logical. The Statutes and Ordinances Committee was asked to consider what amendments would be necessary to retain the existing regulations for student events within the White Book and to adopt equivalent arrangements for Fellows', staff and external events.

Council **re-endorsed** the College's existing Freedom of Speech statement, and **noted** that the Statutes and Ordinances Committee would be reviewing the Code of Practice. It asked that the website statement did not include the internal briefing notes.

Council further **noted** the potential effects of the upcoming Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill on the College, SSCUSU and fundraising reporting, and that further updates to the Statement and Code of Practice may need to follow upon its enactment.

c) ****Flag Flying Schedule 2023 (CC.2023.01.25.2.1c)**

The 2023 schedule was **approved**.

2.2 Senior Tutor's Business

a) **Tutorships 2022-23** (CC.2023.01.25.2.2a)

The Senior Tutor presented an update to the Annual Offices reflecting increased tutorial provision to meet the higher demand for pastoral support.

Council **approved** the changes to the Annual Offices 2022-23.

b) **Librarian's Annual Report 2021-22** (CC.2023.01.25.2.2b)

Council **noted** the Librarian's Annual report 2021-22 and the transition back to pre-Covid usage arrangements.

c) **Update on Potential Impact of UCU's Planned Industrial Action**

The Senior Tutor reported that the planned industrial action from 1 February through to mid-March would affect mostly University teaching. Teaching rooms were bookable by Directors of Studies wanting to provide supervisions in College.

2.3 Bursar's Business

a) **Fund Management: Closures of Hiran Srikantha Kirthisingha Fund and SL Fund** (CC.2023.01.25.2.3a)

Council **agreed** to close the Hiran Srikantha Kirthisingha Fund and the SL Fund, noting that both had been established with the expectation that they be expended, and both now had nil balances.

b) **Freedom of Information**

i) **Publication Scheme** (CC.2023.01.25.2.3b.i)

The Bursar drew attention to Council's request to consider what additional policies were being published by other Colleges, and whether annual publication of Freedom of Information requests would support greater transparency (CC.20220126.2.3b).

Whilst acknowledging that many College policies related strictly to operational or employment matters, Council members supported increased transparency and asked that a summary of agreed Council policies be brought to a future meeting for a decision about publication.

Action: Bursar, Registrar

Council **adopted** the updated Publication Scheme, subject to minor amendments, and **agreed** that it be published on the College website. Council further **agreed** to publish on the College website an annual disclosure log of Freedom of Information requests and responses, the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy, and, once adopted, the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and updated CCTV Policy.

- ii) **Annual Compliance Report 2022 (CC.2023.01.25.2.3bii)**
The Bursar reported that 27 requests had been received in 2022. The decrease from previous years appeared to result from a reduction in enquiries from the media.

Council **noted** the Annual Compliance Report.

- c) **Positioning of Portraits in College Hall (CC.2023.01.25.2.3c)**
Council **agreed** the proposed positioning of portraits and **noted** that invitations to the unveiling of the Master's portrait on 14 February 2023 had now been circulated.

Council **noted** that the Muniments Committee would propose a set of general principles to guide the selection of portraits to hang in the College Hall.

- d) **Use of College Seal**
i) ****Darwin Green – transfer of part**
Council **noted** the use of the College seal.

2.4 Development Director's Business

- a) **Quarterly Report 2022-23 (2nd Quarter) (CC.2023.01.25.2.4a)**
Council **noted** the provisional Q2 figures.

2.5 Student Business

- a) **JCR Report and Plans – Lent Term 2023 (CC.2023.01.25.2.5a)**
The JCR President reported that:
- redecoration of the JCR was scheduled to be completed by the end of Lent Term;
 - a BME Access Day was planned for 19 February
 - discussions had been held with the Chaplain about the possibility of wheelchair access to the Chapel;
 - an open meeting was being planned;
 - a suggestion box would be placed in the JCR.
- b) **MCR Report and Plans – Lent Term 2023 (CC.2023.01.25.2.5b)**
The MCR President reported that the MCR was planning a research conference on 4 March, to which all members of Council were invited. The keynote speaker would be the Master, and Andy Murray had been invited to speak about resilience. The MCR elections results would be announced before the end of Lent Term.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

3.1 Chapel Committee

- a) ***Unreserved minutes of 31 October 2022 meeting**
(CC.2023.01.25.3.1a)
The minutes were **noted**.

3.2 Development Committee

- a) ***Unreserved minutes of 11 November 2022 meeting**
(CC.2023.01.25.3.2a)
The minutes were **noted**.
- i) ****Development Committee Terms of Reference**
(CC.2023.01.25.2.3a.i)
The Terms of Reference were **agreed**.

3.3 EDI Working Group

- a) ***Unreserved minutes of 14 November 2022 meeting**
(CC.2023.01.25.3.3a)
The minutes were **noted**.
- i) ****EDI Committee Terms of Reference**
(CC.2023.01.25.3.3a.i)
The Terms of Reference were **agreed**.

3.4 Library Committee

- a) ***Unreserved minutes of 30 November 2022 meeting**
(CC.2023.01.25.3.4a)
The minutes were **noted**.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Any other business

There was no further business.

4.2 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 2pm in the **Old Library**.