

Sidney Sussex College

The Minutes of
COLLEGE COUNCIL
Held in William Mong Hall
on Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 2pm

In attendance:

Senior members:

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

Student representatives:

Ms Lawson-Todd (JCR Vice-President), Ms Morgan (JCR President),
Mr Robertson (Student Representative)

Also present:

Ms Adams (College Registrar / Council Secretary),
Ms Mahmood (MCR President-elect)

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

1. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1.1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Master welcomed Ms Shathar Mahmood, MCR President-elect, attending as an observer. Apologies were received from Professors Eilstrup-Sangiovanni and Reynolds, and from Ms Horvat-Menih (MCR President).

1.2 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was **approved** subject to Item 3.1(a) Development Committee minutes of 3 February 2023 being unstarred.

1.3 Declarations of Interests

Item 1.4(a)i (Student Charges 2023-24): Ms Lawson-Todd, Ms Morgan and Mr Robertson declared interests as students liable for an accommodation charge. Council **agreed** that they could remain in the meeting during the update as no decision was required.

Item 2.6(a) (June Event Committee – ticket sales update): The Master declared a potential conflict as a likely recipient of free tickets, but Council **agreed** there was no requirement to withdraw.

1.4 Confirmation of the minutes of the unreserved business of the Meeting of Council on 22 February 2023 (CC.2023.03.15.1.4)

The minutes were **confirmed**.

a) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

i. Student Charges 2023-24 (Minute 2.3a)

The Bursar reported that, since the decisions taken at the previous meeting, SSCSU had consulted its membership and confirmed that they would prefer a 0% cohort price increase for the 2023 cohort, with a corresponding 1.6% increase above inflation across all years. The Bursar drew attention to the Finance and Needs Committee's decision that the 2023-24 rent bursary would be equal to the full increase applied (inflation + 1.6%, equivalent to 9.5% across all years) rather than inflation only.

The Head of Communications was assisting with drafting an explanatory email to students about the 2023-24 charges and how students could access bursaries.

ii. Updated CCTV Policy (Minute 2.3b)

The Bursar confirmed that the detailed CCTV Standard Operating Procedures had been sent to the Council member who requested it, with an explanation of the rationale for the College having a procedure for receiving and responding to any requests for recordings by official bodies. There were no further queries, so the CCTV Policy as circulated at the last meeting is formally **approved**.

There were no further matters arising.

2. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

2.1 Master's Business

a) Inter-collegiate business

The Master outlined the inter-collegiate business which had taken place since the previous Council meeting:

Bursars' Committee

- Discussions were ongoing regarding additional funding for certain categories within the Cambridge Bursary Schemes;
- Admissions assessments for certain subjects had been withdrawn for the 2024 round, and a working group continued to investigate potential replacements;
- Colleges had formed a consortium for future energy and gas purchases: the College's current estimate for next year was up to an additional £400,000 above this year's costs;
- Colleges have agreed to increase inter-collegiate supervision rates from this term in line with the national recommended cost of living increase.

Senior Tutors' Committee

- It was clear that no consensus would be reached on the preferred format for undergraduate admission interviews for 2023 and beyond: the College had supported the retention of on-line interviews for 2023, subject to accepting any unanimous decision which may yet emerge from particular Tripos-specific consultations being conducted via Subject Convenors;
- Admission of organ scholars would follow normal admissions patterns for the next three years on an experimental basis.

2.2 Senior Tutor's Business

a) Undergraduate Academic Review Report (CC.2023.03.015.2.2a)

The Senior Tutor reported the findings of the recent reviews of undergraduate students' overall experience. He noted that the format, timing and content would be reconsidered in the coming year, a review led by himself and the Head of Student Wellbeing. He undertook also to consult with Directors of Studies on questions relating to academic matters.

Action: Senior Tutor

Council **noted** the report.

2.3 Bursar's Business

a) **Private Undergraduate Fees 2024-25 (CC.2023.03.015.2.3a)

Council **approved** the annual private undergraduate fee of £12,000 per annum for the 2024-25 intake.

b) Use of College Seal

- *Darwin Green – Deed of Variation**
- *Cambridge University Endowment Fund – Subscription**
- *99 King Street – Deed of Surrender**

Council **noted** the use of the College seal.

2.4 Development Director's Business

a) Revisions to Funding Regulations (CC.2023.03.015.2.4)

The Development Director reported that regulations were being reviewed to ensure that they remained in line with donors' preferences, and, where possible, to work with donors to remove any levels of granularity which might complicate the distribution of funds.

Council **agreed** to

- amend the Mike Styles Fund regulations (CC.2023.03.15.2.4a.i); and
- close the Hanadi Jabado Fund with nil balance, in accordance with the donor gift agreement (CC.2023.03.15.2.4a.ii).

2.5 Steward's Business

There was no business.

2.6 Student Business

a) June Event 2023 – ticket sales update (CC.2023.03.015.2.6a)

Council **noted** the update and offered its congratulations to the June Event Committee for achieving successful sales to date.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

3.1 Development Committee

**a) Unreserved minutes of the meeting of 3 February 2023
(CC.2023.03.015.3.1a)**

Attention was drawn to minute 6.2, noting that although the College does not have a title of 'College Professorship', it had established the titles of College Associate Professor and College Assistant Professor, which the Development Director undertook to review with the donor.

Action: Development Director

The minutes were **noted**.

3.2 Investments Committee

**a) Unreserved minutes of the meeting of 8 February 2023
(CC.2023.03.015.3.2a)**

The Bursar drew attention to minute 8 and the intercollegiate letter to Barclays Bank regarding bank financing of fossil fuels.

The minutes were **noted**.

i. **Investment Policy (CC.2023.03.015.3.2a.i)

The Investment Policy was **approved**.

**ii. **Barclays Bank Letter – University of Cambridge
(CC.2023.03.015.3.2a.ii)**

Council **authorised** the Bursar to sign the letter on the College's behalf.

3.3 HR Committee

**a) *Unreserved minutes of the meeting of 14 February 2023
(CC.2023.03.015.3.3)**

The minutes were **noted**.

- i. ****Terms of Reference** (CC.2023.03.015.3.3a.i)
The Terms of Reference were **approved**.

3.4 IT Steering Group

- a) ***Unreserved minutes of the meeting of 16 February 2023**
(CC.2023.03.015.3.4)

The minutes were **noted**.

- i. ****Terms of Reference** (CC.2023.03.015.3.4a.i)
The Terms of Reference were **approved**.

3.5 Staff Liaison Committee

- a) ***Unreserved minutes of the meeting of 2 March 2023**
(CC.2023.03.015.3.5a)

The minutes were **noted**.

3.6 Finance and Needs Committee

- a) ***Unreserved minutes of the meeting of 6 March 2023**
(CC.2023.03.015.3.6)

The minutes were **noted**.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Any other business

There was no further business.

4.2 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 2pm in the William Mong Hall.