

Sidney Sussex College

The **Unreserved Business** Minutes of **Governing Body** held on Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 2pm

Present:

Master	Professor Burton
Fellows	Professor Armstrong (Vice-Master), Mr Beber (Senior Tutor), Dr Bordin, Dr Doran, Professor Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Dr Flynn, Dr Fulda, Professor Garcia-Mayoral, The Rev'd Dr Gray, Dr Groom, Dr Lambert, Mr Pierce (Bursar), Professor Pollitt, Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Skinner, Dr Sumnall, Dr Wilson-Lee, Dr Yildirim
Student members	Ms Hygate (Student Representative), Ms Mahmood (MCR President), Ms Morgan (JCR President)
In attendance	College Registrar (Secretary), Mr Nicholas (JCR President-elect), Ms Woods (JCR Vice-President-elect)

1. **Introductory Business**

1.1 **Welcome and apologies for absence**

Ms Hygate (Student Representative) and Ms Woods (JCR Vice-President-Elect) were welcomed. Apologies were received from Professor Biagini, Dr Carter, Professor Penty, Professor Neely, Professor Stasch, Dr Strelchuk, Dr Theil and Dr O Weller.

1.2 **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was **approved**.

1.3 **Declarations of Interests**

None declared.

1.4 **Unreserved business minutes of 28 June 2023 (GB.2023.11.08.1.4)**

The minutes were **confirmed**.

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 and other relevant issues**

Reported at Council on 11 October 2023:

- The Marking & Assessment Boycott had now concluded. Work was underway to finalise results.
- Council has asked the Muniment Room Standing Committee to provide assurance of appropriate security arrangements for the Muniment Room and other College collections, and to confirm that a full inventory exists and is regularly checked.

- Council has asked the Education and Pastoral Care Committee to keep a watching brief on reports of students taking on part-time employment.

Senior Tutors' Committee

- Terms of Reference for a University and colleges teaching review have been agreed, taking into account three main themes: student workloads, supervisors' workloads and engagement of University Teaching Officers with the supervision system.
- Consultation has begun on Terms of Reference for a new undergraduate admissions governance system.

b) Fellows' Experience and Engagement Working Group

Professor Greer, Chair of the Working Group, and the Master had identified membership to represent a cross-section of the Fellowship. Fellows were encouraged to accept appointment when invited.

2.2 Senior Tutor's Business

No business.

2.3 Bursar's Business

a) Review of 2022-23 Accounts

The Bursar presented the detail of the 2022-23 accounts:

- A £0.8m accounting surplus was made in 2022-23, compared to a £2.2m deficit the previous year;
- Income was up significantly on 2021-22, primarily due to conference trade and donations;
- Expenditure had reduced as a consequence of the absence of an exceptional pension charge compared with 2021-22. This offset inflationary pressures in the principal operating areas;
- The comparison of surplus/deficit, excluding donations, major works and exceptional items, revealed a £0.6m underlying deficit, and underlying deficits were forecast for the next five years;
- The size of the balance sheet increased by £8.5m to £139.5m as at 30 June 2023, driven principally by an increase in the value of investments and a reduction in pension provisions;
- Auditors had not identified any matters of concern and expected to issue an unqualified audit opinion upon receipt of a signed Letter of Representation from the College. The Head of Finance and the College Office team were thanked and congratulated on this result.

Governing Body **noted** the 2022-23 Annual Report and Financial Statements (GB.2023.11.08.2.3a.ii), the auditors' report (GB.2023.11.08.2.3a.iii), and the Letter of Representation (GB.2023.11.08.2.3a.iv).

2.4 Steward's Business

No business.

2.5 Student Business

No business.

3. Reports from Committees

3.1 College Council

a) **Unreserved minutes of 28 June 2023** (GB.2023.11.08.3.1a)
The minutes were **noted**.

b) **Unreserved minutes of 11 October 2023 (unconfirmed)** (GB.2023.11.08.3.1b)
The minutes were **noted**.

3.2 Audit Committee

a) ***Unreserved minutes of 23 October 2023 (unconfirmed)** (GB.2023.11.08.3.2a)
The minutes were **noted**.

(i) ****Terms of Reference (Ordinance D,VII)** (GB.2023.11.08.3.2a.i)
The amended Terms of Reference were **approved**.

3.3 Statutes and Ordinances Committee

a) ***Unreserved minutes of 31 October 2023 (unconfirmed)** (GB.2023.11.08.3.3a)
The minutes were **noted**.

(i) ****Ordinance B,VII (Honorary Fellows)** (GB.2023.11.08.3.3a.i)
The amendments were **approved**.

(ii) ****Ordinance B,X (Sabbatical Leave)** (GB.2023.11.08.3.3a.ii)
The amendments were **approved**.

(iii) **Ordinance B,XXIII (Membership of the College)** (GB.2023.11.08.3.3a.iii)

The Vice-Master drew attention to the Statutes and Ordinances Committee's proposal that Ordinance B,XXIII reflect explicitly the powers of the Council to suspend or withdraw any privileges and benefits of College membership.

The amendments were **approved**, and it was **noted** that Council would be invited to approve a Regulation setting out a procedure through which these powers would be exercised.

GB.2023.11.08 Unreserved Minutes (unapproved)

(iv) ****Ordinance C,XI (Grievance Procedures)**

(GB.2023.11.08.3.3a.iv)

The amendments were **approved**.

4. Other Business

4.1 Any other business

Ms Morgan was thanked for her service to Governing Body.

4.2 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 2pm in the William Mong Hall.