Sidney Sussex College
Unreserved business minutes of College Council on 21 February 2024

Present:

Ex officio members Master, Acting Vice-Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar
Elected members Dr Doran, Professor Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Professor Garcia-Mayoral, Dr Groom, Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Sumnall, Dr Wilson-Lee
Student members Ms Hygate (Student Representative), Ms Mahmood (MCR President), Mr Nicholas (JCR President), Ms Woods (JCR Vice-President)
In attendance College Registrar (Council Secretary)

Introductory business

501 Apologies for absence
On leave: Professor Biagini, Dr Bordin, Dr Lambert

502 Approval of agenda
The agenda was approved. The Registrar undertook to make future meeting papers available on Sidnet without the automatic watermark.

Action: Registrar

503 Declarations of interests
Student Trustees declared an interest in item 506 (Student Accommodation Charges) and did not participate in the vote; it was agreed that they could remain in the room for the presentation.

504 Unreserved business minutes of 24 January 2024 (CC.2324/504)
Confirmed by circulation.

505 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda (CC.2324/505)
The JCR and MCR were finalising a SSCSU social media policy based on the College’s policy. The other updates were noted.

Decision items

506 Student Accommodation Charges 2024-25 (Bursar) (CC.2324.506)
Senior members of Council approved the Finance and Needs Committee’s recommendation to:
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a) increase the accommodation charge by 4.2% in line with inflation (CPI(H));

b) discontinue cohort pricing going forward, whilst retaining it for the remaining undergraduate and postgraduate students from the 2021 cohort and earlier who were in College accommodation;

c) remove the vacation premium of 5%;

d) retain the room bandings from this year’s review for three years, subject to an annual meeting between student representatives and the Accommodation Team to review rooms where students have queried the banding;

e) widen the differential between the highest and lowest rents to increase the affordability of the lower-banded rooms, via a sliding scale of increases from 5.4% for Band A to 3% for Band E, the average increase remaining 4.2%;

f) increasing rent bursaries from 9.5% to 10% of weekly Band C rent for all Cambridge Bursary Scheme holders in College accommodation.

507 Private Undergraduate Fee 2025-26 (Bursar) (CC.2324.507)
Council approved the Finance and Needs Committee’s recommendation to increase the private undergraduate fee by 7% to £12,840 for the 2025-26 cohort.

508 Our Future: Leadership Development Proposal (Registrar) (CC.2324.508)
Council, noting that no precedent would be set and acknowledging the opportunity to consider further how the College could engage within the wider community and encourage students to think about their future careers and community roles, agreed to host the Our Future event with the College covering the accommodation and cafeteria-style dining costs.

509 Visual Identity Guidelines (Registrar) (CC.2324.509)
Council approved the new visual identity and confirmed that College communications going forward would be produced in accordance with the guidelines. The JCR President and MCR President would discuss with the Head of Communications appropriate use of the visual identity by SSCSU.

Action: JCR President / MCR President / Head of Communications

510 Regulation G3: Formal Residence Requirements (Registrar) (CC.2324.510)
Council approved the Statutes and Ordinances Committee’s recommended amendments.
511 Regulation P6: Harassment and Sexual Misconduct (Registrar) (CC.2324.511)
Council approved the Statutes and Ordinances Committee’s recommended amendments.

512 Regulation SR1: Membership of the College (Registrar) (CC.2324.512)
Council approved the Statutes and Ordinances Committee’s recommended amendments, including creation if a new set of Sundry Regulations sitting separately from the White Book of Student Regulations.

513 CCTV Policy: annual confirmation (Bursar) (CC.2324.513)
Council confirmed that the College’s use of CCTV was justified for a further year.

Information items
514 Risk Register 2024: First review (Registrar) (CC.2324.514)
The drafts of the Governance, University and Intercollegiate Relations, and Communications risk registers were noted; any comments should be sent to the Registrar before the final review in Easter Term.

515 Use of College Seal
Noted:
• Rent Deposit Deed – 30 Sidney Street
• Lease – 30 Sidney Street

516 Q2 Financial Performance
Council noted that the management accounts commentary had been discussed at the meeting of the Governing Body.

517 Office for Students Consultation on Free Speech Regulations (CC.2324/517)
Noted.

518 College Calendar 2024-25: First review (CC.2324/518)
Noted.

Reports from Committees
519 Education & Pastoral Care Committee 22 January 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324.519)
The minutes were received.

520 Health & Safety Committee 22 January 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324.520)
The minutes were received.
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521 Muniment Room Standing Committee 22 January 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324.521)

The minutes were received.

522 Buildings & Environment Committee 29 January 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324.522)

The minutes were received.

523 Music Committee 30 January 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324.523)

The minutes were received.

524 Prevent Committee 1 February 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324.524)

The minutes were received.

525 Investment Committee 7 February 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324.525)

The minutes were received.

526 Finance & Needs Committee 12 February 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324.526)

The minutes were received.

Other business

527 Any other business
None.

528 Date of next meeting
Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 2pm in the William Mong Hall.