

Sidney Sussex College
Unreserved business minutes of Governing Body on 21 February 2024

Present:

Ex officio	Master
Fellows	Mr Beber (Senior Tutor), Dr Carter, Dr Demetriou, Dr Doran, Professor Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Dr Fulda (Acting Vice-Master), Professor Garcia-Mayoral, Dr Groom, Mr Pierce (Bursar), Professor Pollitt, Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Sumnall, Dr Theil, 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 (Secretary)

Introductory Business

201 Apologies for absence

On leave: Professor Armstrong, Ms Baskerville, Professor Biagini, Professor Bill, Dr Bordin, Dr Cheke, Professor Eiser, Dr Groisman, Dr Lambert, Dr Meghji, Dr Millington-Burgess, Dr Öner, Dr Schneider, Professor Stasch, Professor Zernicka-Goetz

Apologies: Dr Eaton, Professor Flewitt, Dr Ganany, The Rev'd Dr Gray, Dr Hall, Professor Neely, Professor Noriega-Sánchez, Professor Sepulchre, Dr Skinner

202 Approval of agenda

The agenda was **approved**, subject to moving item 212 (Revised Hall Rules) above the line.

203 Declarations of interests

None.

204 Unreserved business minutes of 8 November 2023

(GB.2324/204)

Confirmed by circulation.

205 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

None.

Information items

206 Inter-collegiate business and other relevant issues (All)

Heads of House:

- the University's new Personal Relationships Policy was due to be published
- the use of artificial intelligence apps during in-person interviews would be discussed at Admissions Forum and Senior Tutors' Committee

Senior Tutors' Committee:

- supervisors' new pay structure would be included within the teaching review workstream
- CUSU sought to ensure that all Colleges made student discipline rules publicly available for scrutiny; Sidney's were already on the College website

207 Q2 2023-24 Management Accounts Commentary (Bursar) (GB.2324/207)

Governing Body **noted** that:

- total income and total operational expenditure were both higher than in the same period last year;
- forecasts would show a considerably improved position against original budgets, in particular from the reduction in USS employer contributions;
- the College now had £7.1m in free reserves against a £5m target, largely due to strong investment performance. Finance & Needs Committee would review whether to update the target in light of current costs and benchmarking against other Colleges.

208 Five-Year Major Works Plan (Bursar) (GB.2324/208)

Governing Body **noted** that:

- the College had moved from a year-on-year plan to a five-year rolling plan;
- £380K from the Hartley legacy had been added to the first year of the plan to increase the scope of works;
- as part of the College's overall decarbonisation plan, Herne Lodge postgraduate hostel had been identified as suitable for conversion to an air source heat pump, subject to feasibility and timing.

209 Tripos Report 2023 (Senior Tutor) (GB.2324/209)

Governing Body **noted** that:

- academic outcome was close to the median in terms of percentile rankings across all subjects; however, some subjects consistently performed above or below the median, which offered scope to identify successful subject practices and promote them across other Tripos;

GB.2024.02.21 Unreserved Minutes (approved)

- a preliminary analysis of awarding gaps indicated that gaps calculated by gender and disability were smaller than for University as a whole, but gaps calculated by ethnic origin were wider. Further analysis was required.

210 Undergraduate Admissions Round 2023-24: Interim Report (Admissions Director) (GB.2324/210)

Governing Body **noted** that:

- application numbers through open algorithm were higher, resulting in a larger percentage of overseas applicants
- the percentage of applicants from UK state schools had decreased, with Sidney receiving the second lowest proportion (63%) of all standard-age Colleges;
- the College should achieve its Widening Participation targets but would not be a leading performer, and would seek to improve its performance in coming rounds.

The Admissions Director recorded her thanks to the Admissions Team, Directors of Studies, student ambassadors and all others who had supported the recent admissions round.

211 College Plan 2023-24: Mid-Year Update (Registrar) (GB.2324/211)

Governing Body considered the College's reliance upon the University network in light of the recent cyberattack which slowed internet access for several hours, and the potential for disruption to online interviews if a future attack occurred during admissions. Cybersecurity would be elevated from 'Important' to 'Very Important' in the next version of the Plan.

Action: Registrar

212 Revised Hall Rules (GB.2324/212)

Governing Body **noted** the Rules and that, following a request from student members, paragraph 7 had been amended to read: "Students should not leave before the end of the meal, unless in the case of *accessibility requirements* or an 'emergency'."

Reports from Committees

213 College Council 8 November 2023 (confirmed) (GB.2324/213)

The minutes were **received**.

214 College Council 29 November 2023 (confirmed) (GB.2324/214)

The minutes were **received**.

GB.2024.02.21 Unreserved Minutes (approved)

215 College Council 24 January 2024 (unconfirmed) (GB.2324/215)
The minutes were **received**.

216 Statutes & Ordinances Committee 30 January 2024 (unconfirmed)
(GB.2324/216)
The minutes were **received**.

Other business

217 Any other business
None.

218 Date of next meeting
Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 2pm in the William Mong Hall.