



Unreserved business minutes of College Council on Wednesday 1 May 2024

Present:

Ex officio members	Master, Acting Vice-Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar
Elected members	Professor Biagini, Dr Bordin, Dr Doran, Professor Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Professor Garcia-Mayoral, Dr Groom, Dr Lambert, Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Sunnall, Dr Wilson-Lee
Student members	Ms Chen (MCR President), Ms Hygate (Student Representative, to item 714), Mr Nicholas (JCR President), Ms Woods (JCR Vice-President)
In attendance	College Registrar (Council Secretary)

Introductory business

701 Welcome and apologies for absence

Ms Chen (MCR President) was welcomed to Council, and Professor Biagini and Dr Bordin were welcomed back from leave. There were no apologies.

702 Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved, subject to taking item 717 (May Ball 2024 Update) as the first item.

703 Declaration of interests

No interests were declared.

704 Unreserved business minutes of 13 March 2024

(CC.2324/704)

Confirmed by circulation.

705 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

(CC.2324/705)

Noted.

Decision items

706 Externally-funded Visiting Fellowship scheme (Acting Vice-Master)

(CC.2324/706)

Council discussed the proposed scheme and considered that it could make a positive contribution to the College's academic life without creating a crowding-out effect in respect of the established Visiting Fellow programme, as individuals in subjects with greater access to funding could be encouraged to apply via the externally-funded scheme, with the College-funded Visiting Fellowships still being available to other subjects. In either case, Council remained responsible for Visiting Fellowships elections.

Council **agreed** in principle to adopt the scheme, and asked the Acting Vice-Master to formalise the application process and forms and to invite applications.

Action: Acting Vice-Master

707 Foundation Year Programme Memorandum of Understanding 2025-26 (Admissions Director) (CC.2324/707)

Council **endorsed** the College's continued participation in the Foundation Year Programme for the 2025-26 academic year, and **agreed** to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. The Admissions Director undertook to consult existing Foundation Year students about social integration and to bring a discussion paper to Education and Pastoral Care Committee.

Action: Admissions Director

708 Approval process for College print publications and videos (Registrar) (CC.2324/708)

Council, noting that the process would be reviewed after its first year, **endorsed** the approval process for College publications, including videos.

Information items

709 Associate MCR Membership and changes to MCR Constitution (MCR President) (CC.2324/709)

The MCR Committee proposed the introduction of a category of 'Associate MCR Membership' for College members in their fourth year or Part III, and who wished to access MCR facilities. The MCR President undertook to discuss with the MCR Committee whether linguists returning from their year abroad would be eligible for Associate Membership in their fourth year, and whether Associate Members could have MCR voting rights. The MCR President, JCR President and the respective Treasurers would also consider the financial implications. A revised proposal would be brought to a future meeting.

Action: MCR President, JCR President, Treasurers

710 Risk Registers (Final Review) (Master) (CC.2324/710)

No further amendments having been proposed, Council **approved** the final versions of the Governance, University and Inter-collegiate Relations, and Communications Risk Registers for presentation to the Audit Committee.

711 Vaccine Policy (Bursar) (CC.2324/711)

The pandemic-specific provisions in the original policy having been removed as no longer relevant, Council **agreed** to the amendments and to remove the 'Vaccine Procedure' from the College's policy framework, delegating operational management of the annual flu vaccination programme to the Wellbeing Team.

712 Health and Safety Committee Terms of Reference (Bursar) (CC.2324/712)

The amendments were **agreed**, with effect from Michaelmas Term 2024.

713 Inter-collegiate business and other relevant issues (Master / Senior Tutor / Bursar) (CC.2324/713)

Senior Tutors' Committee

- There had been an informal discussion about the consultation on examination re-sits and deferrals; this issue would also be considered by Education and Pastoral Care Committee

Heads of House

- The new Office for Students complaints process to be established under the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023, and the associated guidance, were still awaited

714 Measurement and sustainability of deficits (Bursar) (CC.2324/714)

Ms Hygate left the meeting at the start of this item.

The Bursar presented an overview of the types of deficit and how these were measured, highlighting that:

- the cash surplus/deficit was the most significant measure, in particular whether it exceeded capital expenditure and major works, as demonstrating whether the College could operate sustainably year-on-year;
- underinvestment in College buildings and estate (major works and capital expenditure) would not be either financially or operationally sustainable over the longer term;
- the rate of inflation and the freeze on undergraduate tuition fees, rather than the pandemic, were the largest contributors to the current financial position, and the College would need to adopt longer-term strategies for improving that position;
- communal dining was an integral part of College life, but the catering deficit was significant and not improving;
- the College was not in danger of running out of money, but it had the lowest net assets as at June 2023 of the ancient colleges and had been overtaken by some other colleges, particularly through their ability to attract major donations;
- reliance upon donations was not without challenges, as receipt and the value of donations could not be predicted for budgeting purposes;
- however, philanthropy represented the only significant route to substantial and immediate changes to the overall financial position of the College and its ability to deliver the emerging strategy and vision,

Council thanked the Bursar for the report, which was discussed and **noted**.

715 JCR Lent Term Report and Plans for Easter Term (JCR President) (CC.2324/715)

The update was **noted**.

716 MCR Lent Term Report (MCR President) (CC.2324/716)

The update was **noted**.

717 May Ball 2024 Update (May Ball 2024 Co-Presidents) (CC.2324/717)

This item was taken first on the agenda and presented by May Ball 2024 Co-Presidents, Connor Hirza and Eliot Patient.

The Committee continued to meet regularly with the Domestic Bursar and other College officers, and the Treasurer was working closely with the Head of Finance. All documentation had been submitted to the City Council. As a consequence of the unexpected shortfall in ticket sales, the Committee had developed mitigation measures to produce a complete event without financial loss, however the Co-Presidents reported a recent improvement in sales which meant that there was a possibility that these mitigation measures will not be required.

Council **noted** the update, and encouraged the May Ball Committee to submit ticket sale details with their Council reports, thereby creating an historic record to inform future Committees' sales projections.

718 Use of College Seal

Noted:

- Transfer – 26/27 Sidney Street

Reports from committees

719 Library Committee 13 February 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324/719)

The minutes were received.

720 Chapel Committee 7 March 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324/720)

The minutes were received.

721 Staff Liaison Committee 7 March 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324/721)

The minutes were received.

722 Health and Safety Committee 22 April 2024 (unconfirmed) (CC.2324/722)

The minutes were received.

Other business

723 Any other business

There was no further business.

724 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 2pm in the William Mong Hall following reserved business of the Governing Body.