

Unreserved business minutes of **Governing Body** on Wednesday 26 February 2025

**Present:**

**Ex officio** Master

**Fellows** Ms Baskerville (on Zoom), Mr Beber (Senior Tutor), Professor Biagini, Dr Bordin, Dr Carter, Dr Crossan (on Zoom), Dr Doran (on Zoom), Dr Eaton, Professor Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Professor Fruk, Dr Fulda (Vice-Master), Dr Ganany, The Rev'd Dr Gray (on Zoom), Dr Groisman (on Zoom), Dr Groom, Dr Harasimov (on Zoom), Dr Jackson Ravenscroft, Dr Kurtiç, Professor Noriega-Sánchez (on Zoom), Dr Öner, Professor Pollitt (on Zoom), Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Ryan Flinn, Dr Schneider (on Zoom), Dr Souza (on Zoom), Dr Sumnall, Dr Theil, Dr A Weller, Dr O Weller-Gibbs (on Zoom), Dr Wilson-Lee

**Student members** Ms Chen (MCR President), Ms Harrison (Student Representative), Mr Johnson (JCR President), Ms Woods (JCR Vice-President)

**In attendance** College Registrar (Secretary), Domestic Bursar (Convenor, Vision & Strategy Buildings & Estates Task & Finish Group)

**Introductory business**

**401 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Dr Jackson Ravenscroft and Mr Johnson (JCR President), and the Domestic Bursar (Convenor, Vision & Strategy Buildings & Estates Task & Finish Group), were welcomed.

Dr Dandeleat, Professor Eiser, Professor Garcia-Mayoral, Dr Lambert, Professor Neely, Mr Pierce (Bursar) and Dr Roddie were on leave.

Apologies were received from Dr Flynn, Dr Galanakis, Mr Ireland, Dr Jones, Professor Penty, Professor Ramage, Professor Stasch and Dr Yildirim, and from the Head of Student Wellbeing (Convenor, Vision & Strategy Students' Collegiate Experience Task & Finish Group). Dr Wilson-Lee apologised in advance for having to leave early.

**402 Approval of agenda**

Approved.

**403 Declaration of interests**

None.

**404 Unreserved business minutes of 6 November 2024**

Confirmed by circulation.

(GB.2425/404)

**405 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda**

**(GB.2425/405)**

Noted.

**Decision items**

**406 College Vision & Strategy: progress update (Registrar)**

**(GB.2425/406)**

The Registrar gave an overview of the work to date and presented the draft strategic objectives identified so far by the themed task and finish groups, which were works in progress. From Easter Term, the convenors would be refining their groups' proposals, working with the Master, Registrar and preferred fundraising consultants to identify and articulate the College's strategic ambitions for adoption by Governing Body.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- The Vision & Strategy must be ambitious, setting clear objectives to raise the College's profile without losing sight of its history and ethos: a compelling narrative was key to a successful multi-million pound fundraising campaign;
- A more volatile international situation had potential to divert philanthropic giving to causes suddenly left without funding, reinforcing the need for the College to stand out as an institution worthy of support;
- It was essential to recognise the College-wide impact of a fundraising campaign and strategic objectives, and the importance of staying focussed on delivery of agreed priorities;
- The proposed fundraising targets during and after the campaign were realistic in the College's current context;
- Donors had not specifically been asked their views on the College's current investment risk appetite, but there was anecdotal evidence that growing the balance sheet by being less risk-averse would not create donor concern;
- An estate plan was essential to determining the most efficient use of existing properties, including Jesus Lane, and the potential for enhanced and new facilities;
- Business as usual items identified by task and finish groups would be referred to appropriate committees.

Governing Body **endorsed** the current direction of travel, and thanked the convenors and members of the task and finish groups for their work to date.

**407 External Trustees (Registrar)**

**(GB.2425/407)**

Governing Body **agreed** to establish a working group to consider the possibility and implications of electing or appointing members of Council who are not Fellows or students.

**Action: Registrar**

**408 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Admission of Women (Professor Eilstrup-Sangiovanni) (GB.2425/408)**

Professor Eilstrup-Sangiovanni presented the draft programme of events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and an opportunity to reflect on progress made and what could be done in future, the outcome to be fed into the People Theme of the Vision & Strategy with the intention of identifying opportunities for lasting initiatives. Celebratory events would be woven into existing activities where possible.

Suggestions included:

- Reviewing what other Colleges had done for similar anniversaries;
- Including a high-profile lecture by a Fellow or visiting speaker to place the role of women in Sidney into the wider context;
- Ensuring that the events reflected a variety of experiences by women from Sidney and did not focus solely on academic or career achievements;
- Applying for an Athena SWAN award.

Governing Body **endorsed** the draft programme of events and thanked the working group for its proposals so far.

**Discussion item**

**409 Inter-collegiate business and other relevant issues (Master / Senior Tutor / Bursar)**

**Heads of House**

- The University teaching review and UTO scheme review continued;
- No resolution had yet been identified for formally addressing situations when CUDAR and individual Colleges were competing for the same benefactors;
- There were no further updates regarding the Veterinary School.

**Senior Tutors' Committee**

- In addition to the University reviews also discussed by Heads of Houses, Senior Tutors' Committee had an update on reviews into provision for disabled students, misconduct rules, and undergraduate admissions governance

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**Information item**

**410 College Plan 2024-25: mid-year progress update (GB.2425/410)**

Noted.

**Reports from committees**

**411 College Council 6 November 2024 (confirmed) (GB.2425/411)**

Received.

**412 College Council 4 December 2024 (confirmed)** (GB.2425/412)  
Received.

**413 College Council 29 January 2025 (confirmed)** (GB.2425/413)  
Received.

**Other business**

**414 Any other business**

The Vice-Master encouraged Fellows to complete the Fellowship engagement online survey before the 2 March deadline.

Ms Woods (JCR Vice-President) was thanked for her contributions to Governing Body.

**415 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 28 May 2025 at 4pm in the William Mong Hall.