



Unreserved business minutes of College Council on Wednesday 7 May 2025

Present:

Ex officio members	Master, Acting Vice-Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar
Elected members	Ms Baskerville, Dr Eaton, Dr Groom, Dr Harasimov, Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Sumnall, Dr Wilson-Lee
Student members	Mr Bowyer (JCR Vice-President), Mr Johnson (JCR President), Mr Lastowiecki (MCR President)
In attendance	College Registrar (Council Secretary)

Introductory business

At the start of the meeting Council rose for a minute's silence in memory of Mr Henry Dawson, Fellow Commoner, and Mr Sharad Javali, Honorary Fellow.

801 Welcome and apologies for absence

Council welcomed Mr Bowyer (JCR Vice-President) and Mr Lastowiecki (MCR President).

Apologies were received from Professor Fruk, Ms Harrison (Student Representative), Mr Ireland and Dr Öner, and from Ms Baskerville for having to leave early. Dr Bordin was absent.

802 Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

803 Declaration of interests

None.

804 Unreserved business minutes of 19 March 2025

(CC.2425/804)

Confirmed by circulation.

805 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

(CC.2425/805)

Noted, in particular the unfortunate cancellation of the Midsummer Event due to low ticket sales, a situation experienced by a growing number of Colleges. Council recorded its thanks to the May Week Event Committee for their efforts.

Decision items

806 "Size and Shape" of the student population (Senior Tutor)

(CC.2425/806)

The Office of Intercollegiate Services (OIS) was surveying colleges on student number aspirations and plans, in particular the home/overseas mix of undergraduates and long:short

ratio of postgraduates, proposed changes to current Tripos offerings, and cohort 'clustering' of specific small courses in a subset of colleges.

Council supported the proposals to offer all Tripos, including Education, and to follow the University's lead in terms of increasing postgraduate numbers whilst acknowledging that this would see an increase in Masters students and move from a 50:50 long:short ratio. It was clarified that the College did not currently have a scheme to attract more international undergraduate students.

On the recommendation of the Academic Committee, Council **approved** the College's response to the consultation, noting that the response would feed into the Vision and Strategy.

807 Arrangements for 2025-26 and 2026-27 Undergraduate Admissions Rounds (Interim Admissions Director) (CC.2425/807)

The Interim Admissions Director presented the options and the responses from Directors of Studies and, where available, from applicants. Council discussed at length the impact on home and overseas application numbers of any of the models available, of operating different arrangements for different subjects, and the costs of the different models. Students reported that the JCR Executive did not have a preferred interview format, and asked that the costs to applicants, and environmental impact of travel, of attending in-person interviews be considered; it was confirmed that the College already covered expenses for qualifying applicants.

Council, having voted by show of hands, **agreed** that the preferred model for the 2025-26 Admissions Round would be Model 2: in-person interviews for all home applicants and online interviews for all overseas students. Council expected the same model would operate in 2026-27, subject to review nearer the time.

Council **noted** the Interim Admissions Director's assessment of the effect on Sidney of the University's new Access and Participation Plan (APP).

Ms Baskerville left during this item.

808 Foundation Year Programme: Memorandum of Understanding 2026-27 (Senior Tutor) (CC.2425/808)

On the recommendation of the Admissions Director, Senior Tutor, Deputy Senior Tutor and Foundation Year Programme Director of Studies, Council **agreed** to sign the 2026-27 Memorandum of Understanding to continue Sidney's participation in the Foundation Year Programme.

809 College Research Associateships: revision to application timetable (Registrar) (CC.2425/809)

Council **approved** the application timetable revision, moving to an annual process in Easter Term for appointments to commence in Michaelmas Term.

810 Draft College Calendar 2025-26: first look (Master) (CC.2425/810)

Council **noted** the draft College Calendar for 2025-26 and **agreed:**

- (a) to revert to the traditional timings on dates when both Governing Body and Council met, with Governing Body to commence at 2pm and Council to begin following reserved business of the Governing Body; and
- (b) that, to assist with conference bookings, a three-year calendar be produced with provisional dates for the last two academic years.

Information items

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

Heads of Houses

- Continuing to review issues concerning the Veterinary School accreditation and the potential for adverse effect on students and Colleges
- Discussed implementation of the Office for Students' advice on responding to incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct
- Discussed injunctions relating to the possibility of further protests outside the Senate House at University events
- The Master would chair the new intercollegiate University Admissions Committee

Bursars' Committee

- Was considering central Universities levies, particularly the cost to colleges, and performance of, the Office of Student Conduct, Complaints and Appeals (OSCCA), and a substantial increase proposed to the central communications levy

812 JCR Lent Term report and plans for Easter Term (JCR President) (CC.2425/812)

Council **noted** the report.

813 MCR Lent Term report and plans for Easter Term (MCR President) (CC.2425/813)

Council **noted** the report and that additional feedback on the College Library received from the MCR Vice-President, have been referred to the Academic Committee for consideration.

814 Thornely Society: next steps (Master) (CC.2425/814)

Council **noted** the dissolution of the former Management Committee and transfer of the Society's management to the Development & Alumni Relations Office, assisted by an Advisory Group.

815 Use of College Seal

Noted:

- Renewal Lease to Bravissimo Limited, 17-19 Sussex Street
- Licence to Alter, 17-19 Sussex Street

Reports from committees

816 Development Committee 13 March 2025 (unconfirmed) (CC.2425/816)

The minutes were received.

817 Joint meeting of Academic and Student Wellbeing Committees 17 March 2025 (unconfirmed) (CC.2425/817)

The minutes were received.

Other business

818 Any other business

Investment Manager Tender

The Bursar reported that BlackRock, Legal & General Investment Management and Amundi had been shortlisted for consideration, and final details were awaited from a fourth firm.

Interviews were next week, and the recommendations of the Investment Committee would be considered by Council on 28 May, or 25 June at the latest.

819 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 28 May 2025 at 2.00pm in the William Mong Hall.