Sidney Sussex
COLLEGE

Unreserved Business Minutes of **College Council** on Wednesday 6 May 2026

Present:

Ex officio members	Master, Vice-Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar
Elected members	Ms Baskerville (via Teams), Professor Bordin, Professor Fruk, Professor Garcia-Mayoral, Dr Groom, Dr Harasimov, Mr Ireland, Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Sumnall, Dr Wilson-Lee (via Teams)
Student members	Ms Ellis (JCR President), Mr Sathiaseelan (JCR Vice-President), Mr Berry (MCR President), Mr Orders (Student Representative)
In attendance	Ms Ercan (Secretary)

Introductory business

801 Apologies for absence

Professor Biagini is on sabbatical. The master welcomed Mr Berry, incoming MCR President and Mr Sathiaseelan, incoming JCR Vice-President, to their first Council meeting.

802 Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

803 Declaration of interests

None.

804 Unreserved business minutes of 18 March 2026 (CC.2526/804)

Confirmed by circulation.

805 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda (CC.2526/805)

Noted.

Decision items

806 Arrangements for 2026-27 Undergraduate Admission Round (Admissions Director) (CC.2526/806)

Council **agreed** to fix the undergraduate admissions format for 2026–27 for a three-year period, with interviews conducted in person for home students and online for overseas applicants, accepting the additional annual cost of approximately £25,000 in the light of the improved offer acceptance rate and no evidence of disadvantage.

807 Risk Register 2026: Final consideration (Registrar) (CC.2526/807)

The Bursar updated that since Council had first reviewed the three risk registers, the Governance Risk Register has been reviewed further. As a result of the reclassification of risk

relating to freedom of speech, the residual score increased from 2 to 3 as a result of rounding up, which then impacted on the overall risk profile. Due to this rounding error, it was **agreed** to reclassify the overall residual impact to 2.

It was also **agreed** to ensure that the Development Director is listed as the owner for all significant risks relating to the Communications Risk Register.

Subject to the amendment to the Governance and Communications risk registers set out above, Council **approved** the 2026-27 risk registers for Governance, University and inter-collegiate relation, and Communications.

808 Health and Safety annual compliance report (Bursar) (CC.2526/808)
Council **noted** that the Health and Safety report confirmed compliance, with improved fire safety in college-managed shops. Council expressed thanks to the Head Porter and Head of Buildings & Maintenance for their efforts.

809 Campaigns and Political Activity Policy 3-yearly review (Registrar) (CC.2526/809)
The Registrar confirmed that the Campaigns and Political Activity Policy, owned by Council, had been reviewed with no substantive changes.

It was **noted** that Sidney Sussex College Students' Union has their own Campaigns and Political Activity Policy. However, as an unincorporated charitable organisation, it remains subject to Charity Commission regulations. While such activities may be allowed for individuals in a personal capacity, they are not when undertaken in the role of Trustees.

Council **approved** the Campaigns and Political Activity Policy.

Discussion items

810 Inter-collegiate business and other relevant issues (Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar)
Council **noted** the following updates:

Bursars' Committee:

- The intercollegiate levies from the University for intercollegiate activity are likely to increase. The Bursars' Committee broadly accepted the areas that are being proposed are reasonable. As expected, the biggest increased charge will be for mental health services.
- University Information Systems has now conducted their penetration test, of the College's systems. The College's cyber insurance requires us to conduct a penetration test annually.

Senior Tutors' Committee:

- The appointment of the new Head of Education Services has been announced. This will have a new 'interphase' between College and University teaching.
- The University's latest effort to develop a more uniform framework for assessing the teaching contributions of University Teaching Officers, including college supervisions,

has concluded with no substantive changes proposed. Therefore, there is no formal commitment by the University to engage with college teaching.

Heads of House:

- The prospective agreement between the University and the Colleges relating to fundraising collaboration will soon be discussed at the Colleges' Committee.
- The Master noted a recent HEPI article on admissions

811 Progress update on Vision and Strategy (Master) (CC.2526/811)

The Vision and Strategy progress update was **noted,** and the work-stream leads were thanked.

812 Safeguarding Officer's Annual Report (Senior Tutor) (CC.2526/812)

Council **noted** the report on the recommendation of Student Wellbeing Committee. The Senior Tutor highlighted safeguarding arrangements for under 18 undergraduate students at admission is an area that is becoming increasingly complex, and this will be included within the substantive review of the Safeguarding Policy over the summer.

Information items

813 JCR Lent Term 2026 report and plans for Easter Term (JCR President) (CC.2526/813)

The Master encouraged the JCR to begin arrangements for a May Ball in 2027 and to form a Committee, noting that any further delay could result in a cohort missing out. The Master also encouraged the involvement of the MCR and a Fellow. Council **noted** the report and plans.

814 MCR Lent Term 2026 report and plans for Easter Term (MCR President) (CC.2526/814)

Council **noted** the report and plans.

815 Pre-budget financial briefing (Bursar) (CC.2526/815)

Council **noted** the Bursar's update.

816 Draft College Calendar 2026-27 to 2028-29: first look (Master) (CC.2526/816)

The Master encouraged departments to check the draft College Calendar for 2026-27 and provisional dates for the following two academic years to ensure all relevant meetings and events are included. The final version will be brought to Council on 24 June 2026.

Policy items for approval

817 Sickness Absence Policy (CC.2526/817)

Approved, on the recommendation of HR Committee.

818 Unpaid Parental Leave Policy (CC.2526/818)

Approved, on the recommendation of HR Committee.

Reports from Committees

819 Finance and Needs Committee 9 March 2026 (unconfirmed) (CC.2526/819)

Received.

820 Development Committee 11 March 2026 (unconfirmed) (CC.2526/820)
Received.

821 Academic and Student Wellbeing Joint Committees 16 March 2026 (unconfirmed) (CC.2526/821)
Received.

Other business

822 Any other business

823 Date of next meeting
Wednesday 27 May 2026 at 3.00pm in the William Mong Hall.