Sidney Sussex
COLLEGE

Unreserved business minutes of **College Council** on Wednesday 28 January 2026

Present:

Ex officio members	Master, Vice-Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar
Elected members	Ms Baskerville, Professor Biagini, Professor Fruk, Dr Groom, Mr Ireland, Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Wilson-Lee
Student members	Mr Bowyer (JCR Vice-President), Miss Ellis (JCR President), Mr Łastowiecki (MCR President), Mr Orders (Student Representative)
In attendance	Miss Ercan (Council Secretary) Dr Doran (item 506 only)

Introductory business

501 Apologies for absence

Professor Bordin is on leave. Dr Sumnall is unwell. Apologies were received from Professor Garcia-Mayoral and Dr Harasimov.

502 Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

503 Declaration of interests

None.

504 Unreserved business minutes of 3 December 2025 (**CC.2526/504**)

Confirmed by circulation.

505 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda (**CC.2526/505**)

The JCR Constitution is being finalised and will come to Council later in Lent term for approval.

The Bursar gave a verbal update on 10 Jesus Lane. A structural survey has been conducted, and three issues were uncovered which have required renegotiation of the purchase price.

Decision items

506 Entrepreneurship working group proposal (**Dr Christopher Doran**) (**CC.2526/506**)

Dr Christopher Doran spoke to his accompanying paper. It was noted that the MCR would be represented by a 'MCR Representative' rather than a 'MCR Officer'. Council **approved** the creation of an Entrepreneurship working group with a view to it returning to Council in Michaelmas Term to outline its plans and to put forward proposals with costings.

Action: Entrepreneurship working group to return to Council with its proposals in Michaelmas Term 2026.

Discussion items

507 Inter-collegiate business and other relevant issues (Master, Senior Tutor, Bursar)

The Master reported that the students being considered for a place at the Veterinary School will be sent a holding letter with an offer, but will not receive a formal offer through UCAS, as Terms and Conditions for their place are still unknown. There has been a lot of focus of making sure that communication with candidates is a transparent and clear as possible. The University's General Board will soon meet to decide the future of the Veterinary School.

508 Update on progress on Vision and Strategy (Master) **(CC.2526/508)**

The Master confirmed that a Vision and Strategy progress update will now be a standing agenda item at Council going forward. Each of the seven workstream leads has submitted progress reports for targets due for delivery in 2025-26.

The Bursar reported that at this early stage most deliverables are on track. At the end of the year the objectives will be reviewed and next year targets will relate to the next academic year. It was noted that the objective relating to postgraduate student accommodation should be revisited at the end of the year, when a specific target should be created.

Council **noted** the update.

Action: Include Vision and Strategy progress updates as a standing item within Unreserved Business agendas.

Information items

509 Employment Rights Act 2025 (Bursar) **(CC.2526/509)**

The Bursar provided early warning that the Employment Rights Act 2025 will result in significant change in the law which will affect the College in several ways. Further consultations will follow, and more detail will be confirmed through secondary legislation in due course. Statutes and Ordinances will also likely need to be revised to fully align with employment law. Council **noted** the update.

510 Freedom of Information 2025 Annual Compliance Report (Bursar) **(CC.2526/510)**

Council **noted** the report.

511 JCR Michaelmas Term 2025 report and plans for Lent Term 2026 (JCR President) **(CC.2526/511)**

Josephine Ellis, newly Elected JCR President presented on plans for Lent Term 2026. Josephine outlined that there are three broad plans for the term: 1. Tackling the challenge of JCR engagement, 2. JCR events; with the aim of making events more public facing, and 3. Making the upcoming accommodation ballot more effective.

Council **noted** JCR's report and update.

512 MCR Michaelmas Term 2025 report and plans for Lent Term 2026 (MCR President) **(CC.2526/512)**

The MCR President reported that Green Officers will run a live charity sale of items from outgoing students to those who are incoming during the summer. Proceeds will go to charity.
Council **noted** the MCR's report and update.

---

513 Use of College Seal

Noted:

- 3/12/2025 – Sidney Sussex College 1975 Pension Scheme Deed of Wind-Up and Indemnity.

Reports from Committees

514 Chapel and Music Committee 14 November 2025 (unconfirmed) **(CC.2526/514)**

Received.

515 Catering and Accommodation Committee 19 November 2025 (unconfirmed) **(CC.2526/515)**

Received.

516 Academic Committee 1 December 2025 (unconfirmed) **(CC.2526/516)**

Received.

Other business

517 Any other business

None.

518 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 25 February 2026 at 2.00pm in the William Mong Hall.