Sidney Sussex
COLLEGE

Unreserved business Minutes of **Governing Body** on Wednesday 27 May 2026

Present:

Ex officio	Master
Fellows	Dr Arold, Ms Baskerville, Mr Beber (Senior Tutor), Dr Bona, Professor Bordin, Dr Crossan (via Teams), Professor Dessi (via Teams), Dr Doran (via Teams), Professor Duschinsky (via Teams), Dr Eaton, Professor Flewitt (via Teams), Dr Flynn (via Teams), Dr Fulda, Professor Garcia-Mayoral, Professor George, The Rev'd Dr Gray, Dr Groisman, Dr Groom (via Teams), Dr Harasimov, Dr Hassine (via Teams), Mr Ireland, Dr Jackson (via Teams), Dr Jackson Ravenscroft (via Teams), Dr Jones, Dr Kurtiç, Dr Malpetti, Dr Millington, Professor Noriega-Sánchez (via Teams), Dr Öner (Vice-Master), Mr Pierce (Bursar), Professor Pollitt (via Teams), Dr Ranasinghe, Dr Roddie, Dr Ryan Flinn, Dr Schneider (via Teams), Professor Stasch, Dr Sumnall, Dr Theil (via Teams), Dr Weller-Gibbs, Dr Wilson-Lee, Dr Yildirim, Dr Zdencanovic
Student members	Mr Sathiaseelan (JCR Vice-President), Ms Ellis (JCR President), Mr Orders (Student Representative)
In attendance	Emeritus: Professor Armstrong
In attendance	Ms Ercan (Governing Body Secretary)

Introductory business

301 Apologies for absence

Professor Biagini is on Sabbatical. Apologies have been received from Dr Demetriou, Professor Fruk, Professor Penty, Dr Skinner, Professor Stasch and Mr Berry (MCR President).

302 Approval of agenda

The agenda was **approved.**

303 Declaration of interests

None.

304 Unreserved business minutes of 25 February 2026 (GB.2526/304)

Confirmed by circulation.

305 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda (GB.2526/305)

Governing Body **noted** the items on the action tracker.

The Master reported that action 407: the proposal to amend Ordinance B,X, allowing Fellows on sabbatical to serve on Committees, conflicted with University Statutes and Ordinances. After reconsideration Statutes and Ordinances Committee propose no change to be made, and Governing Body **agreed** this.

Discussion item

306 Intercollegiate business and other relevant issues (**Master, Bursar, Senior Tutor**)

Council **noted** the following updates:

Senior Tutors' Committee:

- A new four-year University framework for student support, including new proposals for better sharing of information.
- Discussed OfS E6 registration condition including problematic supervisions and student safeguarding.
- A future item will be the appropriate use of AI in supervisions.

Bursars' Committee:

- Intercollegiate levies for intercollegiate activity are increasing in 2026-27; for Sidney by approximately 20%. As expected, the biggest increased charge will be for mental health services, eating disorders and wellbeing.

Heads of House:

- The Master reported that he will be the Vice-chair of the Colleges Committee for 2026-27, and then for two years after that, Chair of the Colleges Committee. This means that he will be on the University Council.
- There is discussion about arrangements for, and relationships between, College and University fundraising.
- Discussions continue regarding admissions and whether colleges can, (or should), be more aligned, and the difficulties inherent in aligning Colleges when they are independent admitting bodies.

307 Progress update on Vision and Strategy (**Master**) (GB.2526/307)

Governing Body **noted** updates from the Senior Tutor, Deputy Senior Tutor, Bursar and Development Director on their respective workstreams.

The Bursar reported that initial work is underway to review the Vision and Strategy document and set targets for the coming year, with a paper to be presented to Council at the Annual Meeting setting out how we will review 2025-26 and propose targets and measures for 2026-27.

Information items

308 Q3 Management Accounts (**Bursar**) (GB.2526/308)

The Bursar presented the Q3 Management Accounts for the first nine months of the year (to 31 March 2026), highlighting that:

- The College's financial position shows an improvement compared with the same period last year, with a small underlying surplus compared to a £600k deficit last year. This is driven by:
    - £200k increase in postgraduate fees due to full year income from 20-22 Sidney Street this year;
    - £300k more in commercial property rent; and
    - £200k Cambridge Bursary Scheme receipts that have been received earlier than last year – although this was just a timing difference.
- However, there has been a £100k decline in conference income since last year.
- Compared with the same period last year, the underlying position is £700k better, and once projected donations of approximately £3.6m are added, the overall position is favourable.
- At the end of the financial year last year the value of the College was £161m. This is now £170m, which is almost exclusively down to stocks and shares value increases.

309 Draft College Budget 2026-27 version 1 (provisional for 2027-28 and 2028-29) (Bursar) (GB.2526/309)

The Bursar presented the draft College budget 2026-27 version 1 (provisional for 2027-28 and 2028-29) referring to slides circulated, highlighting that:

- A new three-year budgeting model introduces a firm year 1 budget for 2026-27, with years 2 and 3 as provisional forecasts.
- The process involves review by the Finance and Needs Committee, presentation to Governing Body and Council, and feedback informing Version 2, with final approval at the Annual Meeting.
- For 2026-27 the original budget is favourable to the 2025-26 budget. This also improves in the outer years; from a £650k underlying deficit for 2026-27 to just under £300k by the third year, though these are provisional calculations.

Further work will be undertaken for version 2, including:

- The staff cost increase is large albeit with a number of one-offs.
- Conference income budget will need re-evaluating with the trend of summer schools booking smaller groups of students.
- Evaluation of potential projects which are not yet agreed
- Adding 10 Jesus Lane's capital costs

Governing Body **noted** the draft College Budget 2026-27 version 1 (provisional for 2027-28 and 2028-29) for Council's consideration.

Reports from Committees

310 College Council 25 February 2026 (confirmed) (GB.2526/310)

The minutes were **received**.

311 College Council 18 March 2026 (confirmed) (GB.2526/311)
The minutes were **received**.

Other business

312 Any other business
None.

313 Date of next meeting
Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 10.00am in the William Mong Hall.