

Unconfirmed

Clare College
Cambridge

Monday 17 May 2021

A meeting of the Governing Body was held this day on Zoom.

Present: Lord Grabiner, Professor Andrews, Dr Bristowe, Dr Budvytis, Professor Byrne, Professor Cacho, Professor Carroll, Dr Chambers, Dr Chesters, Professor Clarke, Dr Dunajski, Dr Follini, Dr Foyster, Professor Franklin, Professor Frolova-Walker, Professor Gibson, Professor Goodman, Professor Greenham, Professor Griffiths, Dr Guy, Dr R Harris, Professor W Harris, Professor Hedley, Professor Howarth, Dr Jacobs, Dr Krupic, Professor Lahr, Dr Laman, Dr Lawson, Dr Lestas, Professor Lewens, Dr Moore, Dr O'Donoghue, Professor Ogilvie, Dr Parker, Professor Paulson, Dr Riley, Mr Ross, Professor Rowitch, Dr Cabrera Serrenho, Dr F Smith, Rev'd Dr M Smith, Professor Sprik, Professor Sterckx, Dr Stranks, Dr Tasioulas, Professor Thomason, Professor Thompson, Mr Warren, Dr Watson, Dr Wilkes, Dr Wolf, Professor Woodhouse, Ms Wyburd, Dr Zhang

Student Representatives: Mr Wood (MCR), Ms Hodder (MCR), Ms Rafalin (UCS)

Apologies: Dr Wimpenny, Dr Jahn, Dr C Weiss, Dr Maniscalco, Dr Friend, Dr Hughes, Dr Shorttle, Dr Burrows, Professor Philpott, Professor Clayton, Professor Hodell

On Leave: Dr Lazar, Professor Sanson, Dr Faulkner, Professor Preston, Dr L Weiss, Dr Toxvaerd

MINUTES

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

1. ***Declarations of Interest***

There were no declarations of interest.

2. ***Unreserved Minutes***

Minutes of a meeting held on 8 February 2021 were approved.

3. ***Matters Arising from the Minutes of 8 February 2021***

There were no matters arising.

4. **Old Court Update**

The Bursar gave a progress report on the Old Court works and asked Governing Body to note the following:

1. The Old Court project is now running 12 weeks behind schedule for the following reasons:

- Archaeological finds in the North Passage, including what the archaeology team believes to be the medieval floor of the original Master's Lodge. Images of these finds will be circulated to the Fellowship.
- Unexpected substantial amounts of asbestos during demolition work.
- Inaccurate representation of the existing foundations in the original Old Court plans.

Usually, a building project of this size and complexity has a contingency reserve of 10% of budget. However, it was decided that a reserve of this size was not practical given the budgetary and funding constraints that exist, and the College would manage any overspend from each phase by transferring funds from later stages. The reasons listed above, and other issues, have caused the contingency reserve to be spent far more rapidly than planned, and the reserve for Phase 1B is almost spent. The original budget was as follows:

Building Phase	Budget	Contingency Reserve
Phase 1A	£6.9m	£250k
Phase 1B	£20.2m	£600k
Phase 2	£12.4m	£318k

Phase 1A came in £220k under budget. However, this money could not be rolled over into Phase 1B as some of it had to be spent rectifying work on the new heating system for Old Court. The engineering firm contracted to implement the new heating system has refused to accept responsibility for these issues, and the £190k spent correcting their errors is unlikely to be recovered. Despite this, the College has been advised against firing the engineers, and they are still involved in the Old Court project. Another consultant has been brought in to advise on the design, and the heating system is now working.

In order to make up this loss, the Bursar has proposed that £600k of the budget for Phase 2, which has not yet been contracted, could be transferred to Phase 1B. This would mean that Phase 2 has a reduced budget of £11.8m, and the scope of the intended works will need to be revisited. Further cost savings will still need to be found for Phase 1B.

In response to concerns about future overruns and spending, it was agreed that the Old Court Implementation Group will provide Finance Committee with the quarterly valuation reports from Henry Riley for the Old Court project.

5. ***Update from the Senior Tutor***

The Senior Tutor reported the following:

- All students have been invited back to College, but not compelled to return. About 90% of the student body is back and those who are staying away are mostly international students. Some of the international students who have returned will stay in College over the summer and will need looking after.
- The asymptomatic testing programme is running again this term, and after an initially low take-up, the number of students taking the tests is increasing, possibly out of a desire to access public spaces in College which will not be accessible to those who refuse to participate in the testing program. Allowances will be made for students who are exempt from testing e.g. those who have recently had Covid.
- There will not be a May Ball this year, but, as per last year, there will be a student garden party at the sports ground, with sensible restrictions in place.
- From 17 May in-person teaching is possible, but it is up to individual teachers to decide whether this is something they want to do. Asking students to get tested before they attend in-person classes is a sensible and reasonable thing to do.
- General Admission this year is still a work in progress. There are currently several graduation events being planned. No guests will be allowed in the Senate House, but Colleges will be able to host guests at outdoor events. Those to be graduated this year include a backlog of graduate students from last year, last year's cohort of undergraduates, and this year's cohort of undergraduates, who will be graduated in a staggered way.

6. ***Any other Unreserved Business***

Professor Griffiths reported that the Admissions team will be pushing forward with remote Taster Days, one for the Sciences and one of the Arts. There will also be remote Open Days on 7-8 July. In addition, the College is hoping to participate in a support programme for students in target groups hoping to study STEM subjects.