

Unconfirmed

**Clare College
Cambridge**

Monday 7 February 2022

A meeting of the Governing Body was held this day.

Present: Ms Minghella, Dr Wimpenny, Dr Klee, Dr Pollard, Professor Parker, Dr Follini, Professor Griffiths, Professor Dunajski, Professor van Veen, Professor Tasioulas, Professor Lazar, Professor Lestas, Professor Cacho, Professor Watson, Ms Wyburd, Professor Chesters, Professor Turner, Professor Laman, Rev'd Dr Smith, Professor Cabrera Serrenho, Professor Hartnoll, Mr Ball, Professor Lockwood, Professor Collepardo, Professor Paulson, Professor Greenham, Professor Philpott, Professor Ogilvie, Professor Byrne, Professor Sterckx, Professor Preston, Professor Franklin, Professor Thomason, Professor Andrews

Student Reps: Ms Rafalin (UCS)

Apologies: Dr Zhang, Dr Harris, Professor Hedley, Professor Jahn, Professor Holdstock, Professor Gibson, Dr Weiss, Professor Friend, Dr Stillman, Professor Hughes, Mr Ross, Professor Carroll, Professor Chambers, Professor Stranks, Dr Burrows, Professor Lawson, Professor Howarth, Professor Clayton, Professor Lewens, Professor Allmendinger, Dr Moore, Dr Guy

On Leave: Dr Foyster, Professor Sanson, Professor Toxvaerd, Dr Faulkner, Professor Chesters, Professor Wolf, Professor Berman, Professor Prabhu

MINUTES

As the Governing Body was not quorate, it was agreed that the recommendations indicated by an asterisk (*) would be taken to the next Governing Body meeting for approval:

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

1. ***Declarations of Interest***

There were no declarations of interest.

2. ***Unreserved Minutes***

Minutes of a meeting held on 8 November 2022 were approved.

3. ***Matters arising from the Unreserved Minutes of 8 November 2022***

There were no matters arising.

4. **Admissions Analysis**

Professor Griffiths presented a report on the 2021-22 Admissions Round. He asked the Governing Body to note the following:

- The number of offers this year has increased slightly on last year when it was anticipated that nearly all applicants would make their grades. There were 156 offers made this year and it is anticipated that about 138 applicants will make their offers.
- The ratio of state to independent school offers is well up on last year at 75%.
- The proportion of offers to POLAR candidates is well up on last year, and approaching the targets set by OfS for 2024-25.
- The Admissions Team has done some research on the use of the winter pool by Clare and other Colleges. As a result of this research the College Council has emphasized the importance of all subjects going to the Pool. While it may already be an obvious step for subjects where our applicant:offer ratio is low compared to other Colleges, it remains the case that all subjects should be comparing their lower ranked candidates with those available in the Pool. CAO provides comprehensive data to enable Colleges to compare how pooled candidates fare relative to the lowest-ranked candidates in any given subject, and Fellows are encouraged to make use of this data.
- The next Arts and Sciences 'Taster' day will be Saturday 5 March.

The Master reported that she has recently met with representatives with strong links to Tower Hamlets, one of the College's link school areas, with a view to understanding how we can encourage more people from the Bangladeshi community to apply to Clare. She received much useful feedback, including the fact that many applicants from non-traditional backgrounds find remote interviews far less intimidating than in-person interviews.

It was agreed that remote interviewing may work for some, but for certain subjects at this year's interviews – e.g. Maths – some candidates from non-traditional backgrounds were less able to navigate the virtual set-up, and may have been disadvantaged. It is possible that difficulties with remote interviewing may be subject-specific and this needs to be investigated further. In addition, from an interviewer's perspective, it was pointed out that remote interviewing is especially onerous for those interviewing for multiple Colleges, as the platforms used differ.

Fellows are encouraged to provide feedback to CAO, which has sent a survey on the subject of remote interviewing to all those involved in the process. The deadline for receiving completed surveys is 13 February.

5. **Old Court Update**

The Bursar reported that the Old Court works were progressing well, but global supply chain issues were causing delays with building materials and therefore having an impact on projected completion dates. Current projections suggest that

work on the kitchens, great hall and café will be complete at some point in Lent 2023.

6. ***Development Update***

Professor Franklin requested that the Governing Body authorise the Master to form a working group to develop a strategic vision for the College as it approaches the 50th anniversary of the admission of women to Clare, and its 700th anniversary year. The discussions around the vision should involve the whole College membership. In the first instance, the Master will ask for volunteers to serve on the working group and will ask Governing Body members to submit names by email.

7. ***Any other Unreserved Business***

There was no other unreserved business.