

Confirmed

Clare College
Cambridge

Monday 8 February 2021

A virtual meeting of the Governing Body was held this day.

Present:	Prof Allmendinger, Prof Andrews, Dr Bristowe, Dr Budvytis, Dr Burrows, Prof Byrne, Dr Cabrera Serrenho, Prof Cacho, Prof Carroll, Dr Chesters, Dr Dunajski, Dr Follini, Dr Foyster, Prof Franklin, Dr Friend, Prof Gibson, Prof Goodman, Prof Griffiths, Dr Guy, Dr Harris, Prof Hodell, Dr Holdstock, Prof Howarth, Dr Hughes, Dr Jacobs, Mr Johnson, Dr Krupic, Prof Lahr, Dr Laman, Dr Lawson, Dr Lazar, Dr Maniscalco, Dr Moore, Prof Ogilvie, Prof Paulson, Prof Phillips, Prof Philpott, Dr Riley, Mr Ross, Dr Smith, Rev'd Dr Smith, Prof Sterckx, Dr Stranks, Dr Tasioulas, Prof Thompson, Mr Warren, Dr Wimpenny, Dr Wolf, Dr Zhang
Emeritus Fellows:	Dr Foster
Student Representatives:	Mr Wood (MCR), Ms Hodder (MCR), Ms Nevill (UCS), Mr Barton (UCS)
Apologies:	Lord Grabiner, Dr Wilkes, Dr Jahn, Dr van Veen, Dr Stillman, Dr Watson, Ms Wyburd, Dr Turner, Prof Rowitch, Prof Clayton, Prof Leadlay
On Leave:	Dr Parker, Dr Toxvaerd, Dr Faulkner, Prof Thomason, Prof Preston
In Attendance:	Deborah Hoy, James Godden

MINUTES

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

1. ***Declarations of Interest***

There were no declarations of interest.

2. ***Unreserved Minutes***

Minutes of a meeting held on 9 November 2020 were approved.

3. ***Matters Arising from the Minutes of 9 November 2021***

There were no matters arising.

4. ***Estates Committee Update***

The Estates Manager, Ms Hoy, presented diagrams and a video of the proposed lift to provide disabled access into H staircase. She reported that she was still awaiting a tracking diagram from the manufacturer, but the City Council Access Officer had been consulted on all the designs and was happy with them.

The Governing Body agreed to go ahead with the proposed design.

5. ***Admissions Analysis***

Dr Chesters reported that there had been a big increase in applications for 2020-21 and Clare was the 8th most applied-for College. The new look of the Admissions pages on the College website may well have played a part in attracting more applicants.

Governing Body was asked to note the following:

Application numbers: The offer ratio for state schools stands at 68.5%, and we expect almost all applicants to make their grades, as A level results this summer will be based on teacher-assessed performance. We have made 147 offers and expect 125-135 students, which is potentially a slightly smaller cohort than normal.

Interviews: Online interviewing this year was a highly complex and demanding operation, but the staff in the Tutorial Office excelled themselves, and the process went smoothly. Particular thanks were given to Rachel Chiodo and Josie Day, the admissions administrators, and to all those involved in the interviewing process. The future possibilities of remote interviewing are being considered by the University and Colleges together. Fellows were asked to provide feedback on their experience of online interviewing.

Student Feedback: The scheme has changed this year. With so many schools requesting feedback, it was decided that detailed feedback would be provided only to low participation schools. Other schools requesting feedback would receive standard comparative information.

Offer Numbers: Offers to applicants in POLAR4 and IMD quintiles were broadly in line with or exceeded OFS targets. In an effort to reduce the number of withdrawals from these groups, it was suggested that the College might take particular steps to engage with these students. Governing Body was asked to note that the University's central admission office has already created a scheme to provide tuition support to heavily flagged candidates. Clare is going to participate in this scheme. Ms Nevill suggested that in addition to the involvement of Fellows in the tuition scheme, students might also be able to offer some mentoring for the applicants.

Professor Griffiths reported that taster days, which would usually happen in the Lent Term, could easily be moved to the Easter Term, when students are more likely to be thinking about their university applications. Virtual taster days and open days have worked very well in the past, and seem to have increased the College's attractiveness and reach. He will be approaching Fellows for taster day content soon.

6. ***Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2020***

The Bursar drew the Governing Body's attention to the following:

There was a surplus for the year of £1.83m due to the growth in unrestricted income, particularly from the Schofield legacy and Government CoVID grants, and the decrease in total expenditure, caused partly by the closure of the College during the first lockdown, and a one-off USS pension write-back.

The 2020-21 budget forecast is for a £3.3m deficit, although the £5m loan from an alumnus will create a short-term cash flow surplus. The operating deficit should start to decline once conferencing activity begins to pick up, but this is unlikely to recover to pre-COVID levels. The overall outlook for the 3-year period starting in 2020-21 shows a cumulative cash-flow deficit of £8.4m, which will create a great strain on College finances, and will require liquidation of endowment assets.

7. ***Naming of the new St Regis Building***

Professor Franklin presented a short paper on possible new names for the former St Regis site on Chesterton Road. The three accommodation blocks within the site will be called Gooder House, Weiss House and Schofield House in recognition of the benefactions of Richard and Jean Gooder, Nigel and Judy Weiss, and Roger Schofield, in support of postgraduate and postdoctoral activity in the College.

The Governing Body agreed that the site should be called Clare St Regis.

8. ***College Seal Sculpture Project***

Dr Foster asked the Governing Body to note that a sculpted replica of the original College Seal will be created by the Cardozo Kindersley Workshop. The sculpture will be sited in H staircase just to the left of the stairs going up to the SCR. It will be visible to all those making their way to the new River Room. Dr Foster confirmed that the sculpture is being funded by a Clare alumna, who wanted to make a specific gift to the College to honour the Foundress.

9. ***Any Other Unreserved Business***

Professor Griffiths reported that he had recently attended the funeral of Emeritus Fellow, Professor Richard West, and was in discussion with his former faculty over the possibility of a memorial service combined with a symposium. He will keep the Fellowship informed of any plans.