

Meeting of the Conservation Committee
12.30 – 2.00, 5 May 2020
Online, Clare College

Present: Prof. Anthony Snodgrass, Dr Anne Stillman, Mr Graham Ross, Ms Deborah Hoy, Mr Donald Hearn, Mr Paul Warren, Very Rev'd. Peter Judd, Ms Jo Costin, Mr Oscar Simms, Dr Tamara Follini (Chair)

1. Apologies and welcome to new UCS representative:
No apologies were received. The new UCS representative, Mr Oscar Simms, was welcomed to the Committee.
2. Declarations of Interest: There were none.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting: These were approved.
4. Matters Arising and for Report:
 - a. Signage: Design adopted: The Chair informed the Committee that of the two designs circulated in Lent Term, both of which had incorporated suggestions made by the Committee at the Lent Term Meeting, version A was adopted.
 - b. Meeting with Mr Jeremy Musson, 3 February: The Chair gave a brief report of her meeting with Mr Musson, an architectural historian and consultant on conservation management, last term. The meeting confirmed how useful it would be to have such consultancy available to the Committee if and when plans for the Library were to proceed. The Chair had hoped to circulate a copy of Mr Musson's book, on the architectural history of Emmanuel College at the meeting, although our 'virtual' meeting prevented this.
 - c. Flagstones, Old Court: Concerns had been raised at our Lent Term meeting on the state of the Old Court flagstones. Deborah Hoy explained that all damage done by the present building works would be repaired by the contractors, including those concrete slabs the contractors had put down. These sit on a metal frame that allows them to be lifted and will have key holes cut in them; slabs that had been damaged before the works began would be paid for by the College, although this would not occur until after Phase 1b is completed. Some delay was also anticipated because of present conditions.
5. Painting of College Staircases (see attached Photograph file): A discussion was held as to whether the panelling in B and C staircases should be painted over to match decoration of staircases elsewhere in the College or be retained. It was decided to retain the stained wood finish. It was also recommended that the green colour used on several staircases be changed to the more pleasing blue colour used in staircase G.
6. Membership and Chair, 2020–21: The Chair asked that if any members wished to resign from the Committee for the upcoming academic year she should be informed as soon as possible; she also offered to step down as Chair if anyone wishes to take over that role. It was thought that 'continuity' at the present moment would be worthwhile.
7. Fellows Library and other projects: an open discussion: The Chair expressed her regret that the momentum that had been building in regard to plans for the renovation of the Fellows Library would suffer a setback as a result of the College shutdown, and the financial circumstances in which the College now found itself, but asked that suggestions be put forward as to how the project might be pursued and kept alive nonetheless. The Bursar gave a summary of the present and future financial position of the College. One suggestion was that a questionnaire be circulated amongst the Fellowship to solicit opinions as to how the Library should be used. Another was that enquiries be pursued in regard to raising funds from outside sources; the Chair agreed to pursue this with both Ed Potten and Jeremy Musson. The Bursar suggested that remuneration could be made through a percentage of any funds raised.
8. AOB: There was none, although the point was made in the preceding discussion that this would also be an appropriate time to define and push forward any projects relating to general cleaning or restoration of some communal rooms and their furnishings.
9. Date of Michaelmas Term, 2020 Meeting: 27 October 2020.