

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

MINUTES (UNRESERVED)

2.00pm on Monday, 15 November 2021

Elton and Bowring Room

Present (Reserved): Ms Loretta Minghella (Chair); Mr David Ball; Professor Jason Carroll; Dr Andrew Carter; Professor Maciej Dunajski; Professor Jonathan Goodman; Professor Howard Griffiths; Professor Sian Lazar; Professor Oliver Shorttle; and Professor Jacqueline Tasioulas (Senior Tutor).

Present (Unreserved): Ms Samantha Mason (MCR President); and Ms Lily Rafalin (UCS President).

In Attendance: Miss Emma Easterbrook (Secretary); Professor Heike Laman (Graduate Tutor) (up to and including Item 3(iii); for Item 3(iii)); and Mr Daniel Patten (UCS Accommodation representative) (between Item 3(iii) and Item 3(iv); for Item 3(iv)).

1. **Apologies**

The Rev'd Dr Mark Smith; and Professor Fred Parker.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **UNRESERVED**

(i) **Minutes of 11 October 2021**

Approved.

(ii) **Matters Arising**

- a. *Item 3(vii), Register of Interests 2021-22:* All trustees were reminded to return their annual Register of Interests form to the Assistant Bursar if they had not done so already.
- b. *Item 3(viii), College website:* Council at its last meeting on 11 October and the Finance Committee at its meeting on 18 October had approved of the process to update the College website. The Chair of the Working Group (College website), Professor Goodman; the IT Manager, Mr Jason Randall; and the Assistant to the Senior Tutor, Ms Annie Muston, were continuing to liaise with three companies to create detailed proposals. A further update will be presented to Council and the Finance Committee in due course.
- c. *Item 3(ix), College Committees and Membership:* Council had invited the Chair of the Choir Committee, Professor Douglas Hedley, to make a recommendation to Council regarding student representatives. The

recommendation was that the student body was represented appropriately by its members. This included a Senior Choral Scholar and a Senior Choral Volunteer for both the internal and external members of the Choir. Council formally approved of the Choir Committee's membership.

(iii) **Graduate Admissions**

The Graduate Admissions Tutor, Professor Laman, circulated a paper to Council. There had continued to be a significant increase in numbers for one year/Masters courses and a decrease in numbers for PhDs. This may be as a result of the University balancing the number of PhD students amongst all of the colleges. In addition, some PhD students had converted to a Masters after arriving. However, the number of applications overall had increased as had the number of offers made. There had been a decrease in acceptances in the Arts but an increased acceptance rate in the Sciences, 'other', and overseas students.

[Mr Daniel Patten, UCS Accommodation representative, entered.]

Post-meeting note: Professor Laman noted that of the 394 applications received, the applicant choice for 336 was known. Of those 336, 226 chose Clare as 1st or 2nd, so 67.3% of all applications. Of the applications that were accepted, 75% of them chose Clare as 1st or 2nd. This calculation will be included in future years.

(iv) **A Rooms Proposal from the UCS**

The UCS Accommodation representation circulated a proposal to Council. A working group had been set up to review the ballot process for future years. Council agreed that for this coming year the presentation of the rooms' list will be reviewed in terms of those students who were removed from the ballot on medical grounds. It was further agreed that the Rooms' Tutor will communicate to all students asking them to contact him directly as to whether any individual student had a specific concern about the ballot.

(v) **Rooms Policy**

The Senior Tutor presented a paper to Council. The proposal was for those students who were not registered disabled but whose medical and/or pastoral needs resulted in them being withdrawn from the ballot on the recommendation of the College Nurses or Tutors. It was recommended that these students should also have their rent capped at the relevant average as it was for registered disabled students. This would be in line with best practice. Council formally approved of the proposal to cap the rent to the relevant average for these students.

(vi) **Discussion of Cambridge Student Union proposal for a mid-term break**

The Senior Tutor circulated a proposal from the Cambridge Student Union for a mid-term break. A concern had been raised by students about the intensity and structure

of the University's term on the mental health and wellbeing of students. However, there was concern that a mid-term break would not address this issue and that it would in fact place additional academic and financial pressure on both students and teaching staff. Council agreed that there should be further consideration about the structure of courses and the term but did not approve of the proposal for a mid-term break. The Master agreed to liaise with the Senior Tutor about the issues raised.

(vii) **Minutes of College Committees**

- a. **Computer Committee: 17 May 2021:** It was noted that the rooms' database required a review. However, at present resource is not available.

(viii) **Any Other Business**

None.

4. **RESERVED**

5. **Date of Next Meeting**

2.00pm on Monday, 22 November 2021 (joint with Finance Committee)

Elton and Bowring Room

Distribution (Reserved): Ms Loretta Minghella (Chair); Mr David Ball; Professor Jason Carroll; Dr Andrew Carter; Professor Maciej Dunajski; Professor Jonathan Goodman; Professor Howard Griffiths; Professor Sian Lazar; Professor Fred Parker; Professor Oliver Shorttle; The Rev'd Dr Mark Smith; Professor Jacqueline Tasioulas (Senior Tutor); and the Governing Body.

Distribution (Unreserved): Ms Samantha Mason (MCR President); and Ms Lily Rafalin (UCS President).

In Attendance: Miss Emma Easterbrook (Secretary); Professor Heike Laman (Graduate Tutor); and Mr Daniel Patten (UCS Accommodation representative).

Emma Easterbrook

15 November 2021