

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 14:00 in the Audit Room and Online

Present:	Provost (Online)	In Attendance:	Vice Provost
	Dr Good		Senior Tutor
	Dr Sarkovic		First Bursar
	Professor Giannitsarou		Domus Bursar
	Ms Headen		Mr Warner*
	Dr Knox		Ms Robinson* (Online until 15:00)
	Professor Gross		
	Ruse-Khan		
	Professor Bullock		Admissions Tutor (Item 116 only)
	Professor Hall		Audit & Scrutiny Committee (from Items 129 to 131)
	Professor Foley (Online)		
	Mr Ajanaku*		
			Registrar

*Open Business

106. **Apologies for Absence**

Dr Russell apologised for his absence.

As the Provost was attending online the Vice Provost chaired the meeting.

OPEN BUSINESS

107. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

108. **Minutes of Open Business 18 February 2025**

Approved.

109. **Matters arising**

None.

110. **Oral Reports**

None.

111. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

Termly Update, Report on Student Numbers, and Admissions Report in agenda.

112. **Council Action List – Open Matters**

Remaining actions due to be completed in Lent term:

- Provide updated Hackathon proposals (E-Lab Directors)
- Submit list of all current student exchange schemes (Senior Tutor)

Strategic

113. JCR Proposal

Council first considered item 125.

Council discussed items 113 and 114 simultaneously.

Mr Warner, KCSU President, spoke to KCSU's proposal to turn the College coffee shop into a JCR. He emphasised that the proposals in front of Council were the result of a long dialogue with undergraduates and other interested parties, including the Senior Tutor and Domus Bursar. In agreement with the proposal to repurpose the space, he asked Council to give in-principle support to a redesign that would (subject to the outcome of the Planning Round) be part supported by College funds.

The Senior Tutor gave her support and emphasised the extent of collaboration underpinning the proposal.

In response to questions from Council, the Domus Bursar clarified how the design of the proposed JCR space, and the bar and coffee shop space (Item 114), would be governed. KCSU will have full aesthetic control over the former, whereas the project to renovate the latter would be overseen by the Adornment Committee and Buildings & Safety Committee.

Council commented that the coffee shop, as a JCR, would still be a reasonably small space. The KCSU representatives and Domus Bursar agreed but were of the view that it was the best mid-term option pending development of a full College masterplan.

Council agreed:

- a) To approve the purposive reclassification of the current coffee shop space into a Junior Common Room (JCR) for the Undergraduate Student Body;
- b) To support the proposed design for the Junior Common Room as outlined in Annexe A, subject to further planning;
- c) To approve the responsibilities and regulations for Junior Common Room oversight as defined in Annexe B.

114. Bar and Coffee Shop Integration

The Domus Bursar asked Council to approve (in principle, subject to the Planning Round) the integration of the coffee shop and bar. She outlined proposals for a re-fit aimed at creating a space that serves the College community better and that is more operationally efficient and sustainable.

Council noted that repurposing the coffee shop as a JCR did not necessarily require integration of the coffee shop and bar and that the two matters could be considered separately.

Council agreed to approve, in principle, subject to the Planning Round, the integration of the Coffee Shop into the Bar.

The Domus Bursar will report these decisions to the Governing Body orally when it meets on 20 March 2025.

115. **Working Group Memberships (Estates Masterplan, Gibbs Building)**

The Domus Bursar asked Council to approve the proposed members of both the Gibbs and the Estate Strategy/Master Plan Working Groups, following Council's authorisation to form these (the former in late 2023, the latter in earlier this term). Both of the proposed groups drew their membership from across College, would be attended by relevant members of staff, and chaired by the Domus Bursar.

Council agreed to approve the proposed members of the Gibbs Working Group and the Estate Strategy/Masterplan Working Group, as follows:

Gibbs Working Group

- Dr Jane Hall
- Professor Alice Hutchings
- Professor Nick Bullock
- Professor Ross Harrison
- Graduate Student
- Undergraduate Student
- Vice Provost
- Domus Bursar (chair)
- Representative from Development and Communications

Estate Strategy/Masterplan Working Group

- Professor Godela Weiss-Sussex (subject to availability)
- Professor Geoff Moggridge
- Dr Marcus Boeick
- Dr Guilia Bottani (subject to availability)
- First Bursar
- Senior Tutor
- Domus Bursar (chair)

Routine

116. **Admissions Report**

Dr Adams, Admissions Tutor, joined the meeting to present her report on Admissions and Outreach activity.

She provided a summary of the 2024 admissions round and drew Council's attention to notable trends in her data. She also reported on the 2024 summer outreach season, highlighting particularly successful initiatives such as the Christ's-King's residential.

She described unexpected operational difficulties implementing the in-person interview format, some of which were a result of CamSIS, and thanked Fellows for their timely co-operation in the interview planning process.

Council discussed the Admissions Tutor's plans for the coming year, noting their ambition. The Senior Tutor agreed that the scope of the Admissions Tutor's role was too large for one person, and informed Council that she plans to propose additional Fellow resource for access and outreach support in her Planning Round proposals.

Council warmly thanked the Admissions Tutor and Admissions Office staff and noted the Admissions Report.

Dr Adams left the meeting.

117. **Report on Student Numbers**

The Senior Tutor presented her routine report regarding the size and shape of the student body, and asked Council to approve target numbers for admission in Michaelmas Term 2025. She explained that the College's ability to adjust its target admissions numbers was limited. She drew Council's attention, however, to factors that influence the adjustments made annually, such as new triposes (none proposed imminently) and building works that make graduate accommodation unavailable.

Council:

- a) Noted the Senior Tutor's Report on Student Numbers; and
- b) Agreed to approve the target numbers for admission in Michaelmas Term 2025.

118. **CTO Working Group Report**

The Senior Tutor presented a report from the CTO Working Group (established in Easter 2023). The group presented potential models of College-centred teaching post to Council, both longer term and more time-limited, and asked Council to consider which model(s) it might recommend for future roles of this type.

Council discussed differences in how individual University departments and faculties engage with academics in these types of post, some welcoming their input more warmly than others.

Council compared the models, noting that different models would be needed in different circumstances. Reflecting on the success of allowing College Research Fellows to intermit for up to two years to take a temporary teaching position, Council wondered whether a model that permitted the post-holder to intermit for one or two years for research might provide a more appropriate balance between teaching and research interests than the current model C.

Council noted the report and encouraged the Senior Tutor to present Governing Body with options that support the post-holder to undertake both teaching and research.

119. **Termly Update**

The First Bursar presented Council with the Termly Update on College activities. The Update had been prepared with input from College Officers. He reported continued progress against the College's priorities and projects, and further good financial performance, but noted that there had been a material revision to the College's risk profile with regard to the likelihood of macroeconomic shocks impacting the College's financial position.

Council noted the Termly Update for Lent Term 2025.

120. **Memorial Tablet Proposal (Cleobury)**

The Dean of Chapel informed Council about a request revived to install a memorial tablet for the late Sir Stephen Cleobury (former Director of Music) in the Chapel. He invited to Council to agree to set up a group to progress consideration of the request in line with the College's Memorial Tablets in Chapel policy.

Council noted the request, and agreed:

- a) to appoint a Memorial Consideration Group consisting of the Vice-Provost, Chair of the Adornment Committee, and Chapel Inspecting Architect, and chaired by the Dean of Chapel; and
- b) to ask the Group to report back to Council in Easter Term 2025.

121. **Gates Scholars' Anniversary Dinner**

The Vice Provost had asked Council to grant permission for a non-College event to be held in Hall in Full Term, during the Quiet Period. Since submitting the paper it had come to light that the event could not be accommodated alongside regular dining for members of College, and that it would clash with the date of the proposed annual Turing Lecture.

Council agreed not to permit the Gates Foundation to hold their 25th Anniversary Dinner in Hall on Thursday 8 May 2025.

122. **Henry VI Circle Lunch**

The Head of Development asked Council to agreed to the use of Hall during termtime for the annual King Henry VI Circle lunch.

Council agreed to approve the use of the Hall and Chetwynd Room for the King Henry VI Circle Lunch on Saturday 17 May 2025.

123. **Welfare Day 2025**

The KCSU Welfare Officers set out proposals for a Welfare Day, open to all King's members, which would be held in College on Saturday 8 March.

The Senior Tutor highlighted that the College had provided some funding for the event in recent years but would not do so this year. KCSU had been able to provide limited evidence that the event was well attended by non-students, and had reserves from which they could fund the event in its entirety.

The KCSU representatives acknowledged the reserves and explained steps taken to address them.

Council agreed for the 8 March 2025 Welfare Day to be put on as planned as outlined by the Junior Members in the paper, including the booking of the Back Lawn.

124. **Eboracum Baroque July 2025**

Dr Wallach, as in recent previous years, asked Council to grant permission for Eboracum Baroque to use the Fellows' Garden for a public concert. The proposal came directly to Council as permission was required before the date of the Concerts Committee's next meeting. The Director of Music had, however, been consulted and was content with the proposal.

Council agreed to grant permission for an Eboracum Baroque concert to take place in King's College Fellows' Garden at 7.00pm on Friday 11 July 2025.

Compliance

125. **KCGS Constitution**

Council considered this item as its first item of principal business.

Ms Robinson, KCGS President, asked Council to approve KCGS's new Constitution and Standing Orders (approved by KCGS members at a General Meeting on 26

February 2025). One outcome of the change would be to change KCGS's name to King's College Graduate Union ('KCGU').

The Vice Provost drew Council's attention to the fact the proposed constitution would make the President of KCGU the voting graduate on Council.

Council noted that an amendment to the Ordinances and Council's terms of reference would be required to achieve this, and considered the impact this would have on the President. They (a trustee of both) may be required to navigate conflicting duties to the College and to KCGU. The College's governing documents currently prevent this by requiring the student union presidents to attend Council but not allowing them to vote.

Ms Robinson explained that this issue had not been expressly considered by the graduate community when consulting on the proposed constitution, but her view was that the President would be able to manage both duties effectively. She highlighted that any voting graduate member drawn from the KCGU Executive would have to navigate dual trusteeship (like the KCSU Vice President).

Council were content to proceed on the basis that the President of KCGU will become the voting graduate student on Council.

The Vice Provost, as chair, suggested that Ms Robinson should meet with the Registrar to resolve other points of detail and return final versions of the Constitution and Standing Orders to Council when it next meets.

Council agreed to approve the proposed constitution and standing orders in principle but asked the President of KCGU to present a final version to the next meeting of Council.

126. Terms of Reference (Fellowship Committee, HR Committee)

The Fellowship Committee and HR Committee had considered and agreed changes to their terms of reference which had been proposed with a view to creating greater alignment between them (so that issues such as succession planning, currently lacking clear long-term governance, would have a clearer route of committee scrutiny). Council were asked to agree the changes.

Council agreed to approve revised Terms of Reference for the Fellowship Committee and the HR Committee.

Council also, for information only, received proposed consequential changes to the Fellows' Remuneration Committee's terms of reference that will be presented to them for consideration when they next meet.

127. Charities Committee Report

Council noted a routine report on Charities Committee Activity in Lent Term 2025.

Minutes

None.

128. Any Other Business

128a. Financial Information Systems

Council will consider this item at its final meeting of Lent Term after hearing comments from the Audit & Scrutiny Committee later in this meeting.

Audit & Scrutiny Committee Report

The members of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee did not join for Open Business as stated on the agenda.