

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 14:00 in the Audit Room

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	Senior Tutor
	Dr Good		First Bursar
	Dr Russell		Domus Bursar
	Dr Sarkovic		Mr Warner*
	Professor Giannitsarou		Ms Robinson*
	Ms Headen (until Item 101)		
	Professor Gross Ruse-		Registrar
	Khan (until Item 101)		
	Professor Bullock		Dean of Chapel (Item 97 only)
	Professor Hall		
	Mr Ajanaku* (from Item 82)		

*Open Business

74. **Apologies for Absence**

The Vice Provost and Professor Foley apologised for their absence. Dr Knox was on leave.

The Provost welcomed Ms Robinson, recently elected KCGS President, to Council. The Registrar summarised the roles of KCSU and KCGS representatives on Council. Ms Robinson commented on current arrangements for selecting KCGS's voting member of Council and will meet with the Senior Tutor and Registrar to discuss changing this.

OPEN BUSINESS

75. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

76. **Minutes of Open Business 4 February 2025**

Approved.

77. **Matters arising**

At the previous meeting Council had asked the College's Safeguarding Officer (Welfare Tutor) and Deputy Safeguarding Officer (Head of HR) to consider whether the requirement that Council should undertake safeguarding training was appropriate.

The Registrar had consulted the safeguarding leads, who were (in light of relevant guidance and common practice) of the view that Council should continue to do safeguarding training. They will propose updated requirements, and training that is more relevant to higher education settings, as part of this year's Safeguarding Policy review. In the meantime, they advised Council to complete iHasco training.

78. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

2025 Planning Round brief and related proposals (Privately Funded College Fees, and Accommodation Charges – both of which must be set separately to charges considered during the Planning Round) in agenda, along with Report on Restricted funds (Michaelmas term).

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

Paper on Unacceptable and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy in agenda.

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)

Oral Reports

The Domus Bursar drew Council's attention to an announcement recently made by the King's Affair Committee, which had launched the event under a different name to the one approved by Council. She is in contact with the King's Affair Committee and will provide Council with an update in due course.

Strategic

80. **Planning Round 2025**

The First Bursar presented Council with the guidance provided to College Officers, Heads of Department and relevant Fellows ahead of the 2025 Planning Round. He highlighted the role of the Planning Round in setting the College's agenda for the coming academic and financial years. He highlighted the framing of the Planning Round around four priorities, previously presented to Governing Body and Council, and intended to help shape efforts over the next 3-5 years: 'academic strength', 'community environment', 'stewardship' and 'telling our story'. Within this, the First Bursar noted the focus given this year to Research as a critical area for development.

The Provost praised the First Bursar's work in developing this process. The Domus Bursar noted that Heads of Department across the College had provided positive feedback on the overall approach and, specifically, on arrangements for the 2025 Planning Round.

Council noted that Research (until recently treated part of the Education 'cluster') had become its own 'cluster'. The Senior Tutor's view was that there had been some advantages to linking the two, as it enabled her to consider teaching loads in the context of competing pressures on Fellows' time. She undertook to work with colleagues responsible for research to ensure they remained linked.

Council noted the guidance.

81. **Planning Round: Privately Funded College Fees 2026-2027**

The Senior Tutor and First Bursar proposed College Fee levels for privately funded undergraduate students (the "PFCF") whose course begins in the 2026-2027 academic year. The proposals were informed by a comparison of King's fees and those set by other Colleges in recent years.

The student representatives asked the Senior Tutor to comment on the extent to which this impacted the student body. The Senior Tutor explained that fee income was not used as motivating factor in making admissions decisions, and that there is currently no evidence to suggest that the fee level or our

ranking relative to other Colleges impacts our rate of PFCF eligible candidates. She also highlighted that fee status can only be provisionally determined at the stage of interview and there is a significant amount of reclassification which goes on between offer and arrival. The Senior Tutor clarified who might be asked to pay the PFCF - those who previously paid it for the UG course who continue in to part III courses, but not those arriving to take those same courses, who are instead charged the graduate level fees. Council agreed to set the College's privately funded undergraduate fees for the academic year 2026/27 at £13,356 for students whose course begins in 2026/27. The fee for these students will be the same in subsequent years of the course up to the fourth year. Fees and terms for students admitted in earlier years to remain unchanged.

82. **Planning Round: Accommodation Charges 2025-2026**

Mr Ajanaku joined the meeting.

The Domus Bursar proposed accommodation charges for the academic year 2025-2026. An increase of 4.5%, based on a 5-year rolling average for CPIH, was proposed, in line with new the new methodology voted for by KCSU, KCGS and Council in 2024. A number of room band changes were also proposed.

College Officers confirmed that both KCGS and KCSU had been consulted last year on the agreed approach to charges. Council noted that its 2024 vote would still stand even if they had not been, and that re-litigation of the matter should be avoided.

The KCSU representatives had consulted undergraduates, who had raised concerns about the proposal (particularly regarding the proposal to re-band some undergraduate rooms).

The Senior Tutor suggested that she, the Domus Bursar, and Accommodation Tutor should perform a comprehensive undergraduate room banding review like the one she had led for graduate accommodation when she was Accommodation Tutor.

College Officers asked the KCSU and KCGS representatives how information about accommodation charges could be communicated better in future. The provision of digestible data, and ensuring accurate website information, was discussed. It was confirmed however that this communication was not consultation as the 5-year agreement stood.

Council noted that a decision had to be taken at this meeting so the relevant information could be provided with the student room ballot.

Council agreed to approve the proposed accommodation charges for the academic year 2024/25.

Council agreed not to approve the proposed room re-bandings, and asked the Senior Tutor and Domus Bursar to work with the Accommodation Tutor on a comprehensive banding review over the next year.

Room bands will remain the same in the interim, and in year cases would not be considered until the banding review had been completed.

83. **Report on Restricted Funds 2023-2024**

Council received a report on the College's restricted funds relating to the 2023-2024 financial year. Council had been due to receive the report in Michaelmas 2024. The

First Bursar acknowledged the length and density of the information provided and emphasised that the Finance team are working on more digestible reporting.

Council considered reporting about graduate studentship funds. The Senior Tutor explained that this is routinely reported to Education Committee, who have taken responsibility for this following the dissolution of the Studentship Electors Committee.

Council noted the report.

Routine

None.

Compliance

84. Unreasonable and Unacceptable Behaviour Policy

The Domus Bursar presented a revised version of this proposed policy to Council. Council had reviewed a draft in 2024 and had suggest the Domus Bursar split it into a statement of policy, and a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for guidance. The HR Committee had reviewed and commented on both drafts.

The Domus Bursar emphasised that the Policy was statement about the types of behaviour the College does not accept. The SOP, on the other hand, would be guidance to help staff and Fellows address behaviour displayed either by those who are not covered by another College procedure (visitors, for example), or behaviour that requires action but that does not necessarily require the initiation of another procedure (such as a Staff or Academic Staff grievance procedure) at this stage.

Ms Robinson suggested that the point at which raising “new or unrelated concerns” would be unreasonable should be stated more clearly in paragraph 1.3 of the Policy. Council agreed to add the words “without merit or basis” to the end of the sentence.

Council agreed to adopt the new Unacceptable and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy and associated Standard Operating Procedure, subject to amendments to paragraph 1.3 of the Policy agreed at the meeting.

The Policy and SOP will be reviewed in a year’s time.

85. Gardens Committee Terms of Reference

Council agreed to approve revised Terms of Reference for the Gardens Committee.

86. IT Committee Terms of Reference

Council agreed to approve revised Terms of Reference for the IT Committee.

87. Library Committee Terms of Reference

Council agreed to approve revised Terms of Reference for the Library Committee.

Minutes

88. Minutes of the Adornment Committee meeting on 27 November 2024

Noted.

89. Minutes of the Library Committee meeting on 21 January 2025

Noted.

90. **Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting on 22 January 2025**

Noted.

91. **Minutes of the Gardens Committee meeting on 29 January 2025**

Council noted the minutes of the Gardens Committee but queried their presentation of their understanding of Governing Body's decision regarding the wildflower meadow on the Back Lawn. The Domus Bursar will review and take this forward with members of the Gardens Committee.

92. **Minutes of the IT Committee meeting on 5 February 2025**

Noted.

93. **Any Other Business**

None.