

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 2.00pm in the Audit Room

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	First Bursar
	Professor Sharman		Senior Tutor
	Professor Dunn		Vice Provost
	Dr Russell		Domus Bursar
	Ms Headen		
	Dr Sarkovic		*Mr Lee Boya
	Dr Good		
	Professor Candea		Registrar
	*Mr Limoncelli		
	*Ms Bulteel		

*Open Business

221. **Apologies for Absence**

Dr Taylor and Professor Adhikari apologised for their absence. Mx Graham was absent.

OPEN BUSINESS

222. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

223. **Minutes of Open Business 30 April 2024**

Council agreed an amendment to the minute regarding a College position statement on fossil fuels (item 204).

The final sentence of the penultimate paragraph relating to that item was amended as follows (new text in bold):

Council's view was that a statement on a legislative process of this sort, and relating to matters not directly relating to the College's charitable objects, **is not appropriate** and would not align with Charity Commission guidance.

224. **Matters arising**

None.

225. **Oral reports**

Council received a routine report from the Registrar regarding papers considered by correspondence. Council had approved a request from the Head of Communications to stage an event in Hall on 21 May 2024 (Paper no. 2024/220).

College Officers bought an oral report on demonstrations taking place outside College, but this would be dealt with during AOB alongside related papers.

226. Council Timetable – Open Matters

King's Affair update received at the last meeting.

KCGS Vac Bar Accounts, termly Development Office reports, and Rylands Art Prize in agenda. Papers on remaining scholarships, prizes and funds, along with Domus policies and the College's OIA return, will follow later this term.

Chapel Policies are on Council's timetable during Easter Term, to facilitate review where required. The Registrar will enquire with the Chapel team to see if Council should expect any policies.

Easter Festival Budget and Recording Label Annual Report & Accounts remain overdue. The Registrar will continue to liaise with the Dean and Director of Music.

227. Council Action List – Open Matters

One new action following the last meeting; E-Lab Directors will provide a report to Council after the Hackathon in 23 June. Council confirmed they would like to receive this report as soon as possible after the event. The Registrar will notify the E Lab directors.

Adornment Committee terms of reference in agenda.

Actions due to be completed during Easter term:

- Paper to Council regarding Croft Gardens budget reforecast (Domus Bursar)
- Review of effectiveness of EDI Committee (Vice Provost)
- Provide Council with proposal to simplify College access rights (Domus Bursar)
- Update on policy review/return draft events policy to Council (Registrar)
- Return revised terms of reference for the Gardens Committee (Domus Bursar).

Further actions due during the Vacation.

Strategic

None.

Routine

228. Accounts for KCGS Vacation Bar

Council received a routine (annual) report from KCGS regarding the Vacation Bar.

The Senior Tutor had queries about the accounts (for example, regarding the levels of stock held) and asked the KCGS representatives for comment. The representatives for KCGS and the Senior Tutor will take this matter away for further discussion.

229. Rylands Art Prize

Council received a report from the Senior Tutor on the 2024 Rylands Art Prize.

230. Use of Hall – 1441 Foundation Dinner 2024

Council agreed to approve the use of the Hall and Bar for the 1441 Foundation event on Saturday 26 October 2024.

231. Use of Hall – Economics Dinner 2024

Council agreed to approve the use of the Hall and Bar for the Economics Dinner event on Saturday 9 November 2024.

Compliance

232. Freedom of Speech Code of Practice

The First Bursar asked Council to recommend Governing Body approves a new Free Speech Code of Practice in order to comply with new legal requirements relating to free speech.

Council's view was that it would not be in the College's interests not to adopt a Code of Practice, and risk being outside the law with regard to protections for free speech, particularly in the current academic and political environment.

Council noted that a Code of Practice might prove useful when managing free speech matters and recognised that the College would be able to tailor its Code to its needs over time if required.

Council queried the impact of referring to 'Academic Staff' (as defined in the College's governing documents) throughout the Code, rather than 'Fellows'. The Registrar explained that 'Academic Staff' was a more encompassing term. This would mean, for example, that the Code would apply to CRAs.

Council agreed to recommend that Governing Body agrees to adopt a Free Speech Code of Practice as appended to the paper (to apply from 1 August 2024) on the basis that Council will review the Code's contents and operations every other year and recommend changes to Governing Body if necessary.

233. Adornment Committee – Terms of Reference

At its meeting on 23 April 2024 Council considered revised Terms of Reference for the Adornment Committee. Council supported the intention of the proposals, however Council's view was that the draft terms of reference presented at the meeting were not sufficiently clear. The Adornment Committee presented Council with a revised draft.

Council agreed to approved revised Terms of Reference for the Adornment Committee.

234. **Termly Development Report**

The Head of Development provided her termly report on Development Office fundraising, events, and activities since the Development Director's last termly report (at the end of Lent 2024).

Council thanked the Head of Development, and accepted the report.

235. **Gifts of £10,000 or more**

Council were asked to accept gifts of over £10,000 received by the College between 23 February 2024 and 7 May 2024. Council were provided with information about the gift types, sum, and purpose. The Development Office provided assurances that it had carried out appropriate due diligence for the gifts included in the paper.

Council agreed to accept the gifts set out in the paper.

236. **Minutes of the Development Committee on 29 January 2024**

Noted.

237. **Minutes of the Communications Committee on 17 January 2024**

Noted.

238. **Minutes of the Library Committee on 23 January 2024**

Noted.

239. **Minutes of the Library Committee on 23 April 2024**

Noted.

240. **Any Other Business**

The encampment on King's Parade:

The Provost summarised events since the demonstrations started. She noted that the majority of the demonstrators' demands were against the University, not the College, and that the University were taking the lead liaising with the demonstrators and national stakeholders. The College, however, remains in close communication with the University.

She explained that College Officers have implemented the College's incident management processes and that steps had been taken to manage the impact of the demonstrations on the College and its members, the College's

priorities being de-escalation and support for our community. Council's view was that the current incident management model and communications plan was sufficient and should continue whilst circumstances remained the same.

The Provost praised the work of the Senior Tutor, First Bursar and Domus Bursar (as well as senior staff, particularly the Head of Communications and Head Porter). Council echoed the Provost's praises.

The Provost acknowledged that the demonstrators had made divestment demands against King's, Trinity and Christs. The First Bursar provided additional information about the College's investment portfolio to Council (paper 240b). The Provost hopes that the College will be able to have a conversation about the College's endowment, build understanding of investment management principles, and be able to decide as an organisation the investment approach the College wants to take on a variety of matters (climate and human rights, for example).

The First Bursar noted that there is a bill currently in the House of Lords which, if passed, may have the effect of stopping Universities being able to invest based on foreign policy views.

The Domus Bursar noted that there was a risk that the demonstrations would escalate, and asked if Council's had view on ways in which Officers could respond to meet the needs of the College community. The Provost noted upcoming events in College and described steps being taken to mitigate risks associated with them.

Council discussed the risk of escalation, and the potential impact of police intervention. The Officers provided reassurance that they were monitoring the temperature of the demonstrations and had had positive discussions with the local police.

240a. King's Students' Gaza Open Letter

KCSU representatives presented Council with an open letter regarding the conflict taking place in Gaza, and were asked to respond to the students' requests.

The letter asked the College to implement a range of measures, including making a public statement in opposition to the conflict, establishing additional support mechanisms for affected students, taking steps with regard to the College's investment portfolio, and applying pressure on the University to take similar action.

The representative for KCSU recognised that implementing some of the requests could be challenging for the College, and that some might need to be regarded as long-term goals, but asked Council to take action to show students that their voices had been listened to.

Council noted that it would rarely be appropriate for the College to take a stance on a political issue but acknowledged that colleges, including King's, had responded to events in Ukraine. Council suggested that the College could respond to the letter in a manner that was similarly supportive of the academic community (both in Cambridge, and in Israel and Palestine). The Vice Provost noted that the academic support fund established by the College when the conflict in Ukraine started could also be applied for these purposes.

Council asked the College Officers to draft a response to the letter and provide it at the next meeting for Council to review.

240b. **Supplement to King's Students' Open Letter**

The First Bursar provided Council with further information about College investments in relation to the open letter presented to Council by the KCSU representatives. The information has already been released into the public domain, having been published in response to a Freedom of Information request earlier this year.