

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 30 April 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		Registrar
	Dr Good		
	Professor Candea		
	Professor Adhikari		
	Mr Limoncelli*		

*Open Business

197. **Apologies for Absence**

Dr Taylor, Professor Giannitsarou and Mr Lee Boya apologised for their absence. Ms Bulteel and Mx Graham were absent.

OPEN BUSINESS

198. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

199. **Minutes of Open Business 23 April 2024**

Approved.

200. **Matters arising**

At its meeting on 23 April 2024 Council had agreed that the 'Hackathon' on 23 June 2024 could proceed as proposed, subject to a list of sponsors being circulated to and approved by Council. This list had been provided to Council by Dr Mohaddes, E-Lab Director, following that meeting.

Council considered the event sponsors listed about whom particular concerns had been expressed. Council considered the potential risks involved with the event and whether they might be outweighed by the benefits of engaging with a developing area of research. Council agreed that the 'Hackathon' on 23 June 2024 should proceed as proposed and requested a report from the E-Lab Directors about the event after it takes place.

The Domus Bursar noted the operational burden placed on the College by the event. Council encouraged her to liaise with the E-Lab to ensure resourcing was appropriately financially compensated.

201. **Oral reports**

The Provost reported that a proposed talk by the American Ambassador at the College had been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

202. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

King's Affair Update and Data Protection policies in agenda.

Three papers received annually in Lent term overdue (KCGS Vac Bar Accounts, Easter Festival Budget, and Recording Label Annual Report & Accounts). Council expressed concern that these papers had not been received and asked the Registrar to follow up the matter with the respective authors.

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

One new action following the last meeting. The Vice Provost will provide a review of Henry Louis Gates Fellowship Scheme (with proposal to amend College processes accordingly if required) in Easter term 2025.

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 and Adornment Committees (Domus Bursar).

Further actions due during the Vacation.

Strategic

204. **College Position Statement – Fossil Fuels**

In response to student concerns about the climate crisis, the Senior Tutor asked Council to consider issuing a public statement on fossil fuel extraction (in particular, against the Offshore Petroleum Licencing Bill).

Council were reminded of the College's regulatory responsibilities in relation to campaigning and political activity.

Council thanked the Senior Tutor for bringing forward issues of student concern and members of Council expressed support for the sentiment of the proposal. However, Council noted that the request was to make a statement against a piece of proposed legislation currently under review in Parliament. 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.

Council agreed to not issue a statement in line with the request, against new fossil fuel projects.

Routine

205. **Audit & Scrutiny Committee – Appointment of External Members**

The Vice Provost asked Council to consider the appointment and role of an external member to the Audit & Scrutiny Committee. Council in Michaelmas term 2023 had recommended introducing two external members to the Committee, and on 29 January 2024 Governing Body agreed that one external member should be added.

Questions remained about the method of appointment of the external member, what role they should play, and how best to ensure their independence. College Officers had sought the views of the current Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

Council was provided with the Committee's thoughts on these questions and potential terms of reference for the Committee which represented their proposals.

Council acknowledged concerns that an external member may not appreciate the nuances of King's and may seek to suppress qualities that members of the College value, and recognised that the approach proposed by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee would prevent this.

Council considered the distinction between 'audit' (assessment of financial controls and their operation) and 'scrutiny' (evaluation of College activities). Council noted that the College's current model of 'Audit & Scrutiny' was more focused on the latter, and discussed how a specialist external member could improve the former. Council also discussed opportunities to enhance internal audit to support the work of the Finance team and newly introduced Financial Regulations.

Council's view was that the approach proposed by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee placed the external member in a position of surveillance and would not afford the external member 'full membership' of the Committee. This would limit their ability to contribute effectively to the group. The Vice Provost offered to take this view away and produce revised terms of reference for Governing Body to consider.

The Senior Tutor highlighted the importance of selecting a high-quality external member. Council's view was that the appointment process proposed by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee was appropriate. However, Council noted that an external member could not be appointed this year via that mechanism, but felt appointment as soon as possible was desirable.

Council agreed to recommend to Governing Body revised terms of reference for the Audit & Scrutiny Committee which record the appointment process for the Committee's external member as appended to the paper, but subject to amendments which reaffirm the external individual's full membership of the committee.

206. **King's Affair – Update**

Council received its second routine update on preparation for King's Affair 2024 from the King's Affair Committee. The Domus Bursar spoke to the paper. She highlighted that the paper included details of how the proposals approved by Council in Michaelmas 2023 had been implemented. She emphasised that Heads of Department were satisfied with the preparations made.

Council agreed to note the final planning of the King's Affair 2024 and approve the event, subject to final agreements with the Domus Bursar, DPS and Lay Dean.

207. **Cambridge Half Marathon 2025**

The Domus Bursar presented Council with a request to stage part of the Cambridge Half Marathon through King's College in 2025.

The Domus Bursar had conducted research to better understand the feelings of members of College towards the event. Her research found that the Fellowship and student body are both broadly in support.

Council considered the benefits of opening the College up to the public for the event. However, Council noted the significant impact it has on the College's usual operations. The Sunday morning Chapel service suffers particular disruption – effectively the Half Marathon and the Sunday Morning Chapel service are incompatible.

Council were also invited to grant permission for it to also be staged through College in 2026 and 2027 (subject to detailed arrangements being made for each event). Council had previously been asked to grant permission on a year-by-year basis. Council's preference was to continue to grant permission year-by-year, so arrangements could be kept under review and other opportunities for opening the College given fair consideration.

Council agreed that the organisers of the annual Cambridge Half Marathon Event be allowed to make arrangements to proceed through King's College on Sunday 9 March 2025, subject to detailed planning with the Domus Bursar, Head of Visitor Services, Head Porter, Chapel Manager and the Head Gardener.

208. KCMS – Acis and Galatea

Council agreed to permit KCMS to put on performances of Handel's Acis and Galatea in the Fellows' Garden during Mayweek, subject to detailed arrangements agreed with the Domus Bursar.

Compliance

209. Data Protection Policy Review

Following a routine review, the Archivist (College Data Protection Lead) and First Bursar forwarded four privacy policies to Council for final review and approval.

Council:

- a) Reviewed and approved four existing privacy policies (for physical presence on College premises, staff and Fellows, goods and services, and visitors) without change.
- b) Approved an amended Overview privacy policy.

210. Any Other Business

None.