

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 14:00 in the Audit Room and Teams

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	First Bursar
	Professor Giannitsarou		Senior Tutor
	Professor Grosse Ruse-Khan		Domus Bursar
	Ms Headen		Mr Teare* (KCSU President)
	Dr Russell		
	Dr Sarkovic		
	Professor Sharman (online)		Registrar
	Dr Weil		
	Ms O'Callaghan* (KCSU Vice-President)		
	Ms Sally* (KCGU President) (online)		

*Open Business

44. **Apologies for Absence**

Professor Bullock, Professor Foley, Dr Knox, the Vice-Provost and Mr Ahmad (KCGU Treasurer) apologised for their absence.

OPEN BUSINESS

45. **Declarations of Interest**

Ms O'Callaghan and Mr Teare declared an interest in item 52 as undergraduates in College accommodation. Mr Teare declared an interest in item 58 as Treasurer of the King's Affair Committee.

46. **Minutes of Open Business 20 January 2026**

Approved.

47. **Matters arising**

None.

48. **Oral reports**

None.

49. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

On the agenda, Student Accommodation Charges.

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

On the Action List for Lent Term:

- Terms of Reference for separate Audit and Scrutiny Committees
- Proposal for engagement with development of choral skills at school
- Feasibility of an organ competition
- Consider adding pressures on higher education sector to Risk Register
- Undergraduate room banding review
- College position on Equality Act ruling and ECHR guidance
- King's Affair 2026 proposal

51. **Council Project List**

Strategy Development Projects on the Projects List for Lent Term:

- Development 'mind the gap' strategy
- Communications strategy
- Decarbonisation programme options
- Research strategy

Improvement Projects on the Projects List for Lent Term:

- Programme of research workshops and talks
- Review structure and skills of administrative team in Tutorial
- Admissions feedback and evaluation
- Responsible investment implementation
- Kinetics implementation
- Staff development package
- Catering perception change
- Collections restoration campaign
- Segregated mandate for Endowment
- Porters security and training
- Leadership programme for Heads of Department
- New custodian for Endowment
- Implementation of compliance reporting system
- College publications refresh
- Strengthen appraisals process
- College Incident Management Plan
- Introduce Termly Update reporting to GB
- Systems to flag committee items for Council attention

Strategic

None.

Routine

52. **Undergraduate Rent Band Review and College Accommodation Rent Review**

Council discussed the undergraduate rent band review carried out by the Accommodation Tutor working closely with the Domus Bursar, Senior Tutor and student representatives. The new banding was designed to be fairer without materially impacting the student accommodation income. It was also proposed to remove the vacation charge, which had not been used for several years, and that all accommodation rents should increase by 5%, rounded down from 5.06% which is the current five-year rolling average of CIPH which had previously been agreed for undergraduate rent increases. This agreement is to be reviewed in 2029.

Council agreed

1. To adopt the rent band methodology set out in this paper, to be reviewed every 5 years, with a regular review using this methodology for any rooms undergoing changes such as refurbishment.
2. To the removal of the vacation charge.
3. To support the rental increase of 5% for all accommodation charges in line with the model agreed with KCSU, KCGS and Council in 2024 (for review in 2029).

53. Fellows' Garden Wedding Hire

The Domus Bursar introduced this new initiative, which was in response to discussions held by the Gardens and Catering Committees as well as by Council to increase revenue from use of the Fellows' Garden (and other College spaces) that could be achieved without academic impact, so largely outside of Full Term. A venue hire fee would be charged for use of the Fellows' Garden.

Council agreed to approve the use of the Fellows Garden for the wedding of the daughter of an NRM in March 2026.

54. Report from Artist in Residence

Council noted the first report from the Artist in Residence, Marcus Coates.

Compliance

55. Communications Committee Terms of Reference

The Communications Committee met on 21 January 2026 and recommended a correction in job title from Research Manager to Research Director in the list of members.

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

Minutes

56. Minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting on 3 December 2025

Noted.

57. Minutes of the Adornment Committee meeting on 10 December 2025

Noted.

Council discussed the Committee's action "Xu Zhimo Stone and other Visitor Experiences" and asked the Adornment and Gardens Committees for a report on the proposal, to be discussed by Council in the Easter Term. It was noted that Xu Zhimo is a controversial literary figure and that it might be of interest to also focus on other Chinese King's students and academic associates. Further actions and action owners are to be confirmed after plans for the Xu Zhimo Garden have been shared with Council.

Council also noted that the "Legacies of Slavery" plaques that Governing Body had agreed should be placed on the Gibbs Building had not yet materialised and asked the Adornment Committee to add this to the Committee's action list again.

58. Any Other Business

King's Affair Launch

One of the co-chairs of King's Affair, Ms Kate Shortt, attended for this item.

Council discussed the proposed King's Affair Launch Party, planned for Saturday 7 February. It was noted that the original capacity had sold out very quickly and additional tickets would be offered. The Launch Party would make a small loss (around £800), but the King's Affair Committee considered this as acceptable in order to build interest in King's Affair itself. It was noted that Council needed to be given more notice of events in the future.

Council agreed that the King's Affair Launch Party could take place on Saturday 7 February.

KCSU Welfare Day

The KCSU Welfare Officers, Mr Freddie Fineman and Ms Frances Walmsley, attended for this item.

Council discussed the proposed Welfare Day and noted the detailed paper and that the event largely repeated previous Welfare Days, with the addition of evening activities. It was made clear that arrangements for the ponies needed to be agreed with the Head Gardener and that the removal of waste was the organisers' responsibility. It was requested that all major student event proposals are agreed with Heads of Department ahead of the paper coming to Council.

Council agreed the student-run Welfare Day, organised by KCSU and KCGU and funded through the Class of '85 Fund, on 14 March 2025, particularly approving the use of the Back Lawn. Approval was given subject to agreement with the relevant operational Heads of Department.