

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

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

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	First Bursar
	Professor Bullock		Senior Tutor
	Professor Foley (online)		Domus Bursar
	Professor Giannitsarou		
	Professor Grosse Ruse-Khan (until 15:35)		Mr Ahmad* (KCGU Treasurer)
	Ms Headen		Mr Teare* (KCSU President)
	Dr Knox		
	Dr Russell		Registrar
	Dr Sarkovic		
	Professor Sharman		
	Dr Weil		
	Ms Sally* (KCGU President)		

*Open Business

100. **Apologies for Absence**

Ms O'Callaghan (KCSU Vice-President) and the Vice-Provost apologised for their absence.

OPEN BUSINESS

101. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

102. **Minutes of Open Business 17 February 2026**

Approved.

103. **Matters arising**

None.

104. **Oral reports**

Report on Decision by Correspondence

The Provost reported that Council had granted permission for the Sports Day on 8 March 2026 to go ahead.

Report on Lay Dean Disciplinary Outcome

The Senior Tutor reported that the Lay Dean had sanctioned a co-chair of a King's student society with removal from that position, following repeated breaches of policies and agreements with the College. They would also not be able to chair or co-chair a society for the remainder of the academic year.

105. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

On agenda: Privately Funded College Fees. Deferred to the following meeting: Report on Student Numbers & Review of Admissions.

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

Nothing on the agenda. Remaining on the Action List for Lent Term:

- 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
- College position on Equality Act ruling and ECHR guidance
- King's Affair 2026 proposal

107. **Council Project List**

Nothing on the agenda.

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

108. **Graduate Funding Strategy**

Professor Colucci as Graduate Admissions Tutor joined the meeting for this item.

Professor Colucci introduced his proposal for a new graduate funding strategy, with a focus on funding PhD students supervised by King's Fellows. This could replace the current funding strategy or, if additional funds were raised, supplement it. An earlier version of the proposal had been presented at the last Annual Congregation, and this

proposal had been discussed by the Education Committee and Directors of Studies' group. Currently, the College spends on average between £1.2m and £1.3m annually on graduate funding, which has resulted in, mostly partial, funding for 131 students over the last four years. Under the proposed new strategy, these funds would be used to fully fund the academic fees of 30 PhD students, with the aim that these would be supervised by Fellows of the College, preferably early-career Fellows. If philanthropic support could be secured for this, these could be offered in addition to the existing postgraduate spaces.

It was clarified that the proposal did not address the potential funding gap created by expected withdrawal of AHRC funding. This gap remains to be precisely defined but is estimated to be around £1m annually.

Council noted that in many disciplines, early-career researchers would not be accepted as primary supervisors for a PhD, and that the MPhil was an important step on the route to a PhD in most Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences disciplines. It was also made clear that as admission of postgraduate students rested with the University, the College had a limited pool of candidates available, many of which could not be supervised by King's Fellows. Council discussed briefly how to gain additional funds and it was remarked that fundraising for postgraduates was difficult, but that it could be a focus of the next Development campaign.

Professor Colucci left the meeting.

The Senior Tutor expressed her gratitude to Professor Colucci for the thought and ambition that had led to this proposal. She noted the sustainable spend of the College on graduate students was closer to £1.1m than the £1.5m required to fund this proposal. Any proposed change in strategy would also need to be discussed with funding partners such as the Cambridge Trust, to ensure they were supportive and their funding would not cease as a result. Given the questions arising from the proposal the Senior Tutor suggested a desk top exercise be carried out with this cycle's application pool to see if and how the ambitions of the strategy could be applied to a real pool of applicants. The results of that and any proposed refinements to be brought back to Council in Michaelmas 26.

Council thanked Professor Colucci for his proposal and agreed to suspend consideration of the graduate funding strategy until a desktop exercise had been carried out using data from the current admissions round.

Routine

109. Privately Funded Undergraduate Fees

The Senior Tutor proposed the increase of the privately funded undergraduate fees for students admitted for the 2027/28 academic year. The proposal was informed by a comparison with other colleges' fees from the current year. Council discussed the percentage of the increase, as higher fees did not appear to result in fewer applications or obvious cases of student hardship, but decided against a higher percentage increase.

Council agreed to set the College's privately funded undergraduate fees for the academic year 2027/28 at £14,291 for students whose course begins in 2027/28. 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.

110. Charities Committee Report

Council noted a routine report on Charities Committee Activity in Lent Term 2026.

111. Nedap Software Licence – Overspend Request

The Domus Bursar explained that this software licence, which was required for the door access system, had not been renewed last year and thus been omitted from the budget. . Council noted that the cost in subsequent years could be higher if or when additional doors would be brought onto the system.

Council agreed to approve an overspend of £23,179.25 + VAT in the 2025/26 financial year, to reinstate the Nedap software assurance licence for one year initially.

112. Shakespeare Festival Correspondence

Council noted a letter from the Cambridge Shakespeare Festival’s Artistic Director regarding the decision Council took in Michaelmas Term 2025 to discontinue hosting the Festival in the Fellows Garden. It was noted that the Festival was an important part of Cambridge’s cultural calendar and deserved support, but that Council would not review its original decision as the concerns that led to the decision had not been addressed in the correspondence.

113. Amnesty Cage Event

Council agreed to authorise the Cambridge University Amnesty International Society Cage Event to take place on the Front Lawn from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 March 2026.

Compliance

114. Council Deadlines and Circulation

The Registrar introduced proposals for the regulation of submission of papers to Council, both to ensure consistency and timely circulation of papers. Council expressed concern about restricting who could submit papers, and sought to ensure that all members of Governing Body would continue to be able to do so. The Registrar stressed that all papers already needed to have a Council sponsor, so a member of Council who was aware of the proposal and be able to introduce it, though the practice of inviting authors to present papers would continue.

Council agreed to

1. Approve Circulation of Council papers on the Friday before the meeting; and
2. Approve a separate notification and submission deadline for Council papers, to be 9:00am and 2:00pm on the day of circulation respectively.

115. Campaigns and Political Activity Policy

Council postponed discussion of this item due to time constraints.

116. Development Gift Acceptance Policy

Council agreed to accept the proposed summary wording to be added to the Development Gift Acceptance Policy.

117. Room Booking Policy for the Quiet Period

Council agreed to approve the annual review of the Room Booking Policy for the Quiet Period, as proposed by the Lay Dean.

118. Council Committees Terms of Reference

The Registrar proposed that generic texts should be added to all Council Committee Terms of Reference for committees that oversee one or more College Departments. The wording chosen was “Monitor the [DEPARTMENT NAME] department’s routine operation and progress of projects agreed in the Planning Round.”

Council agreed to approve revised Terms of Reference for the following Committees:

1. Buildings and Safety
2. Catering
3. Chapel
4. Communications
5. Development
6. Education
7. E-Lab
8. Gardens
9. Human Resources
10. IT
11. Library
12. Visitors

119. Buildings & Safety Committee Terms of Reference

Council agreed to approve revised Terms of Reference for the Buildings & Safety Committee.

120. Chapel Committee Terms of Reference

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

121. Charities Committee Terms of Reference

Council postponed discussion of this item due to time constraints.

122. Development Committee Terms of Reference

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

123. Gardens Committee Terms of Reference

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

Minutes

124. Minutes of the Development Committee meeting on 22 January 2026

Noted.

125. Minutes of the Gardens Committee meeting on 28 January 2026

Noted.

126. Minutes of the Buildings & Safety Committee meeting on 2 February 2026

Noted.

127. **Minutes of the Chapel Committee meeting on 4 February 2026**

Noted.

128. **Minutes of the Charities Committee meeting on 11 February 2026**

Noted.

129. **Minutes of the Education Committee meeting on 19 February 2026**

Noted.

Any Other Business

130. None.