

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 14:00 in the Audit Room and Teams

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

*Open Business

244. **Apologies for Absence**

The Provost, Professor Bullock, Professor Giannitsarou and Mr Ahmad (KCGU Treasurer) apologised for their absence. Ms Sally* (KCGU President) was absent. As the Provost was not in attendance, the Pro-Provost chaired the meeting.

OPEN BUSINESS

245. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

246. **Minutes of Open Business 28 April 2026**

Approved.

247. **Matters arising**

None.

248. **Oral reports**

UK Terrorism Level

The Domus Bursar reported on the College's operational response to the UK Terrorism Level rising to "severe", the second-highest level possible. A working group had been set up to work with the local counter-terrorism officer to look at the College's openness to non-members and would bring options to Council on how to respond.

Renaming of the Graduate Suite Rooms

The Senior Tutor reported that a benefactor had donated E.M. Forster books to the College's graduates, who had voted to rename the rooms of the Graduate Suite inspired by Forster's work.

Council agreed to renaming the rooms comprising the Graduate Suite to The Forster Room, Howard's End, The Room with a View, and The Maurice Room.

249. Council Timetable – Open Matters

Proposal for Fun Day on the agenda. Grad Bar Report is still outstanding. Strategy Discussion was deferred to the following meeting. No other papers required.

250. Council Action List – Open Matters

Nothing on agenda or overdue. The actions due this Term from the Chapel Committee and Director of Music were deferred to Michaelmas Term in view of his sabbatical leave this Term.

251. Council Project List

Nothing on agenda or overdue.

Strategic

None.

Routine

252. New Matriculation Schedule

The Senior Tutor introduced the proposal to bring the coming up day for new students a day earlier, so on the Thursday rather than the Friday before the start of Full Term. This was necessary as the matriculation schedule had become too busy over recent years due to additional departmental inductions and College sessions. It may be necessary in future years to bring the arrival day forward even further, in line with many other colleges, but this would be reviewed in Michaelmas Term. The Senior Tutor stressed that at this point only the earlier arrival was being discussed. The full matriculation schedule would be brought to Council for approval at a meeting later this Term. She asked Council to note that when planning the new schedule of events the Tutorial team would be considering student feedback on matriculation events, and Directors of Studies may be asked to see their first year DoSees on the Friday rather than the Monday so that they meet them for the first time in an educational setting rather than over drinks before the matriculation dinner.

Council agreed to approve the new matriculation schedule: coming up on the Thursday prior to the start of Full Term.

253. Fun Day Proposal

The KCSU President spoke about the Fun Day, which was proposed for Sunday 21 June, the day before the start of May Week. The Fun Day had been organised for many years as a KCSU event and engagement had been very good. The Domus Bursar confirmed that operational Heads of Department were content with the proposal. It was noted that the date meant that the Race for Life route would not run through King's this year.

Council agreed to approve KCSU organising Funday on Sunday 21st June 2026, with details subject to the approval of the Lay Dean; Head Porter; Health, Safety

and Compliance Officer; Designated Premises Supervisor; and the Domus Bursar.

Compliance

254. Harassment, Sexual Harassment & Bullying Policy (Student Complaints)

Council discussed the proposed introduction of a single policy dealing with student complaints about Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Bullying and detailing the process for both complaints against Fellows and staff and against other students. The Policy had been developed by a Working Group (comprised of the Lay Dean, the Welfare Tutor, the College Nurse, the Registrar and KCSU and KCGU representatives) and approved by the Education Committee.

Council raised several concerns with the Policy, and asked the Working Group to review the Policy, with particular attention to the following:

- i) To add paragraph numbers to make reference to the Policy easier;
- ii) To add links to the relevant policies in the Staff Handbook and Academic Staff Handbook in the Introduction;
- iii) To add a clearer definition of the locations and circumstances of behaviour that are included and excluded in the Policy, and especially with regards to behaviour on social media;
- iv) To remove the first paragraph break in the section 'What are Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Bullying?';
- v) To rephrase "Specific examples of this can be found below." in this paragraph, as the list below is not specific;
- vi) To also make clear in this section that the definition may be subject to considerations of Free Speech and the Equality Act, and to link to King's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech;
- vii) To reconsider the inclusion of emblems or flags in the list of behaviour 'potentially' included in the list of forms of harassment or sexual harassment;
- viii) To ensure that victimisation is covered and routes to support sign-posted;
- ix) To remove the word "where" in the first paragraph of the sections 'Formal Procedure';
- x) To reposition the third paragraph of these sections at the end of these sections;
- xi) To give further thought to precautionary measures;
- xii) To consider how the Policy applies to Non-Resident Members of the College; and
- xiii) To ensure that these changes are also reflected in the policies that apply to Fellows and staff.

255. Campaigns and Political Activity Policy

The Registrar proposed the introduction of a Campaigns and Political Activity Policy. Discussion of this item had been delayed from Lent Term due to time pressure.

Council discussed the proposed Policy, with some members favouring adoption while others questioned the advisability of introducing such a policy as it was seen to suggest more constraint on the expression of political and other views by members of College than was easily compatible with free speech. While the Charity Commission requires the College to have such a policy in place, the form required is not as closely defined, and it was considered to have an alternative policy that restricted itself to the expression of political and other views by or on behalf of the Governing Body.

Council agreed not to approve the attached Campaigns and Political Activity Policy and asked the Registrar to propose a revised policy for adoption in due course.

Minutes

None.

256. **Any Other Business**

None.