

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday, 18th January 2022 at 2pm in the Audit Room and via Zoom

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	Vice-Provost
	Dr Adams (from 14:15)		Senior Tutor
	Dr Candea		First Bursar
	Dr Clarà Saracho		Domus Bursar
	Dr Dolan		
	Dr Dunn		
	Professor Griffin	*Open business:	*Mr Pugh (left 14:40)
	Professor Griffiths		*Mr Russo
	Professor Perry		*Mr Provost (left 14:40)
	Dr Srinivasan (from 14:47)		
	*Ms Kadlecova		
	*Ms Kelly		

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Matters arising

None.

3. Oral reports

Council was updated on several current issues –

- The first weekly asymptomatic testing was conducted on 17th January, with the participation rate being low. It was hoped that there would be a significant increase to the rate on the next occasion (24th January), in order to demonstrate either a very low incidence of Covid in College, or a prompt response to asymptomatic cases – this being key to being able to determine whether events in College could proceed. Student Representatives agreed to take this message back to their communities via social media and encourage greater participation on 24th January.
- IT Network – Council was informed that there was no evidence of exfiltration. The ICO and Charities Commission have been informed of the incident, and both are content with the response from College. Financial costs are currently deemed to be minimal, with the greater cost being the impact on disruption to staff, and to students through the temporary loss of Wifi. A number of additional security measures are being introduced as the work continues towards restoration.

- Council recognised the impact of loss of Wifi to students (and others) during the network down-time and agreed a compensation of £20 per resident student as a gesture of goodwill.

Principal Items of Business

4. Budget Strategy

The First Bursar presented a paper on Budget Strategy, and asked Council how to develop a budget for 2022-23 and to instruct the Finance Committee accordingly.

Council reviewed the current budget and considered observations made by the First Bursar. In looking ahead to the budget plans for 2022-23 it agreed that the Finance Committee should update the Financial Strategic Plan to cover the period up to 2028 and to update it in future years, and further agreed that it would make sense to conduct a survey of the value of the estate every five years such that valuations related to future depreciation. It accepted the need to base department budgets on those agreed in the existing strategic plan but recognised expected increases in costs and salaries due to inflation. The HR Committee should be expected to limit the total of exceptional salary increases to no more than 0.5% of the total staff budget.

Council agreed:

- (a) to request the Finance Committee to update the strategic plan to cover the period up to 2028, and to update it in future years.
- (b) to request the Finance Committee to base department budgets on those agreed in the strategic plan last year but taking account of the expected increase in costs and salaries due to inflation.
- (c) to request the HR Committee to limit the total of exceptional salary increases to no more than 0.5% of the total staff budget. The Finance Committee should prepare the draft budget on that basis, and
- (d) to engage suitable surveyors to conduct a survey of buildings following the completion of the Croft Gardens development to determine what the depreciation charge should be, and to undertake this survey every five years thereafter.

Other Items for Discussion

5. Report from the Audit & Scrutiny Committee

The First Bursar asked Council to consider what actions are necessary in response to the report from the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

Council considered the 2021 Report of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee, observing comment on the impact of the pandemic on the budget, storage of wine and, in particular, concerns over due diligence of donors to the College. With respect to the latter, Council expressed their regret that the observations on this matter raised in the 2020 report were discussed but were not covered in relevant Council minutes. Since the issues raised by the Committee on the budget and wine stocks were currently being addressed, Council focussed their discussion on donor due diligence. They received a brief from the Director of

Development and noted the degree of diligence that was currently provided to proposed donations, both through College and the University. Council also noted that certain members of the Scrutiny Committee were satisfied with the governance of the Development Committee, with respect to proposed donations. Council was not persuaded of the proposal for a Fellow to be appointed “Inspector of Donations” but noted that the Development Office was able to call on the services of an external consultant, and agreed that the Governing Body would be asked whether any particular potential donor should be referred to this consultant for additional due diligence.

Council agreed:
to note the report of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee and the responses to this.

Business for Report

None

6. Any Other Business

None.

(Meeting closed at 1445)