

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday, 21st February 2023 at 2.00pm in the Audit Room

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	Vice-Provost
	Professor Giannitsarou		Senior Tutor
	Professor Hall		First Bursar
	Professor Sharman		Domus Bursar
	Professor Dunn		
	Dr Taylor		*Ms Olumide-Wahab
	Dr Good		*Mr Gasienica-Ciulacz
	Dr Dolan		
	Dr Adhikari		
	*Ms Kadlecova		
	*Mr Erwig		*Open business

Dr Zoe Adams was in attendance for Paper 76.

Apologies for Absence

Professors Griffiths and Candea apologised for their absence.

OPEN BUSINESS

70. Declarations of Interest

None.

71. Minutes of Open Business 7th Feb 2023

Approved.

72. Matters arising

None.

73. Council Timetable – Open Matters

In agenda, with one paper delayed to Meeting No 4 (Financial report on recordings).

74. Council Action List – Open Matters

Six papers due Lent 2023, no outstanding.

75. Oral reports

None.

Principal Items of Business

76. Admissions and Outreach Report 2022

The Admissions Tutor presented the Admissions and Outreach report 2022, and while applications were lower than 2021 they were more typical. A high % of students come from the maintained sector schools, but the almost equal split

between female and male among applications was not matched by the numbers admitted because of strong differences in gender balance between subjects. The greater number of pooled candidates made offers by other Colleges indicates the attractiveness of King's applicants. Work continues to attract more female applicants in Maths, Engineering and Computer Science (there is a better balance of gender in social sciences, arts and humanities).

Outreach and widening participation initiatives moved back to in-person programmes, but linked where appropriate to on-line workshops; a good balance is being achieved. Work continues to improve social media presence and the access bus is back on the road. The Bridging Programme continues to be popular with the students, and lessons learned are being built into future programmes.

Council welcomed the report, and congratulated the Admissions Tutor and her team, and thanked Dr Adams for the many initiatives she has developed and delivered in this key area of College business. It was confirmed that the interview assessment process was presently being reviewed and may change, and Fellows will be consulted in this review.

77. Student Accommodation Charges 2023-24

The First Bursar asked Council to approve accommodation charges for undergraduate and graduate students for the academic year 2023-24. He indicated the three perspectives applied in this review, those being benchmarking against other institutions, costs of provision and affordability. While noting that student loans and grants had increased by a smaller percentage, the College's established method of benchmarking against other universities indicated an increase in room rents of 8.0%. Further to this, however, an assessment of the College's costs suggested that the cost of provision of student rooms would see double-digit growth into next year, tied especially to substantial increases in energy costs. Other charges (laundry, insurance for personal possessions and the Kitchen Fixed Charge (KFC)) were also reviewed. While laundry and insurance could remain at the same level, earlier methods for calculating the KFC indicated that the charge should increase by 10%. Given ongoing economic volatility, the First Bursar also proposed that the methodology for accommodation charges be reviewed again next year, rather than now being set for another 5-year cycle.

The student members accepted that while the room rent increase is likely to be high, they understood the rationale and were grateful for the consultation that had taken place. They challenged the rationale for the KFC, and asked that the increase be more modest. The First Bursar agreed to this.

Council agreed to increase room rents by 8.0% and the Kitchen Fixed Charge by 3.0% from 1 October 2023. The costs for insurance and laundry remain unchanged from 2021. Council agreed that the methodology should be reviewed again next year, in light of the uncertain economic environment.

Other Items for Discussion

78. Hoarding installation

The Domus Bursar asked that Council consider a decoration scheme on the hoarding to the front of College, and that its content reflects a number of approaches the College is taking to respond to sustainability challenges and climate change. He informed Council that College Officers had some reservations, with some questioning how the displays resonated with College, and the absence of information about the work on the Chapel and concerned that it might attract adverse comment. The quality of design and illustration was acknowledged, although it was felt that some of the wording was in danger of overstating what the College has achieved. It was noted that QR codes would link to specific pages on the College website to provide more detail. The student members warmed to the aesthetics and the positive message on climate change.

Council asked for some revision to the wording and that the purpose of the work (both on the Chapel roof and Spalding Hostel) be made more clear.

Subject to the above, and to revisions being signed off by College Officers, Council approved the installation of the graphical panels to the hoarding to the front of College.

Business for Report

79. Concerts during academic year 2022 - 23

Noted by Council.

80. Termly Charities Report

Noted by Council.

81. Chapel Committee – Terms of Reference

Council agreed

- a) The amended Terms of Reference for the Chapel Committee,
- b) that the Dean of Chapel be added to the list of ‘in attendance’ at the Buildings Committee, and
- c) that the Chapel Committee’s agenda be structured in items of unreserved and reserved business.

82. Minutes of Bldgs & Safety Committee 23 Jan 23

Noted.

83. Minutes of Finance Committee 27 Jan 23

Noted.

84. Minutes of Gardens Committee 30 Jan 23

Noted.

85. Filming in College 16-18 Apr 23

Council approved a request for filming in College in April 2023, subject to further negotiations to ensure the privacy of College residents is maintained, that access is maintained for residents, and student involvement is considered by the film company. They also asked that agreed provisions for those respecting Ramadan be maintained over these days.

86. Fitness to Study – Policy Review 2023

Council agreed to accept the revised Fitness to Study Policy, and to agree to review the policy in February 2028.

87. Any Other Business

None.

Open business concluded at 1545 and Professor Sharman departed at 1548.