

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 20 February 2024 at 2.00pm in the Audit Room

Present:	Provost	In Attendance:	Vice Provost
	Professor Sharman		Senior Tutor
	Professor Candea (via Zoom, until 15:00)		First Bursar
	Dr Russell		Domus Bursar
	Professor Giannitsarou		Mr Lee Boya*
	Dr Adhikari		Mx Graham*
	Mr Limoncelli*		
	Dr Sarkovic		Registrar

*Open Business

90. **Apologies for Absence**

Dr Good, Dr Taylor, Ms Bulteel, Professor Dunn and Ms Headen apologised for their absence.

OPEN BUSINESS

91. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

92. **Minutes of Open Business 6 February 2024**

Approved, with amendments shown in track in Council's papers (changes were at Item 64 to correct an error in the vote structure and to reflect Dr Good's comments) accepted.

93. **Matters arising**

None.

94. **Oral reports**

None.

95. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

Charities Committee report, and student activity reports (Report on Student Societies and Proposal for 'Fun Day'/Welfare Day) in agenda. Final student activity report (Accounts for Vac Bar) to follow.

Due to Chapel staff absences, the Easter Festival Budget will be reported on at the start of Easter Term (after the event), along with the Recording Label Annual Report & Accounts. However, Council felt they should have oversight of the Easter Festival plans and budget prior to the event. Council therefore requested an oral report from the Chapel team at the next meeting and decided this change to the timetable should only occur in extraordinary circumstances.

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

Report from the Senior Tutor on Scholarships and Prizes to follow this term. Education Committee to present revised terms of reference, to reflect absorption of SEC responsibilities, to Council. However, the Education Committee will not look to revise its terms of reference in this regard until Governing Body have decided whether to approve corresponding changes to the Ordinances.

Draft financial regulations (First Bursar) overdue.

Strategic

None.

Routine

97. **Termly Updates**

The First Bursar spoke to the Termly Update paper, which contained updates from the Senior Tutor (Teaching & Tutorial), the Dean (Chapel, Choir & Visitors), the Domus Bursar (Operations & Buildings), the Head of Development (Development) and the First Bursar (Cross-cutting). Most areas remain on track with 2023–2024 priorities.

With regard to finances, the College remains just ahead of expectations for the financial year. Whilst a downward movement from Michaelmas projections, much of this was driven by a change in how visitor income is accounted for (until recently it was counted by date the visit is booked, rather than the date the visit takes place). The latter was seen as preferable as the College would be able to better understand when visiting is at its peak. This moves a significant element of revenue from the current financial year but will not affect next year's results.

Some challenges were noted. Resourcing limits were highlighted as a particular challenge for the Senior Tutor, Research Managers and Domus Bursar. Allocating staff and College Officer resource to drive the College's sustainability agenda was also flagged as challenging.

Council were invited to comment on the structure of the Termly Update reports.

The First Bursar responded to Professor Sharman's query regarding the IntoUniversity project. Professor Sharman's view was that the project is "off track" given the failures to meet earlier deadlines and with remaining funds (and the co-operation of a partner organisation) still to be confirmed. The First Bursar's view was that the vote of Governing Body indicated increased confidence in the project. He offered to discuss this assessment with the Head of Development.

Council noted the Termly Update report.

98. **Croft Gardens Overspend**

The Domus Bursar asked Council to retrospectively authorise an overspend of £40,800 on repairs to a structurally unsound wall at Croft Gardens. The Domus Bursar explained that work to the wall had not been included in the original scope of the project. This overspend could not be accommodated by making capital savings elsewhere this financial year. However, the Domus Bursar noted that several other projects are running below budget so the College is likely to underspend in cash terms.

The Domus Bursar noted that the overspend and an associated budget reforecast, both before her time at King's, had not been the subject of sufficient oversight. The First Bursar noted that the introduction of Financial Regulations and the forthcoming addition of a management accountant to the Finance team would support improve enforcement of financial controls.

The Domus Bursar will return to Council with further information on reforecasting the capital expenditure budget for Croft Gardens for this financial year in due course.

Council agreed:

- a) To retrospectively authorise £40,800.00 expenditure on works to repair a garden wall at Croft Gardens; and
- b) To ask the Domus Bursar to bring a paper to Council regarding the Croft Gardens budget reforecast by the end of Easter 2024.

99. **Report on Student Societies**

KCSU and KCGS bought their annual report on student societies to Council. Mx Graham spoke to the report. They highlighted the Drama Society, which had put on several well-attended performances recently, as particularly successful. They drew Council's attention to the new KCSU website and communal calendar, and KCSU's drive to ensure all societies had a visible point of contact. This had led to better transparency and engagement.

The Senior Tutor explained that KCSU and KCGS receive income on a per capita basis. KCSU and KCGS then decide how to allocate this income.

The Provost asked the Junior Members to comment on societies that had closed. Mx Graham explained that closures were rare, and usually occurred when the head of a particular society left King's and there was no successor.

Mx Graham and the Senior Tutor agreed it was preferable for societies to remain in 'Category C'. Category C societies do not have their own bank accounts. This helps ensure the student unions retain financial oversight.

The Senior Tutor asked Council to consider how KCSU and KCGS report to Council and the Governing Body. This paper usually comes starred to Council only. She asked Council's view on whether KCSU and KCGS should report to Governing Body at Annual Congregation. Council expressed concern about adding more business to Annual Congregation, but welcomed a report from KCSU and KCGS at another point in the year.

Council noted the report on student societies.

100. **Amnesty International Event March 2024**

Council noted that the Cambridge University Amnesty International Cage event will take place from Friday 1 to Monday 4 of March 2024.

101. **Student Welfare Day**

The KCSU Welfare Officers asked Council to endorse the student-run Welfare Day.

Council agreed for the 2 March 2024 Welfare Day to be put on as planned and outlined by the Junior Members.

Compliance

102. **Charities Committee Report**

Noted.

103. **Terms of Reference – Buildings & Safety Committee**

The Buildings & Safety Committee asked Council to approve changes to its terms of reference, as follows:

- General Membership amended to reflect current practice (Provost and Assistant Tutor removed).
- A copy of the committee's minutes will be sent to the Adornment Committee.
- Line three will read (changes in italics): "To monitor the repair and maintenance programmes of the College buildings and *wider Estate*."

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

104. **Minutes of the Buildings & Safety Committee on 22 January 2024**

Noted.

105. **Terms of Reference – Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee asked Council to approve changes to its terms of reference. The only change proposed was removing references to the Inspectors of Account (so the Terms of Reference would refer to its successor, the Audit & Scrutiny Committee, only).

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

106. **Minutes of the Finance Committee on 26 January 2024**

Noted.

107. **Minutes of the IT Committee on 24 January 2024**

Noted.

108. **Any Other Business**

None.