

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At the Ordinary Congregation
held on Friday 19 July 2024
at 14:00 in the SCR and via Zoom.

Present (starred names attended on Zoom)

Dr Zoe Adams	Mrs Lorraine Headen	Dr Basim Musallam*
Dr Ronojoy Adhikari	Dr Kate Herrity*	Professor Rosanna Omitowoju
Dr Tess Adkins*	Dr Myfanwy Hill	Professor Robin Osborne
Dr Sebastian Ahnert	Professor Martin Hyland	Dr Sophie Pickford
Professor Anna Alexandrova	Ms Polly Ingham	Professor Surabhi Ranganathan*
Dr Shannon Bonke	Professor Barry Keverne	Dr Angus Russell*
Dr Keith Carne	Dr Phil Knox	Professor Paul Ryan
Rev Dr Stephen Cherry	Dr Patrycja Kozik	Dr Sharath Srinivasan
Dr Ivan Collister	Dr Joanna Kusiak*	Dr Gillian Tett*
Professor Francesco Colucci*	Professor Charlie Loke*	Mr Jim Trevithick
Professor Pete de Bolla	Professor Alan Macfarlane	Dr Marco Tripodi
Professor John Dunn	Dr Cicely Marshall	Dr Sophie Turenne*
Professor George Efstathiou	Professor Jean Michel Massing	Professor Caroline Van Eck*
Professor Iain Fenlon*	Professor Cam Middleton	Dr Dror Weil
Professor Henning Grosse Ruse-Khan	Dr Perveez Mody	Professor Darin Weinberg*
Professor Ross Harrison	Professor Geoff Moggridge	Professor Godela Weiss-Sussex
Mr Api Hasthanasombat	Dr Ken Moody	Dr Tom White*
Dr Katie Haworth		

The Vice Provost chaired the meeting as the Provost was attending remotely.

83 Apologies

Professor John Arnold	Professor Chris Gilligan CBE	Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas
Dr Seda Basihos	Dr David Good	Professor Dan McKenzie
Professor Mike Bate	Mx Teddy Graham	Dr Jonah Miller
Dr Francesco Bianchini	Professor Gillian Griffiths	Dr Fraz Mir
Dr Marcus Böick	Professor Mark Gross	Dr Kamiar Mohaddes
Dr Giulia Boitani	Dr Tiffany Harte	Dr Gabriela Montejo-Kovacevich
Professor Richard Bourke	Professor John Henderson	Dr Rory O'Bryen

Professor Angela Breitenbach	Dr Felipe Hernandez	Professor John Perry
Professor Jude Browne	Dr David Hillman	Professor Chris Prendergast
Professor Nick Bullock	Dr Stephen Hugh-Jones	Professor Mike Proctor
Ms Berenice Bulteel	Professor Dame Carrie Humphrey DBE	Dr Ben Ravenhill
Dr Katie Campbell	Professor Herbert Huppert	Professor Thomas Roulet
Professor Matei Candea	Dr Said Reza Huseini	Professor Robert Rowthorn
Dr Sarah Crisp	Professor Alice Hutchings	Professor Hamid Sabourian
Dr Laura Davies	Mr Daniel Hyde	Dr Andjela Sarkovic
Professor Anne Davis	Professor Ian James	Professor Jason Sharman
Dr James Dolan	Professor Mark Johnson	Dr Mira Siegelberg
Dr Sebastian Eves-Van den Akker	Mr Peter Jones	Dr Mike Sonenscher
Professor Elisa Faraglia	Dr Aileen Kelly	Dr James Taylor
Professor James Fawcett	Professor James Laidlaw	Professor Nick Tosca
Dr Tim Flack	Professor Richard Lambert	Professor Bert Vaux
Professor Rob Foley	Mr Spencer Lee Boya	Professor Jamie Vicary
Professor Matthew Gandy	Dr Zhuangnan Li	Dr Rob Wallach
Professor Chryssi Giannitsarou	Mr Luca Limocelli	Professor John Young
Professor Lord Tony Giddens	Professor Sarah Lummis	Professor Nicolette Zeeman
Professor Ingo Gildenhard	Professor Nick Marston	

On Leave

Dr Nick Atkins	Professor Aytek Erdil	Professor Chez Hall
Dr Mirjana Bozic	Professor Simon Goldhill	Dr Malar Jayanth
Professor Richard Causton	Professor Caroline Goodson	

Open Business Only

None.

OPEN BUSINESS

84 Declarations of Interest

None.

85 Minutes of Open Business of the Ordinary Congregation held on 24 June 2024

Approved.

86 Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

87 ***Oral Reports***

Undergraduate Admissions Governance

The Senior Tutor provided an oral report on proposed changes to University-wide governance arrangements for undergraduate admissions. She and the Admissions Tutor had fed back Governing Body's concerns into the consultation and had received an updated set of proposals.

The Senior Tutor's view was that the updated proposals addressed most of the issues raised by Governing Body but that some matters of detail still needed to be resolved. She will remain involved in the consultation and expects to receive a final proposal in Michaelmas term. Governing Body will then be asked to vote on that proposal.

The Senior Tutor confirmed that, if Governing Body votes against the final proposals, the changes would not be able to proceed as a common action decision by the Colleges is required.

SCR 'Open Door' Policy

The Vice Provost asked Governing Body to note a change in the College's policy of leaving the door from the Front Court to the SCR open during lunchtime and before High Table. Concerns had been raised about whether the SCR was adequately secure, particularly during summer when visitor numbers are high.

Governing Body supported changing the door to the SCR from Front Court to card-access only at all times. Governing Body asked the Domus Bursar to progress adding card access to the door from Webb's Court and to explore the feasibility of one-time card access for guests.

Principal Business

88 **Examination Results**

The Senior Tutor presented a routine paper containing undergraduate examination results for the preceding academic year (2023-2024) and an analysis of them. She invited Governing Body to note that this was the first 'normal' exam season for her since she took on the role.

The Senior Tutor acknowledged the limitations of her data, as she is reporting on small numbers, but highlighted various positive outcomes indicated by that data. She will provide a more extensive analysis that utilises University data (not yet available) at the Annual Congregation.

The Senior Tutor also commented on a sharp increase in the number of plagiarism cases being experienced across the University. The Tutorial Office is implementing measures to better inform students about what constitutes academic misconduct and the Senior Tutor asked Fellows to do the same.

Governing Body accepted the summary report of undergraduate examination results and also thanked the Senior Tutor, Tutorial staff, Tutors and Directors of Studies for their work during the previous academic year.

89 **Grantchester Meadows**

The First Bursar, with the support of the Investment Committee, presented a proposal to progress an agreement for the management of Grantchester Meadows.

The First Bursar highlighted recent evolution in the Meadows' use. After wide-ranging consultation over the past 18 months, his view was that a partnership would support more effective management of the Meadows for the benefit of local communities and the wider city, to mitigate reputational risks to the College, and help protect the Meadows as an asset in the long term.

Governing Body acknowledged that direct management of the Meadows would require significant additional resources and that the College lacked the required expertise. However, Governing Body also emphasised the Meadows' value as a community asset and the importance of its continued free use. The First Bursar explained that the College's prospective partners had good, pre-existing relationships with local communities and other stakeholders who took an active interest in the Meadows. The intent behind partnership would be to build on existing voluntary and other community efforts to safeguard the Meadows. Additionally, the structure of the agreement would tightly limit the activities any partner would be able to undertake at the Meadows. Lastly, this initial short-term agreement was designed to give space to test the arrangement before any longer-term agreement may be considered.

Governing Body discussed various reputational risks associated with management of the Meadows and within the wider environs of Newnham and Grantchester.

Governing Body agreed to delegate to the First Bursar completion of an agreement for the management of Grantchester Meadows.

90 **Statement of Investment Policy**

The First Bursar invited Governing Body to approve a Statement of Investment Policy, recommended by the Investment Committee, to be published on the College website. The First Bursar explained that the intention of the statement was to improve the transparency of the College's existing practice. His expectation was that the Working Group on Responsible Investment would propose various changes in due course.

Governing Body considered future governance of the College's investment policy in relation to responsible investments. The First Bursar noted that he expected the Working Group to consider such proposals.

Governing Body discussed the publication of the Statement. Given the Working Group process, it was suggested that the following should be added as the final sentence of the first paragraph in section 4: *"The College is currently considering the best ways to give effect to ethical and social responsibility considerations in managing its investments"*. It was further suggested that the text introducing the document on the website should flag that this aspect of the policy was currently under review.

Governing Body agreed to approve a Statement of Investment Policy to be published on the College website in due course, incorporating the amendments agreed during the meeting.

91 **Wild Flower Meadow**

At its meeting on 24 June 2024 Governing Body considered a proposal from the Gardens Committee to expand the Wild Flower Meadow on the Back Lawn and agreed that its indicative preference was to make permanent the flower meadow on the back lawn and to partially expand it.

Professor Moggridge, on behalf of the Gardens Committee, presented expansion options. The options had been developed with the College's use of the lawn, and spatial continuity, in mind. He also drew attention to proposals to turn part of Scholars' Piece into a recreational space; these will be developed by the Gardens Committee in Michaelmas term and brought back to Governing Body.

Governing Body considered whether it required more information about the range of issues relevant to its decision. Alongside questions about the financial and operational impacts, a view was expressed that Governing Body might consider the heritage and design aspects of the Back Lawn. Professor de Bolla offered to deliver a lecture contextualising the Lawn in the landscape arts, which other members supported.

Professor Moggridge noted that, if Governing Body did not make a decision about expansion at this meeting, the opportunity to plant a larger area for next year would be lost. He confirmed, however, that if Governing Body did not reach a decision the status quo would be maintained.

Governing Body noted that there was a case for considering the Back Lawn and wild flower meadow in the context of a wider review of the College landscape, and in particular in conjunction with proposals about Scholars' Piece. The Domus Bursar explained that an updated proposal concerning the landscape as a whole within the biodiversity strategy and holistic plans for the College estate would not be ready in Michaelmas term.

The Vice Provost proposed that before voting on any of the detailed proposals by the Gardens Committee, Governing Body should decide whether it wished to postpone a decision until it had been more informed and had an opportunity to consider the plans for the landscape as a whole.

Governing Body agreed that it should return to this issue next academic year once it had heard from Professor de Bolla and had an opportunity to consider a wider set of information, including the whole biodiversity strategy and emerging planning around the College estate. In the meantime, the Wildflower Meadow will be maintained in its current form and at its current extent.

Routine Papers (for report only)

92 Eton Statutes Amendments

The Vice Provost asked Governing Body to note that Council has approved changes to the Statutes of Eton College that mean that the Provost of King's will no longer be ex officio a Fellow of Eton. The change is consistent with other changes being made to the Eton statutes, which are to remove all requirements for particular Fellows to belong to or be nominated by specific institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, the Royal Society or the judiciary.

93 **Any Other Business**

None.