

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 2.00pm in the Audit Room

Present:	Provost (until 16:05) Dr Adhikari Professor Sharman (until 16:00) Dr Russell Ms Headen Dr Sarkovic Dr Good Dr Taylor (until 16:45) Professor Giannitsarou Professor Dunn Professor Candea *Mr Limoncelli	In Attendance:	Vice Provost First Bursar Senior Tutor Domus Bursar Dr Srinivasan (Item 314 only) *Mr Lee Boya *Mr Kareem Gomersall (via Zoom - Item 307a only). Registrar *Open Business
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291. **Apologies for Absence**

Ms Bulteel apologised for her absence. Mx Graham was absent.

OPEN BUSINESS

292. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

293. **Minutes of Open Business 28 May 2024**

Approved.

294. **Matters arising**

None.

295. **Oral reports**

An update on protests relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was addressed by item 307a.

The Registrar provided an update on the review of College policies. Several reviews are underway. Council was asked to take a view on the regularity of future updates. Council asked the Registrar to deliver an oral update on the College's policies each term. This will be added to Council's timetable of routine business.

The Domus Bursar informed Council about operational steps taken to manage disruption to Chapel services caused by members of the congregation leaving early. The Dean, Head of Visitor Services and Deputy Head Porter had been consulted on the changes, which require no additional staffing. Attendees who wish to leave early are being asked to sit in the antechapel and are guided by temporary fencing to the appropriate College exit. The Domus Bursar confirmed this will not impact access for members of College.

296. Council Timetable – Open Matters

Strategic:

- No papers timetabled.

Routine:

- Update on Easter Festival Budget and Recording Label Annual Report & Accounts expected at a later meeting.
- Termly Update will follow.
- Papers on Scholarships and funds will follow.

Compliance:

- OIA Return in agenda.
- Charities Committee Report in agenda.
- King's College School Board minutes to follow.

297. Council Action List – Open Matters

Papers regarding Croft Gardens budget reforecast, statement on approach to room bookings for routine internal events, Gardens Committee terms of reference, and Education Committee terms of reference, in agenda. Update on policy review delivered as an oral report.

Actions due to be completed during Easter term and the Vacation:

- Review of effectiveness of EDI Committee (Vice Provost)
- Provide Council with proposal to simplify College access rights (Domus Bursar)
- Return draft events policy to Council (Registrar)
- Review graduate numbers against current policy (Senior Tutor).
- Provide post-event report on E-Lab Hackathon (E-Lab Directors).

Strategic

None.

Routine

298. King's College School – Capital Works

The First Bursar asked Council to support refurbishment works being undertaken by King's College School. The College's permission (in its capacity as the School's landlord) is required before the School can undertake building work.

In response to queries, the First Bursar explained that all costs (along with the College's legal and surveyors' fees) will be met by the School and that, now the entities are legally separate, the financial risk would not sit with the College.

The First Bursar also asked Council to support his proposed approach to the execution of related documents. Following the legal separation of the School, the College now treats development of the School facilities and grounds in the same manner as other investment properties. The First Bursar proposed to use the authority in Ordinance O.1.2 which states that documents relating to these types of properties, such as leases, can be sealed subject to advice from the College's agents. The College's usual practice would be to execute a Licence to Alter alongside the related lease.

Council agreed:

- a) That the College, as King's College School's landlord, should grant consent for the School's proposed scheme of capital works subject to advice being received from the College's surveyors; and
- b) That documents relating to the works should be executed in the usual manner for College investment properties, including by use of the College seal under the authority in Ordinance 1.2(a) where necessary.

299. Croft Gardens Budget Reforecast

The Domus Bursar provided a report on the budget for the Stephen Taylor Court Project to provide context for project overspends. The First Bursar highlighted how the report demonstrates the complexity of the College's capital works projects. The Domus Bursar agreed and took the opportunity to praise what the Head of Capital Works has delivered.

Council thanked the Domus Bursar for the report.

300. Education Committee – Terms of Reference

The Senior Tutor, on behalf of the Education Committee, asked Council to approve amended Terms of Reference. At Council's request, the Committee had proposed changes to reflect that it had absorbed the Studentship Electors Committee's responsibilities. The Senior Tutor also highlighted that the Committee had agreed to appoint Dr Davies as its chair (to replace the Senior Tutor).

Council agreed to approve revised terms of reference for the Education Committee, as included with the paper (subject to re-

instating the First Bursar as an ex-officio member, who had been omitted in error).

300. Gardens Committee – Terms of Reference

Council had asked the Gardens and Adornment Committees to review their terms of reference to ensure they reflected a mutual obligation to consult. Council received a paper from the Gardens Committee expressing their view that the Committee's existing terms of reference were sufficient.

Council noted that the Terms of Reference would be unchanged.

Compliance

302. Room Bookings for Internal Events

In response to a paper received from the College's E-Lab regarding room bookings for its annual residentials Council had requested an updated draft statement of policy. The Senior Tutor and Vice Provost had taken this matter away for consideration.

The Senior Tutor clarified that a new statement of policy was, in her and the Vice Provost's view, unnecessary as agreed policies were already in line with Council's preferred approach. Instead, Council was provided with a summary of the College's existing policy on room bookings for routine internal events and were asked to reaffirm it.

Council agreed:

- a) to reaffirm the College's policy on room bookings for routine internal events; and
- b) that the September and January E-Lab Residentials should be considered routine internal events and room bookings for them treated accordingly.

303. OIA Annual Return

Council noted a report on the OIA return for 2023.

304. Charities Committee Report

Noted.

305. Minutes of the Buildings & Safety Committee meeting on 29 April 2024

The Vice-Provost drew Council's attention to the minutes' reference to 'wood storage'. This referred to disposal of the early 20th-century Detmar Blow panelling removed from the Chapel in the 1960s. Governing Body had agreed to sell the panels in 2021. The Chapel Architect had become involved, and further progress had not been made.

The Domus Bursar expects the new Head of Facilities and Head of Capital Works to be able to progress this once they start work.

Council recognised the need to approach disposal sensitively, as there could be a reputational impact on the College. The Vice Provost reminded Council that, in 2021, the working group convened to consider the disposal produced a press release for that purpose and encouraged the College to use it.

306. Minutes of the Gardens Committee meeting on 7 May 2024

Noted.

307. Any Other Business

The Provost notified Council that Dr Colucci had asked for permission to host a play in College on the same day as the Hackathon and Singing on the River. The Officers recommended that play be performed in the Fellows' Garden to ensure it does not impact those events. Council had no objections to this.

307a. Paper from Junior Member of College – Divestment

Council received a paper from a Junior Member of College (titled 'Divestment Deadline') asking the College to take measures to divest from arms and weapons industries by the end of the 2024–2025 academic year.

The paper's author, Mr Gomersall, joined via Zoom to speak to the item. He spoke to the wider legal and political environment surrounding the proposals made in his paper. His view was that the College must commit to a deadline to divest from arms and weapons industries and urged Council to address this as a matter of urgency.

The Provost thanked Mr Gomersall for his paper. She described how mindful money management was a concept she had considered extensively and welcomed the debate. She emphasised the importance of this remaining a democratic discussion, conducted through the appropriate governance channels, and in which both Junior and Senior members of College can engage.

Council discussed management of the College's investments in practice and the development of a comprehensive framework setting out the principles by which the College will do so.

The First Bursar reminded Council of the College's governance around investments and the Charity Commission guidance on their duties as trustees. He illustrated some of the activities and trade-offs involved.

The Provost commented that the College needed to undertake a series of discussions. The First Bursar suggested that the College should set up a responsible investment working group to consider an appropriate approach for the College, and that the group should be asked to report to Governing Body at Annual Congregation. He suggested that the proposals brought by the working group should be made with a view to implementation by the end of the 2024/25 academic year.

Mr Gomersall left the meeting.

Council agreed to recommend to Governing Body that a Working Group is set up to review the College's approach to responsible investment, and that the Working Group should be asked to provide draft proposals at Annual Congregation (at the end of Michaelmas Term 2024), with a view to implementation by the end of the 2024/25 academic year.

Governing Body will be asked to consider this at its meeting later this term.

After the vote, Council considered its discussion with Mr Gomersall and the differences between the tone he had adopted and that used in the paper (which made serious allegations against the College). Council agreed to minute its rejection of the claim that the College is complicit in genocide.

Council also agreed that, exceptionally, news of the College's decision might be released in advance of the distribution of the Minutes of the meeting.