

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 14:00 in the Audit Room and zoom

Present:	Provost (via Zoom) Professor Sharman (via Zoom) Professor Candea (via Zoom) Ms Headen Dr Sarkovic (via Zoom) Dr Taylor Dr Adhikari Professor Dunn	In Attendance:	Vice Provost (Chair) First Bursar Senior Tutor Domus Bursar Dean of Chapel (Open Business, items 414, 416 and 420) Registrar *Open Business
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388. **Apologies for Absence**

Dr Good, Professor Giannitsarou and Dr Russell apologised for their absence.

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

The Junior Members of Council were not present.

OPEN BUSINESS

389. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

390. **Minutes of Open Business 9 July 2024**

Approved.

391. **Matters arising**

None.

392. **Oral reports**

None.

393. **Council Timetable – Open Matters**

Several timetabled items in agenda:

- Exam Outcomes Report (Results);
- Recording Label Annual Report (delayed from Lent Term);
- Concerts Annual Budget and Report;
- Termly Update.

The Scholarships element of the Exam Outcomes Report will move to Reserved Business.

394. Council Action List – Open Matters

Several actions completed by items in agenda:

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

Strategic

395. College Access Rights Proposal

The Domus Bursar presented a proposal, developed by a working group appointed by the Visitors Committee, to make various changes to College access permissions. Council had received a paper in February 2024 regarding access for CamCard holders and had requested a more comprehensive review.

The Domus Bursar explained the proposals had been developed with ease of communication and understanding and prevention of unnecessary and fraudulent access in mind.

Council discussed whether limiting the number of non-University guests that members of King's can bring into College without prior notice to four would be appropriate. Council acknowledged that there was flexibility in this proposal, and that smaller groups may help the Visitor Services team manage crowds, but in line with the College's commitment to openness felt this number was unduly restrictive.

Council considered related arrangements, such as Grad Suite and College bar access, and emphasised the importance of them dovetailing with these access rights. The Domus Bursar will add a note to the explanatory grid to clarify how access for these purposes should be managed.

Council supported proposals for changes to access rights to King's College, as set out in the paper subject to an amendment to increase the number of non-University guests King's members from four to eight, and adding a note to clarify arrangements for members of the University accessing the College bar. This would take effect from summer 2024 onwards.

396. Create Cambridge

The First Bursar presented a proposal to attach the College's name to an open letter, produced in collaboration with a group of cultural leaders from across the city (including directors from the Junction, Fitzwilliam Museum, Wysing Arts Centre and Anglia Ruskin University), supporting the development of culture and creative arts in Cambridge. The statement would be published online to make public the creation of this group ('Create Cambridge'), its aims, and King's involvement in it.

The Provost commended the First Bursar's efforts to build relations with the city. Council noted that the 'open letter' might be better described as a public statement.

The Senior Tutor asked what due diligence had been done on signatories to the letter. The First Bursar confirmed that participation was on an invitation-only basis.

Council agreed to the College's name being attached to a statement supporting the development of culture and creative arts in Cambridge.

397. **Grantchester Meadows**

The First Bursar invited Council to note a proposal (which had been considered by the Investment Committee and will be brought to Governing Body on 19 July) relating to an agreement for the management of Grantchester Meadows.

Council noted the proposal.

398. **Report on EDI Committee**

Council received a report from the Vice Provost (as chair of the EDI Committee) on the EDI Committee's effectiveness.

Council noted the report and asked for a further report in Easter Term 2025.

Routine

399. **Termly Update**

The First Bursar spoke to the Termly Update paper, which contained updates from Officers relating to strategic priorities in their respective areas, financial performance to the end of March 2024, and an assessment of risks and planned actions. Most priorities remain on track, although a significant number are under monitoring.

The First Bursar commented on progress against priorities and on financial performance, which continues to be ahead of expectations, as at March 2024. As part of his overview, the First Bursar highlighted the current demands placed upon Officers and associated risks to delivery of critical projects – as well as the ability to respond effectively to high-profile issues, as they arise. Council asked the First Bursar to provide an update next term on steps taken to address these issues.

Council noted the Termly Update report.

400. **Exam Outcomes Report (Results)**

The Senior Tutor presented her routine (annual) paper providing the 2023-2024 undergraduate examination results and an analysis of them.

The Senior Tutor invited Council to note that this was the first 'normal' exam season for her since she took on the role.

Although University-wide data from which to draw comparison is not yet available, the Senior Tutor highlighted various positive outcomes indicated by internal data. For example, Bridging Program students are achieving good exam results (although the rate of intermission by such students is high).

Council noted the significant longitudinal improvement in exam performance for this year's graduate cohort. Council commended the efforts of the Senior Tutor, Directors of Studies, Tutors, and the Fellowship at large for the impact of their teaching and pastoral care for a group of students significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Senior Tutor also commented on the sharp increase in plagiarism cases being experienced across the University, a point she raised in her Termly Update contribution.

Council noted the Senior Tutor's report.

401. **Concerts Annual Report**

Council received a routine report, delivered annually, from the Director of Music, regarding concerts held at the College in the preceding year and the associated budget. The Director of Music encouraged Council to note that the 2023–2024 season of concerts achieved success and a broad reach, at no cost to the College.

The Dean of Chapel spoke to the paper in the Director of Music's absence. He highlighted comments made about Singing on the River in the paper and the significant role it plays in the concerts budget.

The Domus Bursar noted some of the challenges in relation to taking a holistic view of concert income as set against other sources of income (including from Visitor ticket sales).

Council considered the history of Singing on the River, and the extent to which it forms a traditional element of the College's concerts season.

Council agreed to note the success of the 2023–2024 Concerts at King's season and the 2024 Easter Festival.

Council acknowledged that the Director of Music had asked Council to undertake to financially support Concerts at King's in the event that decisions made by the Governing Body render Singing on the River less successful. Council invited the Director of Music to ask Council to re-visit this issue next term after Governing Body have considered the Wild Flower Meadow, if necessary.

402. **E-Lab Hackathon Report**

Council received a report from Professor Mohaddes, E-Lab Director, on the E-Lab Hackathon held on 23 June 2024.

Council congratulated the E-Lab on what the report indicated was a highly successful event.

Council's view was that a detailed proposal for an event next year should be received by Council in Michaelmas term after it has been scrutinised by the E-Lab Committee. As part of this, the First Bursar suggested that the E-Lab should include the Hackathon alongside their wider events programme in their department plan for 2024/25.

403. **Statement of Investment Policy**

The First Bursar invited Council to note a draft Statement of Investment policy that will be brought to Governing Body on 19 July.

Council noted the draft policy.

404. **Tutorial Questionnaire 2024**

Council received a paper from the Senior Tutor and Senior Tutorial Officer outlining the results of the 2024 Tutorial Questionnaire (Undergraduate Feedback Form).

Feedback was broadly positive, and students had highlighted members of the Tutorial team as particularly deserving of recognition for their support and dedication over the past year.

Council thanked the Senior Tutor and Senior Tutorial Officer for the report.

405. **Record Label Annual Report**

Council received a routine report, delivered annually, on the College's record label from the Director of Music. The report commented on recent releases, and good financial performance in spite of challenges posed by circumstances beyond the College's control.

Council thanked the Director of Music for his report.

Compliance

None.

Any Other Business

406a. **Loan Request – Towner Eastbourne**

The Keeper of the College Collections asked Council to consider a request for a loan of a King's painting for exhibition.

Council agreed that Duncan Grant's *Bathers* may be given on temporary loan to the Towner Gallery, Eastbourne, for an exhibition running from 21 May - 28 September 2025, entitled *Provincial!*

406b. **Graduate Admissions Numbers**

The Graduate Admissions Tutor provided data comparing graduate student numbers against current policy, which showed that projected admissions are in line with the College's agreed aims for graduate admissions in 2024/2025.

Council noted the Graduate Admissions Tutor's report.

406c. **Cam Rivers Publishing Collaboration**

Council received a paper from Professor Alan MacFarlane and Dr Zilan Wang regarding a potential collaboration between Cam Rivers Publishing and King's and asked them to return a proposal to Council in Michaelmas term 2024 for discussion.