

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Tuesday 23 April 2024 at 2.00pm in the Audit Room

Present:	Provost Professor Sharman Dr Taylor Professor Dunn Dr Russell Ms Headen Dr Sarkovic Dr Good Mr Limoncelli*	In Attendance:	First Bursar Senior Tutor Vice Provost Domus Bursar Mx Graham* Mr Lee Boya* Registrar
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*Open Business

168. **Apologies for Absence**

Ms Bulteel, Professor Giannitsarou, Professor Candea and Dr Adhikari apologised for their absence.

OPEN BUSINESS

169. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

170. **Minutes of Open Business 5 March 2024**

Approved.

171. **Matters arising**

- 171a. Council was provided with a written response to its queries regarding the proposed 'Hackathon'. This had been added to the agenda as an oral update, so was discussed during item 172.

172. **Oral reports**

i) The Registrar asked for Council's view on administrative matters. Council agreed meeting dates for Michaelmas term (a move, on a trial basis, to meeting in weeks 0, 2, 4, 6 and 8, rather than 0, 1, 3, 5, and 7), and also confirmed that Standing Committee minutes should be received by Council as soon as possible after they are drafted and circulated to the Committee (not once they have been formally approved at a subsequent meeting).

ii) Council discussed the proposed 'Hackathon'. The written update, provided by Dr Mohaddes, E-Lab Director, addressed each of Council's queries in turn.

Council queried whether the update adequately addressed Council's query about whether the event was in line with the Law Faculty's approach to AI. Council noted that the update confirmed that the Law Faculty does not currently have such guidelines in place.

Council considered the College's position on AI more generally, and the degree to which the College should engage with it in light of legal and ethical concerns about the industry.

Council's view was that the update did not adequately address Council's concerns that funding for the event should come from acceptable sources. Methods to ensure funding acceptability were considered, and whether this could be supported by the Development Office's processes. Council also discussed whether the Hackathon could provide an opportunity to engage with organisations leading on AI about whom the College has concerns, and contribute to improvements in the field's approach to ethical practice.

Council considered how to mitigate the risks it felt were associated with the event, in order to enable it to proceed.

The First Bursar noted that this issue linked to a wider discussion about the College's approach to engaging with corporations.

Council also queried whether intellectual property matters had been considered and suggested that the College produce an IP policy for circumstances such as this to prevent exploitation of the undergraduates and postgraduates involved.

The Vice Provost suggested that the E-Lab directors should be asked to provide a list of sponsors, and approval granted subject to that list being approved by Council.

Council agreed that the 'Hackathon' on 23 June 2024 has permission to proceed as proposed, subject to a list of sponsors being circulated to and approved by Council.

173. Council Timetable – Open Matters

No papers timetabled.

However, several timetabled papers from Lent term are yet to be received (KCGS Vac Bar Accounts, Easter Festival Budget, and Recording Label Annual Report & Accounts). The Registrar will continue to liaise with KCGS and the Director of Music to ensure papers are received.

174. Council Action List – Open Matters

A summary of actions due to be completed during Easter term was provided.

- Paper to Council regarding Croft Gardens budget reforecast (Domus Bursar)
- Review of effectiveness of EDI Committee (Vice Provost)
- Provide Council with proposal to simplify College access rights (Domus Bursar)
- Update on policy review/return draft events policy to Council (Registrar)
- Return revised terms of reference for the Gardens and Adornment Committees, reflecting mutual obligation to consult (Domus Bursar)
Terms of Reference for the Adornment Committee discussed at item 177.

Strategic

175. Henry Louis Gates Fellowships

The Vice Provost asked Council to consider whether the College should associate with an academic visitor scheme established in honour of Henry Louis Gates. The scheme would be open to scholars of African or African American literature, history or culture.

Council supported the proposal, and noted the opportunity it provides to extend opportunities for academics in this area, in the context of recent significant cuts at other higher education institutions.

The Vice Provost suggested that such visitors should be given the title 'Visiting Senior Scholar', in order to distinguish the positions from Visiting Fellows. Council supported this, as it would enable the positions to be set up as soon as possible. However, Council's view was that (subject to the success of the scheme), the Ordinances and Regulations should be amended to enable the visitors to take up Visiting Fellowships.

Council was presented with the option to provide additional funding to support the proposed 'Scholars' during their time at King's. This would come from funds ringfenced as a result of the Legacies of Slavery program.

Council noted the Vice Provost's suggestion that King's could consider running a parallel scheme with the Centre for South Asian Studies.

Council agreed:

- a) To host an academic visitor working in the fields of African or African-American literature, history or culture, in conjunction with the Centre for African Studies under the scheme named in honour of Henry Louis Gates Jr.
- b) To authorise the immediate advertisement of a Henry Louis Gates Jr. Visiting Senior Scholar to be held between October 2024 and March 2025.
- c) To enhance, at College expense, the scheme for Henry Louis Gates Jr. Visiting Senior Scholars to enable more than one scholar to visit, or the scholar to visit for more than one month, or additional living or research expenses to be covered.
- d) To review, with the Centre for African Studies, the need for and viability of the scheme in one year's time, and consider whether to amend College processes to accommodate the scheme long term.
- e) To ask the Vice Provost to liaise with the Centre for South Asian Studies regarding a similar scheme.

Routine

176. Quiet Period 2024

Council approved a Room Booking Policy for the Quiet Period, proposed by the Lay Dean. The policy is reviewed and sent to Council for approval annually, along with a proposal for when the Quiet Period should take place.

Council agreed to that the 2024 Quiet Period will take place from Tuesday 23 April (the date of the first undergraduate exam) to Friday 14 June.

Compliance

177. Terms of Reference – Adornment Committee

At its meeting on 6 February 2024 Council considered the relationship between the Gardens and Adornment Committee and the extent to which the latter was responsible for the College's appearance. The Adornment Committee had considered its Terms of Reference in response. The Committee's view was that one of its purposes is to maintain the appearance of the College. The Committee proposed new terms of reference, revised accordingly. The Domus Bursar spoke to the paper.

Council reviewed the proposed terms of reference in light of the minutes provided by the Committee (item 178). Its view was that neither were sufficiently clear about when the Adornment Committee had taken a decision (or had power to), or where they were only providing advice.

The Domus Bursar reassured Council that the Adornment Committee was merely exercising its advisory functions effectively but recognised that minutes could be clearer.

Although in support of the principles of the proposed terms of reference, Council's view was that the Terms of Reference appended to the paper were insufficiently well drafted to be approved. The Adornment Committee were invited to reconsider the draft and return a revised version for approval.

178. Minutes of the Adornment Committee meeting on 28 February 2024

Noted.

179. Terms of Reference – Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee asked Council to approve changes to its terms of reference, and to confirm the Dr Flack's role as its chair. The proposed changes confirm administrative points (such as quorum and membership). They also, in the Committee's view, ensure the Committee's terms of reference better reflect its role in developing the College's sustainability strategy, shaping and monitoring sustainability targets, and the manner in which it should engage with other Committees and Departments.

Council:

- a) to approve the appointment of Dr Tim Flack as Chair of the Sustainability Committee; and
- b) to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Sustainability Committee, as appended to the paper.

180. Minutes of the Sustainability Committee meeting on 13 March 2024

Noted.

181. Minutes of the Visitors' Committee meeting on 16 February 2024

Noted.

182. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 1 March 2024

Noted.

183. Minutes of the E-Lab Committee meeting on 12 January 2024

Noted.

184. Archives Policies (Collections, Closed Records)

The College Archivist submitted two policies (Archives Collection, and Closed Records) to Council for approval. Council were also asked to agree that the Archives Digital Preservation Policy and Procedure be treated as a departmental strategy document which, going forward, it was not necessary for Council to review. The Library Committee endorsed this proposal, and the revised policies.

Council agreed:

- a) To approve the Archives Collection and Closed Records policies.
- b) To strike the Archives Digital Preservation Policy and Procedure off the College Policies register.

Any Other Business

None.