

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At the Ordinary Congregation
held on Monday 24 June 2024
at 14:00 the SCR and via Zoom.

Present (starred names attended on Zoom)

Dr Zoe Adams	Dr Katie Haworth	Dr Basim Musallam
Dr Sebastian Ahnert	Mrs Lorraine Headen	Professor Robin Osborne
Professor John Arnold	Dr Kate Herrity	Dr Sophie Pickford
Professor Mike Bate	Dr Myfanwy Hill	Professor Chris Prendergast
Dr Giulia Boitani	Professor Alice Hutchings	Professor Mike Proctor
Professor Angela Breitenbach	Mr Daniel Hyde	Dr Angus Russell
Professor Jude Browne	Ms Polly Ingham	Dr Andjela Sarkovic
Professor Matei Candea	Professor Mark Johnson	Professor Jason Sharman
Dr Keith Carne	Mr Peter Jones	Dr Sharath Srinivasan
Rev Dr Stephen Cherry	Dr Phil Knox	Dr James Taylor
Professor Francesco Colucci	Dr Joanna Kusiak	Dr Gillian Tett
Dr Laura Davies	Dr Zhuangnan Li	Dr Sophie Turenne
Professor Anne Davis	Professor Alan Macfarlane	Professor Caroline Van Eck
Professor Peter de Bolla	Dr Cicely Marshall	Professor Bert Vaux
Dr James Dolan	Professor Nick Marston	Dr Rob Wallach
Professor John Dunn	Professor Jean Michel Massing	Dr Dror Weil
Dr Sebastian Eves-Van den Akker	Professor Cam Middleton	Professor Darin Weinberg
Professor Iain Fenlon	Dr Fraz Mir	Professor Godela Weiss-Susse
Professor Ingo Gildenhard	Dr Perveez Mody	Dr Tom White
Professor Henning Grosse Ruse-Khan	Professor Geoff Moggridge	Professor Nicolette Zeeman
Professor Ross Harrison	Dr Ken Moody	

65. Apologies

Dr Ronojoy Adhikari	Dr David Good	Professor Sarah Lummis
Dr Tess Adkins	Professor Gillian Griffiths	Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas
Professor Anna Alexandrova	Professor Mark Gross	Professor Dan McKenzie
Dr Nick Atkins	Professor Chez Hall	Dr Kamiar Mohaddes
Professor Gareth Austin	Dr Tiffany Harte	Dr Gabriela Montejo-Kovacevich
Dr Seda Basihos	Mr Api Hasthanasombat	Dr Rory O'Brien
Dr Francesco Bianchini	Professor John Henderson	Professor Rosanna Omitowaju
Dr Marcus Böick	Dr Felipe Hernandez	Professor John Perry
Dr Shannon Bonke	Dr David Hillman	Professor Surabhi Ranganathan
Professor Richard Bourke	Dr Stephen Hugh-Jones	Dr Ben Ravenhill

Dr Mirjana Bozic	Professor Dame Carrie Humphrey DBE	Professor Thomas Roulet
Professor Nick Bullock	Professor Herbert Huppert	Professor Robert Rowthorn
Professor Richard Causton	Dr Said Reza Huseini	Professor Paul Ryan
Dr Ivan Collister	Professor Martin Hyland	Professor Hamid Sabourian
Dr Sarah Crisp	Professor Ian James	Dr Mira Siegelberg
Professor George Efstathiou	Dr Malar Jayanth	Dr Mike Sonenscher
Professor Elisa Faraglia	Dr Aileen Kelly	Professor Gareth Stedman Jones
Professor James Fawcett	Professor Barry Keverne	Professor Nick Tosca
Dr Tim Flack	Dr Patrycja Kozik	Mr Jim Trevithick
Professor Rob Foley	Professor James Laidlaw	Dr Marco Tripodi
Professor Matthew Gandy	Professor Richard Lambert	Professor Jamie Vicary
Professor Chryssi Giannitsarou	Professor Charlie Loke	Professor John Young
Professor Lord Tony Giddens	Professor Chris Gilligan CBE	

The Junior Members of Governing Body were absent.

On Leave

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

Open Business Only

None.

OPEN BUSINESS

66. Declarations of Interest

None.

67. Minutes of Open Business of the Ordinary Congregation held on 20 May 2024

Approved.

68. Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

69. Oral Reports

i) The Senior Tutor noted the absence of Junior Members at Congregation. She explained that this was in relation to pending a disciplinary matter. Junior Member participation will recommence once that matter is resolved.

The Vice Provost noted that all Open Business matters being discussed at this Congregation had been considered at Council meetings where Junior Members were present.

ii) The Senior Tutor sought Governing Body's views on whether undergraduates should be permitted to work during term time.

Governing Body acknowledged that rules about undergraduate termtime work are not formally codified. Governing Body discussed types of financial pressure experienced by students. Governing Body also noted that some prospective undergraduates still have a perception that personal financial standing might be a barrier to studying at Cambridge. It was noted that further information about current levels of term-time paid work would be valuable. On balance, however, Governing Body's view was that the College should not start to encourage undergraduates to take on paid work during term.

The Senior Tutor thanked Governing Body for its comments.

Principal Business

70. Planning Round 2024

The First Bursar presented a paper setting out strategic priorities for the coming year and outlining a set of aims for the next 3–5 years. He thanked College Officers, Heads of Department, and members of Finance Committee, HR Committee, and Council for their work in developing and scrutinising plans for the different areas of the College.

Drawing on proposals made by the Officers, the First Bursar outlined three priorities for 2024–25: investment in teaching, research and pastoral care; shifting towards 'community'; and upgrading spaces and services essential to College life. This would be achieved through a near-breakeven budget and, within that, a shift in allocation of resources towards activities relating to education and research.

The First Bursar set out an emerging view of the College's medium-term strategic aims and placed particular emphasis on the allocation of resources towards the College's core missions of education and research.

The First Bursar presented a summary analysis of the key risks to which the College is exposed. He highlighted how work to mitigate these risks was often not visible.

Governing Body welcomed the First Bursar's approach and expressed their thanks to him and all those who participated in the planning round.

Governing Body noted that there were references to developing a JCR for undergraduate students in the paper, emphasised that the absence of such a space until now had been a deliberate and considered decision, and encouraged the College to consider carefully the impact that creating a distinct undergraduate space might have upon the College community.

Governing Body discussed how various external factors might impact the College's financial position and, in turn, the ability to work through its aims for the medium-term. It was noted that the freeze on home undergraduate fees was, in terms of student affordability, not a 'drag' on the College's core mission.

The Senior Tutor responded to queries about additional Tutorial Office staffing and noted her ongoing work to lift the administrative burden from Fellows.

Governing Body agreed to approve the College's priorities, budget, and risk approach for the financial year 2024/25.

71. **Wild Flower Meadow**

Dr Marshall presented a paper on behalf of the Gardens Committee which asked Governing Body to decide on the future of the Back Lawn wild flower meadow.

In 2019 Governing Body agreed to review the meadow five years after its planting. Since 2019 Dr Marshall had monitored the meadow and collected data on its impact (both environmental and social). She provided Governing Body with an overview of her findings, which had recently been published, and made the case for expanding the meadow.

The Dean of Chapel spoke to an addendum to the paper he had provided which concerned the impact the meadow has on Singing on the River. He asked Governing Body to take the event into account when reaching a decision. The Head of Development highlighted how many of her team's events rely on use of the Back Lawn and in particular that use of the back lawn had been central to the success of the festival celebrating fifty years of women at King's.

Governing Body considered whether an expanded meadow could be mowed to accommodate events when required and whether those mowed areas would be fit for purpose.

Governing Body discussed what an expanded meadow might mean for the College and whether such a decision would constitute a significant shift in the historic landscape.

Governing Body also considered whether Scholars' Piece would be a suitable alternative location for a meadow. It was shared that this had already been tested and while it is currently a grass pasture due to its highly fertile nature it would not make a suitable wildflower meadow. It was also debated whether some of Scholar's Piece could be re-purposed to provide additional amenity space for the College year-round, as well as for special events.

The Gardens Committee had asked Governing Body to consider four options (retaining the current design, completing covering the lawn, retaining a semi-circle of conventional lawn centred on the Gibbs arch, or removing the lawn entirely).

Governing Body agreed that its indicative preference was to make permanent the flower meadow on the back lawn and to partially expand it.

Governing Body asked for expansion options to be presented in greater detail at the next Congregation, and that an area of meadow should be mowed before the Congregation, so that a decision could be taken on which form of expansion should be implemented.

72. **Responsible Investment Policy**

The First Bursar proposed the formation of a working group to develop a responsible investment policy for the College. He noted the College's existing commitments in relation to the endowment. He outlined Charity Commission guidance with respect to the consideration of factors other than financial returns in the management of the endowment.

With regard to the working group, the First Bursar noted the engagement of students on several issues relating to the endowment and emphasised that the group ought usefully to have meaningful student representation.

Governing Body supported the formation of a working group to develop a policy but noted that it must think ahead to implementation to ensure the policy had impact. The First Bursar explained that, once agreed, the Investment Committee (including its student representatives) would address policy implementation. Any proposals for implementation would also return to Governing Body, should it so wish.

Governing Body agreed to establish a working group to draft a Responsible Investment Policy for the College. The Working Group will present a draft to Annual Congregation in 2024 with a view to implementation by the end of the 2024/25 academic year.

Governing Body agreed that Council should appoint the members of the working group.

Routine Papers (for report only)

73. King's College School – Capital Works

Governing Body received a paper from the First Bursar regarding refurbishment works being undertaken by King's College School (which will start this summer).

Governing Body noted the works.

74. Any Other Business

None.