

Sidney Sussex College

The Minutes of the meeting of

GOVERNING BODY

Held via Zoom on
Wednesday 26 May 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

Senior Members Present

Master; Vice-Master; Senior Tutor; Bursar; Professor Armstrong; Dr Bordin;
Dr Doran; Professor Flewitt; Dr Fulda; Dr Garcia-Mayoral; Dr Gray; Dr Groisman;
Dr Groom; Dr Jackson-Ravenscroft; Dr Muschitiello; Dr Oner;
Professor Reynolds; Dr Roberts; Professor Sepulchre; Dr Seymour; Dr Stasch;
Dr Sumnall.

Student Members Present:

Mr Lowry; Mr Mettry; Mr Velazhahan

Also present

Ms Harkin (College Registrar, as Council Secretary)

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

1. INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

1.1 Apologies for absence

Dr Aubry; Dr Fruk; Ms Kazani

1.2 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved subject to the unstarring of item 2.2a.

1.3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests.

**1.4 Confirmation of the minutes of the unreserved business of the
Governing Body on 24 February 2021 (GB.210526.1.4)**

The minutes were approved.

Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

2. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

2.1 Master's Business

There was no business.

2.2 Senior Tutor's Business

a) Arrangements for education and pastoral support in the Easter term (GB.210526.2.2a)

The Senior Tutor explained that the paper supporting this agenda item had previously gone to Council and it was an opportunity for Governing Body to ask any questions it had about the content. The one significant change since the paper was written has been the resumption of face to face supervisions. There had also been a process for students to self-assess their need for residence in College this term. As students moved into the exam period, an additional layer of issues to work through had emerged but this had been facilitated by the work of Operations working group. Governing Body **received** the paper.

b) Post Qualification Admissions consultation (GB.210526.2.2b)

The Master and the Admissions Director explained the background to and purpose of the PQA consultation, together with the next steps planned by Government. They stressed that it was potentially an important change which would affect admissions fundamentally and the Admissions Director said she would keep Governing Body updated.

c) Update on Wellbeing strategy (GB.210526.2.2c)

The Senior Tutor spoke to his paper, the purpose of which was to update Governing Body on progress made since last January in developing a new initiative to enhance student wellbeing at Sidney. He stressed the importance of student well-being within the context of increasing student mental health disclosures, and reminded Governing Body of the substantial donation received to develop student wellbeing within the College. A new Head of Student Wellbeing had now been recruited who would start on 1 September 2021. The Vice-Master emphasised that the purpose of the donation is not just to bring in an expert to offer support to students, but has a longer term goal for students to be better able to manage their own well-being.

2.3 Bursar's Business

a) COVID Roadmap (GB.210526.2.3a)

The Bursar drew attention to the College's COVID Roadmap, saying that the College has been clear and proactive in the communication of its roadmap out of lockdown. Sidney had been one of the first Colleges to permit external guests into gardens, and had had a proactive approach to agreeing the approach to inter-household visits. The Bar had been reopened in line with Government guidance. Formal Halls had

recommenced, and the College was considering reintroduction guests for Fellows and students subject to a review of numbers. The Library, Gym, and Chapel were all open in line with Government guidance. There was support for the June Event proceeding if restrictions allowed and graduation events were being planned.

There had been no confirmed COVID cases this term and there had been a recent encouraging increase in participation rates of Sidney students in the asymptomatic testing programme. The Operations Working Group was meeting bi-weekly and reviews the suite of COVID protocols and policies.

b) Kitchen project update

The Bursar updated Governing Body on progress. She said that the kitchen was due to be handed over for operational use on Monday 7 June. Total costs were in the order of £13.2 million (versus original estimate of £12.3 million).

c) Pensions Insurance Corporation debt issue

The Bursar explained to Governing Body that Council had approved a further £10 million debt issue from Pensions Insurance Corporation (PIC) at its meeting on 5 May 2021. A pricing call had been held with PIC on Wednesday 12 May, when the fixed interest rate was set at 2.24%. From next year the College will increase the annual charge to the Debt Repayment Fund to take into account the additional long term debt.

2.4 Steward's Business

There was no business.

2.5 Student Business

There was no business.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

3.1 College Council

- a) Unreserved Minutes of the Meeting of 24 February 2021
(GB.210526.3.1a)**
- b) Unreserved Minutes of the Meeting of 17 March 2021
(GB.210526.3.1b)**
- c) Unreserved Minutes of the Meeting of 5 May 2021
(not yet approved) (GB.210526.3.1c)**

The Council minutes were **noted**.

3.2 Statutes & Ordinances

a) *Minutes of the Meeting of 4 May 2021 (GB.210526.3.2a)

The minutes were **noted**.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Any other business

There was no other business.

4.2 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 30 June 2021 (Annual Meeting)