

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCRUTINY

MINUTES

**Thursday 3 March 2022, 12:00pm
in the Fleet Room at Downing College**

Present:

Professor Richard Mortier (Chair), Mr Graham Allen (Secretary), Mrs Rachel Rowe (Support Officer), Mr Gavin Flynn, Dr Gilly Carr, Dr Rob Doubleday, Dr Orsola Rath Spivack, Ms Jocelyn Wyburd, Dr Mark Purcell, Dr David Butterfield, Dr Mark Smith, Dr Seb Falk and Dr John Fawcett.

The meeting began at 12:06pm.

1. Guest – Professor Stephen Toope, Vice-Chancellor:

The Board welcomed the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Toope, and the following topics were discussed:

- i.) The successes and challenges of his tenure as Vice-Chancellor;
- ii.) The greatest potential risks for Cambridge University in retaining its leading position as a global university;
- iii.) The effectiveness of the University's relationship with the government;
- iv.) The benefits of potential different models of the Vice-Chancellor role;
- v.) The effectiveness of the function of the Council and General Board;
- vi.) The University's management of external communications;
- vii.) The resilience of the structure of the Senior Team;
- viii.) Considerations for the incoming Vice-Chancellor.

2. Apologies:

None.

3. Declarations of Interest:

None.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2022:

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

5. Matters arising:

None.

6. Meeting with the PVC for Strategy and Planning – 22 March 2022:

The Board were encouraged to submit possible questions in the Shared Drive before 15 March.

7. Reports from Working Groups:

The Board received brief updates from each of the Working Groups.

8. Any Other Business:

None.

9. Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 22 March, 12-2pm (at Downing with lunch) – with the PVC (Strategy & Planning)

Thursday 28 April, 12-2pm (at Downing, with lunch)

Tuesday 24 May, 12-1pm (via Zoom)

Monday 27 June, 10-11:30am (at Downing)

The meeting closed at 2:00pm.

Rachel Rowe

Support Officer