

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCRUTINY

MINUTES

**Wednesday 19 October 2022, 9.30am
at the General Board Office, the Old Schools**

Present:

Professor Jocelyn Wyburd (Chair), Mr Graham Allen (Secretary), Mrs Rachel Rowe (Support Officer), Professor Richard Mortier, Dr Gilly Carr, Dr Rob Doubleday, Dr David Butterfield, Dr Seb Falk, Dr Mark Purcell, Dr Orsola Rath Spivack, Dr Charles Read and Rev'd Andrew Hammond.

The meeting began at 9.28am.

1. Welcome and apologies:

Apologies were received from Mr Gavin Flynn.

2. Declarations of Interest:

None.

3. Guest – Dr Anthony Freeling, Acting Vice-Chancellor:

The Board welcomed Dr Anthony Freeling, and the following topics were discussed:

- i.) Dr Freeling's priorities for his nine-month term as Acting Vice-Chancellor;
- ii.) An assessment of the University's financial position;
- iii.) Areas where academic excellence may be at risk;
- iv.) Opportunities to facilitate greater engagement by members of the Regent House;
- v.) An assessment of the University's morale post-Covid;
- vi.) An assessment of relations between the University and the Colleges, and the effectiveness of the intercollegiate machinery;
- vii.) Any surprises that have emerged since he started in the role.

4. Minutes of the Handover Meeting held on 6 October 2022:

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

5. Matters arising:

a.) Update on the Discussion on the topic of concern relating to NW Cambridge

The Chair reported on the recent Discussion and statements that were made about North West Cambridge, regarding financial concerns and a perceived lack of proper reporting. The full notes will be published in the Reporter. The Chair asked the Estates and Finance Working Groups to continue monitoring the situation this year.

6. Report from the Proctors:

The Senior Proctor reported on the principal business discussed at the meeting of the Council on 17 October.

7. Working Groups:

The Board discussed the membership of the seven Working Groups (Estates, Finance, Governance, Education, HR, Research, and Systems & Processes) and made some changes.

8. Any Other Business:

None.

9. Date of next full Board meeting:

Thursday 24 November, 12-1pm (via Zoom)

The meeting closed at 11.26am.

Rachel Rowe
Support Officer