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End of the Official Part of the ‘Reporter’
NOTICES

Calendar

15 May, Monday. Ballots of the Regent House, voting closes at 5 p.m.
16 May, Tuesday. Discussion by videoconference at 2 p.m. (see below).
18 May, Thursday. Ascension day. Scarlet day.
19 May, Friday. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m.
20 May, Saturday. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m.
21 May, Sunday. Easter Term divides.

Discussions (Tuesdays at 2 p.m.) Congregations (at 10 a.m. unless otherwise stated)
16 May 19 and 20 May
30 May 21 June at 2.45 p.m. (Honorary Degrees)
20 June 28, 29 and 30 June and 1 July. (General Admission)
11 July 21 and 22 July

Discussion on Tuesday, 16 May 2023

The Acting Vice-Chancellor invites members of the Regent House, University and College employees, registered students and others qualified under the regulations for Discussions (Statutes and Ordinances, p. 111) to attend a Discussion by videoconference on Tuesday, 16 May 2023 at 2 p.m. The following items will be discussed:


Those wishing to join the Discussion by videoconference should email UniversityDraftsman@admin.cam.ac.uk from their University email account, providing their CRSid (if a member of the collegiate University), by 10 a.m. on the date of the Discussion to receive joining instructions. Alternatively contributors may email their remarks to contact@proctors.cam.ac.uk, copying ReporterEditor@admin.cam.ac.uk, by no later than 10 a.m. on the day of the Discussion for reading out by the Proctors, or may ask someone else who is attending to read the remarks on their behalf.

In accordance with the regulations for Discussions, the Chair of the Board of Scrutiny or any ten members of the Regent House may request that the Council arrange for one or more of the items listed for discussion to be discussed in person (usually in the Senate-House). Requests should be made to the Registrary, on paper or by email to UniversityDraftsman@admin.cam.ac.uk from addresses within the cam.ac.uk domain, by no later than 9 a.m. on the day of the Discussion. Any changes to the Discussion schedule will be confirmed in the Reporter at the earliest opportunity.

General information on Discussions is provided on the University Governance site at https://www.governance.cam.ac.uk/governance/decision-making/discussions/.

Any comments sent by email should please begin with the name and title of the contributor as they wish it to be read out and include at the start a note of any College and/or Departmental affiliations held.

VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Electors to the Kuwait Professorship of Number Theory and Algebra

The Council has appointed members of the ad hoc Board of Electors to the Kuwait Professorship of Number Theory and Algebra as follows:

Professor Dame Ann Dowling, SID, in the Chair, as the Vice-Chancellor’s deputy

(a) on the nomination of the Council
Professor Vladimir Markovic, University of Oxford
Professor Nigel Peake, EM

(b) on the nomination of the General Board
Professor Frank Calegari, University of Chicago
Professor Sir Timothy Gowers, T
Professor Claire Voisin, Collège de France

(c) on the nomination of the Faculty Board of Mathematics
Professor James Norris, CHU
Professor Ivan Smith, CAI
Professor Ulrike Tillmann, University of Oxford

1 https://www.scrutiny.cam.ac.uk/ and https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent_house_roll/.
Electors to the Professorship of Stem Cell Medicine

The Council has appointed members of the ad hoc Board of Electors to the Professorship of Stem Cell Medicine as follows:

(a) on the nomination of the Council
   Ms Sonita Alleyne, JE, in the Chair, as the Vice-Chancellor’s deputy
   Professor Patrick Maxwell, T
   Professor Anna Philpott, CL

(b) on the nomination of the General Board
   Professor Francesco Dazzi, King’s College London
   Professor Kathy Niakan
   Professor David Rowitch, CL

(c) on the nomination of the Faculty Board of Clinical Medicine
   Professor Constanze Bonifer, University of Birmingham
   Professor Bertie Göttgens
   Professor Julian Rayner

Election and appointments

The following election and appointments have been made:

ELECTION

Professor Mina Ryten, M.A., CL, Ph.D., University College London, Professor of Clinical Genetics, University College London, elected Van Geest Professor with effect from 1 January 2024.

APPOINTMENTS

University Associate Professors

Physics. Dr Eloy de Lera Acedo, M.Sc., Ph.D., Madrid, appointed from 3 April 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.

Veterinary Medicine. Dr Lucy Anne Weinert, B.Sc., Bristol, Ph.D., Edinburgh, appointed from 1 March 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.

University Assistant Professors

Chemical Engineering. Dr Ewa Janina Marek, M.Sci., Krakow, Ph.D., Katowice, appointed from 1 April 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.

Earth Sciences. Dr Adriano Gualandi, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., Bologna, appointed from 6 March 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.

Economy. Dr Justin Kadi, B.Sc., TU Wien, M.Res., Ph.D., Amsterdam, appointed from 3 April 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.

Law. Dr Peter Frank Candy, M.A., LL.B., Pg.Dip., Ph.D., Edinburgh, appointed from 1 October 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years. Dr Brian Damien Sloan, M.A., LL.M., R, Ph.D., CAI, appointed from 1 October 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years. Dr Kirsten Tor Krever, A.B., J.D., Harvard, M.Phil., LL.M., PEM, Pg.Cert.Ed., Ph.D., London, appointed from 1 October 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.

Pharmacology. Dr Delphine Laurence Daniele Larrieu, B.S., California, Irvine, M.Sc., California, Irvine, and Grenoble, Ph.D., Grenoble, appointed from 28 April 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.

Physics. Dr Sarah Louise Williams, M.A., M.Sci., Ph.D., K, appointed from 1 February 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.

Politics and International Studies. Dr Christian Phillip Sorace, B.A., Trinity College, Connecticut, M.A., Chicago, Ph.D., Texas, appointed from 3 January 2023 until the retiring age and subject to a probationary period of five years.
NOTICES BY FACULTY BOARDS, ETC.

Natural Sciences Tripos, Part II (Biological and Biomedical Sciences), 2023–24: Amendments

Further to the Notices published on 9 February and 8 March 2023 (Reporter, 2022–23: 6687, p. 409 and 6691, p. 448), the Faculty Board of Biology gives notice of the following further amendments to the Major and Minor Subjects offered in the Natural Sciences Tripos Part II (Biological and Biomedical Sciences) in 2023–24.

Amendments to Major Subjects for 2023–24:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Subject</th>
<th>Permissible Minor Subjects</th>
<th>Examination requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>402 Pathology</td>
<td>107, 108, 114, 128, 129 and 137 (137 is a permissible combination but this combination will decrease the options available for your SaRA placement). Students may choose Minor Subjects that do not have lecture clashes with the Pathology modules chosen – please consult the relevant lecture timetables.</td>
<td>Four written papers of three hours each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>409 Psychology</td>
<td>Maximum 20 candidates Students may choose additional Minor Subjects that do not have lecture clashes with the Psychology modules chosen – please consult the relevant lecture timetables.</td>
<td>Four written papers of five hours each.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>427 Zoology (Choose two from Zoology modules ZM1, ZM2, ZM5, ZM6, ZM7, ZM9 and ZM10, Plant Sciences M3, N3 (PDN), PS3 (Psychology), and two from ZL1 to ZL7, N6 (PDN), PS2 (Psychology) and Bioinformatics)</td>
<td>143 and 149 – A fifth Zoology module can be taken as a Minor Subject. Students may choose Minor Subjects that do not have lecture clashes with the Zoology modules chosen – please consult the relevant lecture timetables.</td>
<td>Four written papers of five hours each. Some modules are examined by a three-hour written paper.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amendments to Minor Subjects for 2023–24:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minor Subject</th>
<th>Examination requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>126 Topics in Music and Science (Previously Music Psychology) (Music Paper 17)</td>
<td>One written paper of three hours’ duration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Candidates should consult the examination regulations of the relevant Tripos for the latest examination requirements.

ACTA

Approval of Grace submitted to the Regent House on 26 April 2023

The Grace submitted to the Regent House on 26 April 2023 (Reporter, 6697, 2022–23, p. 628) was approved at 4 p.m. on Friday, 5 May 2023.

E. M. C. RAMPTON, Registrar

END OF THE OFFICIAL PART OF THE ‘REPORTER’
A Discussion was convened by videoconference with Deputy Vice-Chancellor Ms Catherine Arnold, ED, presiding and the Registry’s deputy, the Junior Proctor and the Senior Pro-Proctor as the attending officers.

Remarks were received as follows:

Report of the General Board, dated 22 March 2023, on the establishment of a Professorship


Dr W. J. Astle (MRC Biostatistics Unit):

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the joint Report of the Council and the General Board that led to the abolition of the requirement for a Report and Discussion on the establishment of a Professorship noted ‘that Reports on the establishment of Professorships rarely attract remarks at Discussions concerning their central proposals’ (Reporter, 6636, 2021–22, pp. 111–112). This was to overlook the value of general remarks on the procedures governing appointments and the principles underlying them. Before taking the opportunity to make some general remarks – which arises today because a Report is still required for a promotion proposal – I would like to congratulate Dr Patil on the General Board’s recommendation.

The recommendation is the latest in a series proposing the establishment of a Professorship for a ‘fixed term’, the power which the University has had under Special Ordinance C (vii) since 2018. Before this, a personal Professorship could be established only until the retiring age of the Office holder, or for a ‘fixed term of years’. The words ‘fixed term’ have a particular meaning in employment law, which is (confusingly) broader than ‘fixed term of years’, and ‘terminous appointment’.

A ‘fixed-term contract’ means a contract of employment that, under its provisions determining how it will terminate in the normal course, will terminate—

(a) on the expiry of a specific term,
(b) on the occurrence or non-occurrence of any other specific event other than the attainment by the employee of any normal and bona fide retiring age in the establishment for an employee holding the position held by him.

Part (c) of this definition means that since 2018 the University has been able to establish co-terminous Professorships, which ‘enable the University to terminate the contract of the holder of the Professorship on the happening of a specified event, such as the ending of an interdependent appointment with an affiliated institution, or the withdrawal of an NHS honorary clinical contract’ (Reporter, 6515, 2017–18, p. 820). But only one (perhaps two) of the positions linked to the co-terminous Professorships so far created carry substantial duties of their own. In practice most appointments have been made co-terminous with a linked position controlled by the organisation providing the external funds to support the post, so that the persistence of the co-terminous appointment corresponds essentially to the willingness of the organisation to continue to provide funds. In the case of this proposed Professorship for instance, the co-terminous position ‘MRC Investigator’ is nothing more than a title held by a scientist funded by the MRC to supervise a research programme in one of its units. It is difficult to see why it would be a misuse of charitable funds to support the ongoing work of a Professor, whose job description is essentially that of any other.

The University hosts six MRC research units (Biostatistics, Cognition and Brain Sciences, Epidemiology, Metabolic Diseases, Mitochondrial Biology and Toxicology), which are gradually extending their degree of integration with the University. Although staff in MRC units are mostly employed on research contracts, their work increasingly involves University administration and teaching in addition to research. A few staff have been appointed to established academic posts, including to co-terminous Professorships.
The MRC recently announced that its national system of research units is to be replaced.6,7 At present, research programmes in MRC units are funded in five-year cycles and there is an expectation that units will persist as academic departments for many years. The MRC Biostatistics Unit, for example, has existed since 1914 and the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit since 1944. Now there is to be ‘a new challenge-led, time-limited approach’, under which MRC Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs) will be funded for 14 years (subject to a review after 7 years) and then closed. The MRC expects that in the new model principal investigators should be employed by their universities ‘through regular academic contracts’. It will reduce its financial support for their salaries from 100% to 20%, expecting universities to cover the rest. Although existing MRC units ‘will have the opportunity to reshape themselves to secure new MRC CoRE funding’, success is not guaranteed.

These changes raise questions for staff employed in MRC units. For instance, does the University plan to transfer staff presently employed on open-ended research contracts to academic contracts? If staff are to be transferred, will they be appointed to co-terminous posts? What will happen to staff in such academic posts if MRC funding is withdrawn and the co-terminous MRC position is closed? Would staff be made redundant under Chapter II of the Schedule to Statue C (Statutes and Ordinances, p. 25)? This point has been raised before by Professor Evans in a Discussion on a co-terminous appointment (Reporter, 6621, 2020–21, p. 699), but it was not addressed by the Council or the General Board in their Notice in response (Reporter, 6624, 2020–21, p. 728). I would be grateful if it were addressed in the response to these remarks.

The University seems to risk developing a two-tier system of employment for academic staff, in which those supported by external funds are employed on unestablished contracts or in fixed-term established posts with tenure protections that are limited by the availability of funding. There must be implications for academic freedom. The Board of Scrutiny has expressed concern (Reporter, 6672, 2022–23, p. 65). Is the Council satisfied that this system is compatible with The Fixed-term Employees (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2002,8 (Reporter, 5894, 2001–02, p. 1256)? Academic staff are not employed to work on particular research projects in a specified time frame, but to pursue an indefinite programme of autonomous research. Except where academic staff are employed temporarily to cover teaching, it seems difficult to argue that there is an objective justification for a difference in treatment.

5 The oldest edition of the Statutes and Ordinances available to me.

Annual Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022


Professor G. R. EVANS (Emeritus Professor of Medieval Theology and Intellectual History):

Deputy Vice-Chancellor,

The CUEF[2] has continued to make encouraging progress towards its ambition of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2038, in line with the broader operational targets of the University.

This comment on the University’s commitment to decarbonise is topical in the light of the ballot which has approved Council’s decision not to publish last summer’s Regent House Grace on the subject. The Financial Statements include a description of ‘a three-pronged strategy’, first of ‘divesting from all meaningful exposure to fossil fuels by 2030, investing instead in a way that supports renewable energy development’; secondly, ‘engaging with the CUEF’s fund managers; holding them to account on reducing carbon emissions in their portfolios’, and, thirdly, ‘reporting regularly to stakeholders on progress against these aims’. Could the regrettable recent activist damage to University property have been encouraged partly by the shortage of such regular reporting?

A fundamental optimism seems to underpin this year’s expectations about the University’s long-term relationship with its Bonds. ‘Over the longer term’, funds for one-off investments ‘will be boosted by surpluses generated from our bond-funded property and investment portfolio, over and above that needed to service the debt’. However, ‘ensuring our bond-funded property and investment portfolio remains focused on commercial returns’ is a reminder that in the venture into bonds, with its commercial objectives, the University as an educational charity has to tread a fine line. The Board of Scrutiny seems less confidently optimistic in its Twenty-Seventh Report when it says ‘the right resources need to be in place to manage the disposals and investments to create value for the University and manage its risk exposure’.

Concern seems to attach in the Financial Statements to the ‘Press & Assessment’s continuing dependency on key products’. The determined bringing together of the former UCLES and CUP[3] was taken through despite uncertainties expressed in Discussion. ‘We are seeking to diversify sources of income and surplus in the Press & Assessment’. This does not sound like a report that all is going well financially with the new entity. Nevertheless it is launching an ‘Open Equity Initiative’ to relieve authors in lower income countries of payment of open access fees which will result in a loss of income. The Board of Scrutiny says it ‘intends to monitor the progress of CUPA[2] as the merger continues, including arrangements for return of surpluses’.

1 https://www.cambridge.org/core/open-research/open-access/access/cambridge-open-equity-initiative/faqs#:~:text=The%20Cambridge%20Open%20Equity%20Initiative%2C%20have%20access%20to%20funding.
2 Acronyms:
  CUEF: Cambridge University Endowment Fund;
  UCLEx: University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate;
  CUP: Cambridge University Press;
  CUPA: Cambridge University Press & Assessment.
Report of the Council, dated 18 April 2023, on corrections and minor changes to the Statutes


Professor G. R. Evans (Emeritus Professor of Medieval Theology and Intellectual History):
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, these ‘corrections and minor changes to the Statutes’ include only ‘references that were overlooked when changes were originally presented for approval’, missing cross-references and other ‘minor changes’. This seems a sensible way of helping the Regent House to avoid a repetition of the growing untidiness which required the Technical Review of the Statutes in 2012. Perhaps it could become an annual exercise?

Report of the Council, dated 18 April 2023, on a Visitor Welcome Building (Station Road Gate) for the Botanic Garden

(Reporter, 6696, 2022–23, p. 603).

Professor G. R. Evans (Emeritus Professor of Medieval Theology and Intellectual History):
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, a ‘Visitor Welcome Building (Station Road gate)’ is proposed for the Botanic Garden. So be careful what you wish for when proposing changes to the Botanic Garden? A minor controversy of 1961 concerning the Botanic Garden ended live voting when the Regent House met in Congregation to discuss a Recommendation. A new gate was then proposed in honour of the benefactor of the Garden, the horticulturalist Reginald Cory (1871–1934), but when it was suggested that public toilets should be provided there was indignation.1 A change eventually voted through by 158 members of the Regent House removed the requirement that Graces must be approved by live voting at a Congregation. (A last occasion at which the House divided to take a live vote was over the proposal to give an Honorary Doctorate to the French philosopher Jacques Derrida on 16 May 1991.)2

With the exception of two purposes, the conferment of degrees and ‘any matter on which in the opinion of the Council or the Vice-Chancellor a decision must be taken urgently’,3 the Regent House no longer actually meets to discuss and vote to take its decisions and create its legislation on the spot.

The constitutional effects of detaching the discussion from the voting proved to be significant.4 Published ‘Reports to the University’ became less frequent (dropping from about sixty to about twenty a year by the 1970s). Numbers speaking in Discussions shrank. It is to be hoped proposals about the Botanic Garden will not prove so constitutionally disruptive this time.

2 The heated controversy on his merits prompted correspondence in The Times on 9 May 1991.
3 Statutes and Ordinances, p. 114.