REPORTER

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NOTICES

Calendar

- 18 May, Thursday. Ascension day. Scarlet day.
- 19 May, Friday. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (see p. 666).
- 20 May, Saturday. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (see p. 666).
- 21 May, Sunday. Easter Term divides.
- 28 May, *Sunday*. Whitsunday. Scarlet day. Preacher before the University at 11.30 a.m., The Baroness Berridge, of Emmanuel College, formerly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Women and Minister for the School System) (*Ramsden Preacher*).
- 30 May, *Tuesday*. Discussion by videoconference at 2 p.m. (see below).

Discussions (Tuesdays at 2 p.m.)	Congregations (at 10 a.m. unless otherwise stated)
30 May	19 and 20 May
20 June	21 June at 2.45 p.m. (Honorary Degrees)
11 July	28, 29 and 30 June and 1 July. (General Admission)
	5 July at 4 p.m. (Admission of the Vice-Chancellor)
	21 and 22 July

Discussion on Tuesday, 30 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, 30 May 2023 at 2 p.m. The following item will be discussed:

1. Report of the General Board, dated 16 May 2023, on a new rate of study for the part-time Doctor of Philosophy Degree (p. 664).

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 House² 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/.

Election to the Council in class (b)

16 May 2023

The Acting Vice-Chancellor announces that Professor Sharon Jayne Peacock, *JN*, has been elected to serve as a member of the Council in class (*b*) (Professors, Clinical Professors, Readers and Professors (Grade 11)) with immediate effect until 31 December 2024.

Details of the poll and the transfer of votes under the Single Transferable Vote regulations (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 121) are as follows:

Number of valid votes cast: 1,446 (no invalid votes) (Quota: 723)

		Transfer of Prof. Moggridge's votes		RESULT
Professor Geoffrey Dillwyn Moggridge, K	399	-399	_	
Professor Richard Michael Mortier, CHR	475	+131	606	
Professor Sharon Jayne Peacock, JN	572	+153	725	Elected
Non-transferable		115	115	
Total	1,446		1,446	

¹ 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.

² https://www.scrutiny.cam.ac.uk/ and https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent_house_roll/.

Congregation for the Formal Admission of the Vice-Chancellor: 5 July 2023

The Proctors, in accordance with the provisions of Statute C III 1 and Regulation 2 of the Special Regulations for the Vice-Chancellor, now call a Congregation of the Regent House to take place at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 5 July 2023, this date having been approved by the Council. This Congregation is for the formal admission of the Vice-Chancellor Elect, Professor Deborah Prentice, to the office of Vice-Chancellor and also, subject to the approval of the Regent House (see Grace 5 of 20 May 2023, p. 666), for her admission to the M.A. Degree under Statute B II 2. Some music will be performed.

Members of the Regent House and other members of the University community and their personal guests who wish to be present are asked to be seated in the Senate-House by 3.50 p.m. Tickets will not be issued. Matriculated members of the University are reminded that academical dress should be worn at Congregations (on this occasion black gowns, hoods not required). The proceedings are expected to conclude at about 4.30 p.m.

Report of the Council on corrections and minor changes to the Statutes: Notice in response to Discussion remarks

11 May 2023

The Council has received the remarks made at the Discussion on 2 May 2023 concerning the above Report (*Reporter*, 2022–23: 6696, p. 602 and 6699, p. 659).

Professor Evans suggests that there should be a Report published annually to avoid the 'untidiness which required the Technical Review of the Statutes in 2012'. The Council agrees that regular review of the Statutes is prudent and will aim to carry out such checks.

The Council is submitting a Grace (Grace 2, p. 665) for the approval of the recommendations of this Report.

Report of the Council on a Visitor Welcome Building (Station Road gate) for the Botanic Garden: Notice in response to Discussion remarks

11 May 2023

The Council has received the remarks made at the Discussion on 2 May 2023 concerning the above Report (*Reporter*, 2022–23: 6696, p. 603 and 6699, p. 659).

Professor Evans recalls a 'minor controversy of 1961' concerning the Botanic Garden, which indirectly led to a change in the method of voting on Graces of the Regent House. She draws attention to Professor Edwards' record of the wider ramifications of that change. The Council shares Professor Evans' hope that the proposals in this Report will not prove so 'constitutionally disruptive'.

The Council is submitting a Grace (Grace 3, p. 665) for the approval of the recommendations of this Report.

Van Geest Foundation Fund

11 May 2023

Under section 67 of the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Commission has power to change the purposes of a charity after having regard to certain matters. The Commission has agreed to make a scheme to amend the Ordinance for the Van Geest Foundation Fund (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 1017). The current purposes of the Fund do not provide a use for all of its income. The effect of the scheme¹ is to widen the Fund's purposes so that, provided there are sufficient funds, the income of the Fund can be applied to support additional or more senior roles than the Lectureship and Fellowship that the Fund already supports.

The Council is submitting a Grace (Grace 4, p. 665) to amend Regulations 1, 3 and 4 of the Ordinance to reflect the changes being made by the scheme. The Commission has agreed to seal the scheme, and therefore bring it into effect, on the date the Grace is approved (or very shortly thereafter).

Council appointment in relation to cases before the Commissary

15 May 2023

The Commissary (currently the Rt Hon. Lord (Igor) Judge) determines questions referred for decision by a member of the University under Statute A IX. On receipt of a case, representations are made in response on behalf of the University by a person or persons appointed by the Council, under Section 6(a). The Council has appointed the Registrary ex officio to this role, so that there is a standing appointment in the event that an urgent response is required.

See https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2022-23/weekly/6700/VanGeestFoundationFundScheme.pdf

VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Elections

Professor Charles Forsdick, FBA, B.A., Oxford, Ph.D., Lancaster, James Barrow Professor of French, University of Liverpool, elected Drapers Professor of French, with effect from 1 October 2023.

Professor Rebecca Kilner, B.A., Oxford, Ph.D., K, Professor of Evolutionary Biology, Department of Zoology, elected Professor of Zoology (1866), with effect from 1 June 2023.

Vacancies in the University

A full list of current vacancies can be found at https://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk.

Professorship of Data Science and Healthcare Improvement in the Department of Public Health and Primary Care; informal enquiries: Urvashi Ramphul (email: urvashi.ramphul@perrettlaver.com); closing date: 10 July 2023 at 9 a.m.; further details: https://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/job/40937/ and https://candidates.perrettlaver.com/vacancies/, job reference: 6605

The University actively supports equality, diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from all sections of society. The University has a responsibility to ensure that all employees are eligible to live and work in the UK.

AWARDS, ETC.

Visiting Fellowships at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand

The University of Cambridge and the University of Canterbury have a reciprocal visitor exchange programme between the two universities entitled the Cambridge–Canterbury Exchange Programme.

Applications are invited for up to two visiting fellowships at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Academic staff members of the University of Cambridge in any subject may apply. Further particulars may be obtained from the Strategic Partnerships Office, see https://www.strategic-partnerships.admin.cam.ac.uk/funding-calls-and-exchange-programmes.

Completed applications must be submitted to the Strategic Partnerships Office by email to strategicpartnerships@admin.cam.ac.uk or by post to The Old Schools, Trinity Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1TN to arrive no later than 14 July 2023.

EVENTS, COURSES, ETC.

Announcement of lectures, seminars, etc.

The University offers a large number of lectures, seminars and other events, many of which are free of charge, to members of the University and others who are interested. Details can be found on individual Faculty, Department and institution websites, on the What's On website (https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/whatson/) and on Talks.cam (https://www.talks.cam.ac.uk/). A variety of training courses are also available to members of the University, information and booking for which can be found online at https://www.training.cam.ac.uk/.

Brief details of upcoming events are given below.

Cambridge University Libraries

Cambridge University Library Fellows Talks: *The medieval Arabic and Persian manuscripts in Cambridge University Library: Exploring a connected corpus*, by Dr James White, Oschinsky Research Associate 2022–23, on Thursday, 1 June 2023 at 5.30 p.m., in person at the Milstein Seminar Rooms, University Library; all welcome; free to attend but booking required; further details: https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/whats/medieval-arabic-and-persian-manuscripts-cambridge-university-library-exploring-connected

Milner Therapeutics Institute

Milner Seminar Series: *Computational biology in drug discovery*, by Philippe Sanseau, GSK, on Thursday, 25 May 2023 at 4 p.m., online and in person at the Lecture Theatre, Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre; advance registration required; further details: https://milner-seminar-may-2023.eventbrite.co.uk

Milner Therapeutics Symposium 2023: Hybrid event to discuss the latest academic and pre-clinical research and its application in the development of new treatments in the pharma and biotech industries, on Wednesday, 5 July 2023, online and in person at West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge; open to academics and Milner-affiliated organisations only; advance registration required by 28 June; further details: https://www.milner.cam.ac.uk/milner-symposium-2023/

REPORTS

Report of the General Board on a new rate of study for the part-time Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The GENERAL BOARD begs leave to report to the University as follows:

- 1. The General Board Regulations for the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science, Master of Letters, and Master of Philosophy by thesis (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 502) provide for a rate of study for part-time Ph.D. students at 0.6 FTE (full-time equivalent).
- 2. As part of its widening participation and inclusion agenda, the University now requires all Ph.D. programmes to be offered as part-time as well as full-time, with exemptions only in limited circumstances.
- 3. The General Board, through its Education Committee, has received representations from students and staff in Faculties and Departments for a more flexible approach to rate of study for part-time students. The Education Committee has considered how this greater flexibility could be achieved, taking into account the University's desire to increase the diversity of its research student
- community, the small number of students likely to be impacted by this change and the parameters of current regulatory and operational structures.
- 4. The General Board wishes to introduce a new rate of study of 0.75 FTE for Ph.D. students, which equates to a minimum term requirement of twelve terms and a maximum term limit of sixteen terms. To achieve this, two part-time routes of study will be created: Route A, which will be at the existing rate of 0.6 FTE with a minimum term requirement of fifteen terms and a maximum of twenty-one terms; and Route B, which will be at the new rate of 0.75 FTE with a minimum term requirement of twelve terms and a maximum of sixteen terms. The new routes will be introduced from 1 October 2023 and will be available to current and incoming students from that date.
- **5.** The General Board recommends that, with effect from 1 October 2023, Regulations 1(vi) and 8 of the General Board Regulations for the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science, Master of Letters, and Master of Philosophy by thesis (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 502) be amended to read as follows:
 - [1.](vi) if the student seeks the Ph.D. Degree by part-time study under Route A, for not less than fifteen terms; if the student seeks the Ph.D. Degree by part-time study under Route B, for not less than twelve terms.
 - **8.** A candidate for the M.Phil. Degree by thesis shall submit a thesis by a date determined by the Degree Committee. A candidate for the Ph.D., M.Litt. or M.Sc. Degree may submit a thesis
 - (a) not earlier than the first day of the term during which that candidate expects to complete the requirements of Regulation 1, and
 - (b) not later than
 - (i) the last day of the twelfth term after the student was registered as a full-time candidate for the degree, or
 - (ii) the last day of the twenty-first term after the student was registered as a part-time candidate for the degree under Route A, or
 - (iii) the last day of the sixteenth term after the student was registered as a part-time candidate for the degree under Route B,

provided that, with the permission of the General Board, a thesis may be submitted later than that day.

An allowance of terms made by the Council under Regulation 2 and by the General Board under Regulation 1(d) shall count in calculating the standing of a student for the purpose of this regulation, as shall an exemption under Regulation 1(a).

16 May 2023

Anthony Freeling, John Dennis Savannah Phillips

Acting Vice-Chancellor Tim Harper Emily So

Madeleine Atkins Patrick Maxwell Pieter Van Houten

Neve Atkinson Nigel Peake Jocelyn Wyburd

OBITUARIES

Obituary Notices

Professor Masatsugu Ohtake, Honorary Fellow of Hughes Hall, sometime Professor of English Literature, Waseda University, died on 16 April 2023, aged 90 years.

MICHAEL GWINNELL, M.A., Guild Fellow of Corpus Christi College, died on 9 May 2023, aged 78 years.

GRACES

Graces submitted to the Regent House on 17 May 2023

The Council submits the following Graces to the Regent House. These Graces, unless they are withdrawn or a ballot is requested in accordance with the regulations for Graces of the Regent House (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 112), will be deemed to have been approved at 4 p.m. on Friday, 26 May 2023. Further information on requests for a ballot or the amendment of Graces is available to members of the Regent House on the Regent House Petitions site.§

- 1. That the recommendation in paragraph 2 of the Report of the General Board, dated 22 March 2023, on the establishment of a Professorship (*Reporter*, 6693, 2022–23, p. 480) be approved.¹
- **2.** That the recommendations in paragraph 5 of the Report of the Council, dated 18 April 2023, on corrections and minor changes to the Statutes (*Reporter*, 6696, 2022–23, p. 602) be approved.²
- **3.** That the recommendations in paragraph 7 of the 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) be approved.³
- **4.** That Regulations 1, 3 and 4 of the Ordinance for the Van Geest Foundation Fund (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 1017) be amended to reflect the wording of a scheme made by the Charity Commission, to read as follows:⁴
 - 1. The sum of £4,160,000 received from the John and Lucille van Geest Foundation for the endowment of a University Lectureship, Clinician Ph.D. Fellowship, Professorship (Grade 11), Clinical Professorship and/or Professorship in Brain Repair, in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, to be known as the John van Geest and Gussy Marlowe Lectureship, Clinician Ph.D. Fellowship, Professorship (Grade 11), Clinical Professorship and/or Professorship respectively, shall form a fund called the Van Geest Foundation Fund.
 - **3.** If and whenever the income of the Fund exceeds the amount required for the payment of the stipend, national insurance, pension contributions, and associated indirect costs of the Lectureship, Clinician Ph.D. Fellowship, Professorship (Grade 11) and Professorship, the surplus shall be applied to support:
 - (a) the work of the Lecturer, Fellow, Professor (Grade 11) Clinical Professor and/or Professor; and/or
 - (b) research in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences

in such manner as may be approved by the General Board on the recommendation of the Managers.

- **4.** (a) The Lecturer shall be appointed by the Selection Committee for the Faculty of Clinical Medicine in the manner prescribed by Special Ordinance C(x).
- (b) The Fellow shall be selected on the recommendation of the Graduate Committee of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, and approved by the Managers. The Fellowship may be awarded to non-clinicians and to candidates who already have a higher degree with the approval of the Managers.
- (c) The Professor (Grade 11) shall be appointed by the Selection Committee for the Faculty of Clinical Medicine in the manner prescribed by Special Ordinance C(x).
- (d) The Clinical Professor shall be appointed by the Selection Committee for the Faculty of Clinical Medicine in the manner prescribed by the Ordinance for Clinical Professors.
- (e) The Professor shall be appointed by a Board of Electors in the manner prescribed by Special Ordinance C (vii).

¹ The Council thanks Dr Astle for his general remarks on co-terminous academic appointments, to which it will respond after consulting with the General Board. As Dr Astle's remarks do not relate specifically to the matter covered by this Report, the Council is submitting a Grace for the approval of the Report's recommendation.

² See the Council's Notice, p. 662.

³ See the Council's Notice, p. 662.

⁴ See the Council's Notice, p. 662.

Graces to be submitted to the Regent House at a Congregation on 19 May 2023

The Council has sanctioned the submission of the following Graces to the Regent House at a Congregation to be held on Friday, 19 May 2023:

That the following persons be admitted to the degree of Master of Arts under the provisions of Statute B II 2:

- 1. CHRISTOPHER JOHN BENNETT, Commercial Director in the Press and Assessment Department.
- 2. ELAINE SUSAN BLAUS, Regional Commercial Director in the Press and Assessment Department.
- 3. DAVID THOMAS BULMAN, Chief Operations Officer in the Press and Assessment Department.
- 4. LOUISE CLAIRE CARR, Finance Director (Infrastructure Services) in the Press and Assessment Department.
- **5.** Maria Teresa Conde, Fellow of Jesus College, Professor of Brazilian Studies and Visual Culture (Grade 11) in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics.
- 6. Andrew James Docherty, Chief Technology Officer in the Press and Assessment Department.
- 7. Briege Josephine Kelly, Director (Group Internal Audit) in the Press and Assessment Department.
- 8. MATTHEW WILLIAM MAYO WALKER, Publishing Director (Education) in the Press and Assessment Department.
- **9.** GUY ALEXANDER PETER WHEELER, Assistant General Counsel (Data, Technology and Procurement) in the Press and Assessment Department.
- 10. EMILY ANNA WILLIAMS, Fellow of Jesus College.

Graces to be submitted to the Regent House at a Congregation on 20 May 2023

The Council has sanctioned the submission of the following Graces to the Regent House at a Congregation to be held on Saturday, 20 May 2023:

That the following person be admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by incorporation:

1. Sheila Watts, Fellow of Newnham College, University Associate Professor (Grade 10) in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, Doctor of Philosophy of the University of Dublin (Trinity College) (1996).

That the following persons be admitted to the degree of Master of Arts under the provisions of Statute B II 2:

- **2.** Bryan Stanley Cameron, Fellow of Selwyn College, University Associate Professor (Grade 10) in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics.
- 3. LYNNE MEEHAN, Librarian of the Department of Engineering Library.
- **4.** RÓISÍN MEABH OWENS, Fellow of Newnham College, Professor of Bioelectronics in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology.
- **5.** Deborah Anne Prentice, Vice-Chancellor Elect, following her admission to the office of Vice-Chancellor.¹

¹ The degree is expected to be conferred at a Congregation to be held on Wednesday, 5 July 2023 at 4 p.m., at which Professor Prentice will formally be admitted to the office of Vice-Chancellor (see p. 662).

ACTA

Results of the ballots on Grace 2 and Grace 3 of 15 March 2023 (Examinations, 2023)

16 May 2023

The Registrary gives notice that, as a result of the ballots held between 3 and 15 May 2023, Grace 2 of 15 March 2023 was **approved as amended**, and Grace 3 of 15 March 2023 was **not approved**. For information about the Graces and the amendment, see the Notice dated 27 March 2023 (*Reporter*, 6695, 2022–23, p. 585).

The results of the voting on Grace 2 of 15 March 2023, conducted under the Single Transferable Vote regulations (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 121), are as follows:

Number of valid votes cast: 1,769 (no invalid votes) (Quota: 885)

	First count	RESULT	
(a) In favour of the Grace in its original form	797		
(b) In favour of the Grace as amended	902	Approved	
(c) Against the Grace, whether in its original or amended form	70		
Total	1,769		

The results of the voting on Grace 3 of 15 March 2023 are as follows:

Number of valid votes cast: 1,731 (no invalid votes)

In favour of the Grace (placet) 804 Against the Grace (non-placet) 927

Four fly-sheets signed by members of the Regent House and two fly-sheets signed by registered students and sabbatical officers of the University of Cambridge Students' Union were received in relation to these ballots. In accordance with the Council's Notice on Discussions and Fly-sheets (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 116) the four fly-sheets by members of the Regent House are reprinted below (from p. 668); the two student fly-sheets are not reproduced. All six items were made available to members of the Regent House prior to voting.

E. M. C. RAMPTON, Registrary

END OF THE OFFICIAL PART OF THE 'REPORTER'

FLY-SHEETS REPRINTED

Fly-sheets relating to the ballots on Grace 2 and Grace 3 of 15 March 2023 (Examinations, 2023)

In accordance with the Council's Notice on Discussions and Fly-sheets (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 116), the four fly-sheets by members of the Regent House received for the ballots on Grace 2 and Grace 3 of 15 March 2023 (Examinations, 2023) are reprinted below. For the results of the ballots see p. 667.

Examinations, 2023 Fly-sheet supporting a vote to <u>AMEND Grace 2 (option (b))</u> and a vote of *NON PLACET* on Grace 3

To mitigate the effects of industrial action by the UCU, the University Council proposes to adjust the procedures for examinations held in Easter Term 2023 to allow for:

- 1. delays to examinations,
- 2. delays to the assembly and publication of lists of exam results (class-lists),
- 3. the amendment of class-lists,
- 4. the graduation of students who have met the minimum standard required, before the collation of their marks by Examiners is complete,
- 5. the diminution of oversight by Internal Examiners and External Examiners.

The University has a right and a responsibility to respond to industrial action, but the adjustments that fall into categories 3, 4 and 5 present a threat to the academic standards of the University and for that reason we oppose them.

The Council has not explained to the Regent House why the usual examination procedures can be done away with this year without compromising the University's academic standards. The reason the usual procedures are specified in Ordinances is that they are considered necessary by the Regent House to maintain the integrity of the examination process. If they are unnecessary this year, why do we spend time and money on them in other years?

There has been no provision of advice to the Regent House from the General Board — which is responsible under Statute A V 1(a) 'for the academic and educational policy of the University [and for] advis[ing] the University on questions relating to such policy' (Statutes and Ordinances, p. 7) — to justify these dramatic changes to our examination standards. In fact, the Council gives no indication of having consulted the General Board, either in its notice of the Graces to relax the examination procedures (Reporter, 6692, 2022–23, p. 462), or its notice of a ballot on those Graces (Reporter, 6695, 2022–23, p. 585). The published minutes of the Council and the General Board do not record any discussion of a consultation. (Although the minutes of the meetings held in March were unpublished as of mid-April.)

The proposal to abrogate the requirements relating to Examiners is particularly concerning. It would allow Tripos examinations and other examinations for Degrees, including the M.Phil., and the M.Res., to proceed in the absence of an External Examiner and for examination results lists to be signed by simple majorities of Examiners. Except in exceptional circumstances, the usual requirement of the University is that 'every Examiner who has taken part in an examination shall be present, unless prevented by grave cause... at the final meeting of the Examiners', to ensure the integrity of the examination process (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 258 and *Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 514). The *Guidelines on Marking Standards and Classing Conventions* published by the General Board's Education Committee emphasise the 'important role' played by External Examiners in determining examination classifications. The Council's proposals create a risk that inadequate scrutiny will be afforded to the classification of candidates with marks at the boundaries, for whom External Examiners serve as guardians of fairness. Extra care will need to be given to boundary cases this academic year, to account for the extensive disruption to teaching caused by industrial action.

The roles and responsibilities of External Examiners at the University are set out in the *Guidance by the General Board on the arrangements for External Examiners for taught courses*,² which explains that they 'play a key part in the University's quality assurance processes and maintaining academic standards,' and that they 'ensure that the standards set for an award are appropriate, ... that assessment procedures are sound and measure student achievement rigorously ... [and that] the examination process is conducted fairly'. External Examiners are appointed to 'act in a moderating capacity, provide an independent assessment of academic standards [and to] comment on the validity of the examinations'. The General Board's account of the role of External Examiners reflects national guidelines. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (the QAA), publishes *The UK Quality Code for Higher Education* which 'articulates fundamental principles that should apply to higher education quality across the UK' and which is used by national funders and regulators 'as a basis for assessing the quality of higher education provision in line with their statutory responsibilities'.³

¹ The General Board of the Faculties' Education Committee, *Guidelines on Marking Standards and Classing Conventions*, September 2022, available from the Education Quality and Policy Office website at https://www.educationalpolicy.admin.cam.ac.uk/files/guidance_ on marking and classing 2022.pdf.

² The General Board of the Faculties, *Guidance by the General Board on the arrangements for External Examiners for taught courses*, October 2021, available from the Education Quality and Policy Office website at https://www.educationalpolicy.admin.cam.ac.uk/files/general_board_guidance_on_the_arrangements_for_ee.pdf.

³ The UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment, *The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education*, March 2018, available from the QAA website at https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code.

The guidance accompanying the Code indicates that the use of External Examiners should be a core practice 'for independent confirmation that [higher education providers'] processes have been applied appropriately' to 'ensure qualifications have been awarded equitably and in accordance with national standards'. The Code also expresses the principle that 'assessment policies, regulations and processes are explicit, transparent and accessible to all staff and students involved in the assessment process'. It is hard to see how this can be compatible with the introduction of fundamental procedural changes just before the examination period.

At first glance the proposal to allow students who have demonstrated the minimum level of attainment necessary for a Degree to graduate before the rest of their cohort may seem benign, but it creates a serious risk of unequal treatment and risks the humiliation of individuals. The students left behind will be those most likely to have struggled with the Cambridge course, perhaps through no fault of their own. They will be forced to wait in the class of 'Candidates on whom no decision has yet been reached because of insufficient evidence' — knowing that there is a substantial chance that they have failed to obtain honours or failed to obtain a Degree at all — until the Examiners have the evidence to move them. Meanwhile they will not be able to graduate with their peers. This element of the Council's proposal is unfair and potentially incompatible with equalities legislation.

In its notice of a ballot (*Reporter*, 6695, 2022–23, p. 585), the Council warned of regulatory risks to the University, pointing to a briefing note on industrial action by the regulator, the Office for Students (OfS).^{5, 6} To the extent that the threat to Cambridge has substance, it is difficult to see how the changes proposed by the Council do not themselves create a regulatory risk. The OfS briefing note states explicitly that 'any changes made to examinations or other assessments should not disadvantage students, while also maintaining standards', that the OfS 'expects providers to maintain quality and standards' and that enforcement action may depend on 'whether the provider can demonstrate that it has followed its own processes and procedures for maintaining standards'. The note also draws attention to certain conditions of the regulatory framework, in particular:

- B4, which requires that 'students are assessed effectively', that 'each assessment is valid and reliable', that 'academic regulations are designed to ensure that relevant awards are credible' and that 'relevant awards granted to students are credible at the point of being granted and when compared to those granted previously';
- E2, which requires that a registered provider operates in accordance with its governing documents.

The Regent House may also wish to consider condition B5, which states that providers must ensure that 'any standards set appropriately reflect any applicable sector-recognised standards' and that 'awards are only granted to students whose knowledge and skills appropriately reflect any applicable sector-recognised standards'.

The University's reputation has been established over many years, on the basis of exceptional academic standards in education, learning and research. The University's mission is to pursue these activities at 'the highest international levels of excellence'. The Council argues that the 'University's peer institutions in the Russell Group, including Oxford, already have such powers [as those requested by the Graces]'. But this is not good reasoning — our standards are the highest and they must stand on their own terms; they cannot be justified by comparison with the standards of others. Amongst the Russell Group universities, only Oxford and Cambridge protect institutional standards by academic self-government.

It is worth noting that although the powers sought by the Council in Grace 2 will allow students to graduate, they will not allow Examiners to place students into the standard classes (I, II.i, II.ii, III, etc.) before their marks have been collated completely in the usual way. Consequently, it is doubtful whether the Council's proposal would do much to reduce delays to the progression of students into employment or further study. Despite this, we recognise that delays to graduation will inconvenience students, particularly international students who may find it difficult to attend late ceremonies in person or with their families. We accept this poses a short-term risk to the reputation of the University and it is understandably a concern of the Council, which has executive responsibility for the University. However, the Regent House has a responsibility to set this against the much more profound risk to the University's long-term reputation if we are willing to compromise the integrity of our established examination standards.

We believe that delays — but not other changes — to examination procedures provide a reasonable and proportionate mitigation of the effects of industrial action. Academic self-government is the main guardian of the University's academic standards and of its reputation.

We urge members of the Regent House to vote to AMEND Grace 2 (option (b)) and to vote NON PLACET on Grace 3.

Signed by the following members of the Regent House:

R. H. Аввотт A. R. C. M. ASSERAF N. Bastani R. A. ALEXANDER W. J. ASTLE P. M. Bays T. Alexopoulou A. J. Attaheri M. B. Beckles M. N. Beg V. Baena G. A. J. AMARATUNGA J. H. Arnold A. M. BARR D. S. A. Bell N. S. Arnold C. A. BASSETT J. R. Bellis

⁴ The UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment, *The UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Advice and Guidance: Assessment*, November 2018, available from the QAA website at https://www.qaa.ac.uk//en/the-quality-code/advice-and-guidance/assessment.

⁵ Some amendments have been made to the regulatory framework since the briefing note to which the Council refers was published by the OfS: https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/.

⁶ The Office for Students, *Briefing note: Disruption to students caused by industrial action*, November 2021, available from the Office for Students' website at https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/5c773fe4-3902-43c4-8aaa-778c048538ae/provider-briefing-note-industrial-action-nov-2021.pdf.

17 May 2023 CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY REPORTER 670 J. L. Berenbeim D. A. HILLMAN B. M. OUTHWAITE G. S. Betegh P. A. Hoegger N. A. OVENDEN E. C. Blair S. J. Hogarth DARERCA OWEN D. L. BOWMAN J. E. HOPKINS J. H. S. PALMER C. Brown C. J. HOULDCROFT B. A. PARSONS B. J. Burchell M. Hrebeniak S. L. PAUL C. M. Burlinson I. R. B. M. HUSSAIN L. Pellegrini K. F. CAMPBELL M. Inì N. Petek-Sargeant C. Castelnovo R. C. POWELL C. H. Jackson C. E. CHAMBERS L. Janik S. A. RADCLIFFE **J.** Совве F. L. JEPHCOTT C. M. F. RAE P. RAMOS PINTO OLIVEIRA DA SILVA C. Cole C. Johann R. M. COLEMAN M. H. JOHNSON R. T. Ranasinghe N. Crisafi C. A. Jones D. I. REDHOUSE G. Cronin D. R. H. Jones W. G. REES J. A. Crowcroft Ross D. King A. M. REID G. CSANYI D. D. KNORR M. E. RICE P. J. CUNNINGHAM P. F. Kornicki JOHN E. ROBB D. E. A. CURTIS D. C. D. ROBERTS N. Krishnaswami J. P. T. la Hausse de Lalouvière MICHAEL T. ROBERTS P. L. DE BOLLA T. Demetriou C. C. Lanfear M. A. RUEHL T. J. Denmead M. R. LAVEN A. SANCHEZ M. S. Desai C.-Y. R. Leow E. R. SANDFORD J. M. Dixon M. Long J. Sanjurjo-Ramos S. EAST D. LUCA P. A. V. SARRIS A. L. Erickson M. V. Lucas-Smith A. O. SCALLY

M. E. Erol H. R. McCarthy S. J. Schaffer G. R. Evans C.-A. SCHULZ N. Macdonald R. C. Evans H. J. MACHADO GOMES LEAL J. E. SCOTT-WARREN C. J. FARR E. S. MACKINNON S. SEAMAN M. P. FIORE ALYCE MAHON J. P. SKITTRALL

S. B. Franklin P. MANDLER M. R. Sparkes M. F. Franklin-Brown G. F. Mantilla Casas S. Srinivasan G. M. Fraser GRAHAM P. MARTIN F. M. STAJANO J. A. Freeman S. Meer M. J. Sternberg M. R. Furness А. S. Мебнл H I STONE C. GAGNE T. Meissner Z. A. M. SVENDSEN N. E. TAYLOR J. L. GALLOP L. G. Mellor

P. Mendes Loureiro P. N. TAYLOR A. GARG A. J. W. THOM N. J. GAY T. G. MICKLEM L. Gazzotti AMY L. MILTON R. P. THOMPSON M. E. GILLIS A. W. Moore T. Tregear C. J. GONDA S. W. Moore D. Trocmé-Latter

D. J. GOODE N. Mora-Sitja A. Vlachos M. G. Moreno Figueroa M. G. WARD C. J. GOODSON P. GOPAL R. Morieux C. G. WARNES L. A. Weinert D. J. Greaves R. M. MORTIER D. H. Weiss J. B. R. GREEN Н. R. Мотт J. E. Gregory С. G. A. Моинот J. J. Welch S. E. W. MÜLLER-WILLE T. G. GRIFFIN R. WIGHTMAN C. L. Wilkinson R. J. Gruijters D. P. NALLY R. L. NEWMAN R. M. WILSON

J. A. Guarneri S. HAGGARTY M. Ní Mhaonaigh M. B. WINGATE S. E. HAKENBECK D. NIETLISPACH K. A. WINSTON D. K. HART T. C. O'CONNELL P. C. WOODLAND L. J. Wrapson R. HAYNES R. A. OLIVER L. M. HAYWOOD A. C. Orben A. E. ZURCHER

Fly-sheet in support of Graces 2 and 3 of 15 March 2023 (Examinations, 2023)

We the undersigned (Heads of House, Senior Tutors, and others) are concerned about the very real risk to our students of a marking and assessment boycott by members of UCU next term. Our current finalists, in particular, have already had their education severely disrupted by the COVID pandemic, and the threatened boycott affecting their final examinations will cause significant concern and anxiety amongst this cohort. The impact of not being able to graduate will extend beyond not being able to participate in end of year celebrations, and General Admission with their peers, friends and families, it will potentially impact on their future careers. Students may lose job offers, or places or funding for further study.

Furthermore, there is a potential significant impact for international students who hold student visas. If examinations need to be delayed until the autumn, the current visas held by finalists and Master's students will not cover this extended period and students would need to apply for a new visa from overseas, at additional cost, to return to Cambridge. International students who were expecting to complete their studies this summer and apply for the post-study graduate visa would no longer be eligible to do so.

A failure to award a degree to students who have worked hard and shown they have met the required standard will cause significant reputational damage. We are about our students, and to treat them this way would be unfair.

Please vote in favour of Grace 2 in its original form (option (a) on the ballot) and PLACET on Grace 3.

Signed by the following members of the Regent House

S. M. Ansari M. FRASCA-SPADA M. MORIARTY C. E. J. ARNOLD C. J. Greenwood R. Mosey MADELEINE ATKINS M. F. GUILLEN K. A. Munir C. S. BARNARD A. Gurria D. J. NEEDHAM P. J. BARTON H. J. HANCOCK R. J. PARTINGTON M. M. Beber H. HEDGELAND R. V. PENTY A P BOOKBINDER ROBERT M. HENDERSON M. R. W. RANDS L. S. C. Bristow M. Hockaday C. P. READ P. J. ROGERSON J. M. R. Bunbury P. M. Hoskin H. C. CANUTO R. E. Hunt T. J. V. ROULET D. A. CARDWELL H. JIANG M. J. SEWELL DOUGLAS M. CHALMERS E. C. KENDALL C. A. SHORT P. A. CHAUFFAILLE SAFFI S. Learmount E. St. J. Smith Andrew M. Spencer IANE CLARKE T. L. MCKEE SALLY C. DAVIES C. Marquis M. L. SUTHERLAND J. S. Dennis S. MARTIN Andrew C. Thompson N DESAI R. J. Mayhew S. P. Tomaselli G. R. DISSANAIKE L. C. R. MINGHELLA M. E. WELLAND P. Dominiak E. A. MISKA G. A. WILLIAMS A. M. Donald T. P. Monie P. J. WILLIAMSON M. A. EL-ERIAN SALLY MORGAN J. C. WILLMOTT

Fly-sheet to support the Graces relating to examinations this Easter Term

This vote is about enabling our students to graduate and progress in their academic studies if they have proven to examiners that they have reached the relevant academic standard.

We believe that it is wrong for Cambridge students to suffer the consequences of an ongoing national dispute on pay and conditions. If you agree, please vote:

For Grace 2: 'In favour of the Grace in its original form' by placing a 1 next to option (a)

For Grace 3: 'In favour of the Grace (Placet)' by placing a cross in the corresponding box.

The boycott and Graces in more detail

The marking and assessment boycott announced recently by the University and College Union introduces a real risk that some examination papers will not be available for students, that marks may be missing for some components of the exam, and that some examiners will be absent from the final classification meeting.

This makes it likely that a number of our students will be unable to graduate within the normal timescale this summer, potentially preventing them from undertaking further study and taking up job offers.

The Graces as originally proposed by the Council to the Regent House on 15 March 2023 would, if approved, put in place temporary measures to mitigate these impacts where possible. They would enable the University to award degrees to students where parts of their assessment have been affected by the marking and assessment boycott, but they have met the minimum academic thresholds for the award of degrees (the achieved degree class will still need to be confirmed for these students later in the year once the final results are known).

These measures would ensure that affected students still obtain their degrees, provided those students have already achieved sufficient marks to demonstrate they have reached the relevant academic standards. This will similarly enable affected students in other years of study who have achieved the necessary minimum standard to progress to their next year.

The Graces also seek flexibility in the timing and conduct of examinations, as well as in the ability to publish class-lists that have been signed by a majority, but not all, examiners, including the external examiner(s). However, we note that the UCU's current guidance is for external examiners to *fulfil their contractual responsibilities to their external university*, so we expect external examiners will be able to perform their duties, and therefore these mitigations are unlikely to be used.

If the Graces are not approved as submitted

If these Graces are not approved as originally proposed, affected final-year and taught postgraduate students who have already had their learning and educational experience severely disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic will experience delays in the completion of their Cambridge degrees: the very thing that they have all worked so hard to achieve. Furthermore, some international students will also have problems with their visas.

The University will also risk being in breach of its conditions of registration with the Office for Students, with action against it by the regulator a real possibility. The University's reputation – with current students, those who are thinking of applying to Cambridge, donors and other partners – would be seriously damaged.

If the amendment to Grace 2 is approved rather than the original, there would likely be an unspecified delay in the conduct of examinations and the approval of class-lists, without any powers to mitigate the impacts of the proposed marking and assessment boycott on the progression of students and the completion of their degrees.

Previous approval by the Regent House; protecting standards

These powers are routinely available in most peer Russell Group universities, including the University of Oxford. They have also been requested and approved by the Regent House in anticipation of industrial action many times in the past, including in 2014, 2016 and 2018.²

The University's Education Committee is the body with delegated responsibility from the General Board to make decisions about exams and assessment, as well as educational quality and standards. The Education Committee considered these matters at its meeting on 8 February 2023, endorsed the mitigating actions and agreed that the proposed Graces be put forward for publication and approval. It was confident that the University's academic standards would be maintained if these measures were exercised. The powers relating to candidates being allowed to progress or graduate without all of their marks being available would only be exercised where (a) candidates have completed all examination requirements, and (b) there is already sufficient evidence (from the marks available) that candidates would have achieved the required academic standard.

The Graces are explicit in their recognition that some candidates will not have sufficient evidence to be allowed to progress, or to graduate, and the examiners will need to reconvene to consider these candidates. This is an unfortunate outcome of the marking and assessment boycott, which is likely to have uneven impacts across the University. The Graces proposed by the Council are intended to mitigate these impacts, without compromising academic standards.

In conclusion

We think that these measures are necessary and proportionate considering the very severe risks to students and the University as outlined. Please vote in favour of Grace 2 in its original form, and in favour (*Placet*) of Grace 3.

Signed by the following members of the Regent House

e ;	E	
H. D. Allen	J. H. GWYNNE	N. Peake
K. A. Allen	T. N. Harper	A. PHILPOTT
C. S. Barnard	M. Hulme	R. A. W. REX
D. A. CARDWELL	S. Iyer	A. Rose
S. C. Davies	L. J. Jardine-Wright	P. M. Rose
J. S. Dennis	A. S. Jeffrey	T. J. V. ROULET
C. Durkan	P. A. KATTUMAN	K. Saeb-Parsy
C. J. Edmonds	J. H. Keeler	E. K. M. So
M. Edmonds	D. A. Longbottom	J. A. Tasioulas
M. C. Elliott	T. J. Matthams	S. C. Taylor
S. N. Fairclough	P. H. MAXWELL	A. Turchyn
A. C. Ferguson-Smith	M. J. MILLETT	B. Vira
A. N. S. Freeling	T. P. Monie	SHEILA WATTS
A. M. Fulton	K. A. Munir	T. T. Weil
J. P. GARDNER	A. D. Neely	G. A. WILLIAMS
U. C. Goswami	W. P. Nolan	M. R. WORMALD
F. M. Gribble	A. L. Odgers	

 $^{^{1}\} https://www.ucu.org.uk/MAboycottFAQs\#16._What_if_I_am_external_examining_at_another_institution?$

² https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2013-14/weekly/6344/section10.shtml; https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2015-16/weekly/6421/section8.shtml; and https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/2017-18/weekly/6502/section9.shtml#heading2-16.

Fly-sheet supporting a vote to <u>AMEND Grace 2 (option (b))</u> and a vote of *NON PLACET* on Grace 3

The University's exercise of its degree-awarding powers is its fundamental and most ancient power. That was recognised in the inclusion of a duty to examine added a generation ago to the duties of University officers (Statute C I 4) and in the inclusion of strict Ordinances on Examinations (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 249).

It is true that the University has previously countenanced departures from the rules set out in the Ordinances on Examinations in several years, allowing separation of the decision of the Examiners to award the degree from the classification of a candidate's performance, to be determined at a later date.

That set a bad precedent. The Education Committee of the General Board considered the proposals now before the Regent House in the form of a Grace at its meeting of 8 February 2023 (572.5.1.2) as set out in a Paper (E6605) which it considered at that meeting. If those proposals are approved an opportunity will be lost to call attention to the unacceptability under Cambridge's constitution of separating the grant of the degree from its classification.

The argument is also being advanced that students will suffer in a number of ways if examinations cannot be completed to the usual timetable, including the classification of degrees. Recognising that that is always a possibility, the Ordinances on Examinations envisage a number of reasons why it may not be possible for the normal requirements and timetables to be adhered to and make constitutionally acceptable provisions to meet every eventuality. This makes unnecessary the Graces to be balloted, which were framed in the face of proposed UCU action (now approved on 20 April).

It is further suggested that if the proposals are not approved the University will 'risk being in breach of its conditions of registration with the Office for Students, with action against it by the regulator a real possibility'. This is an argument from fear.

However, the risk of sanction by the Office for Students seems to be created by approval of the proposed Grace rather than a failure to approve it. The relevant OfS Condition is B4, covering *Assessment and Awards*. This describes requirements which will *not* be met if the Grace is approved.

Signed by the following members of the Regent House:

R. A. Alexander	R. J. Gruijters	T. C. O'CONNELL
W. J. ASTLE	J. A. Guarneri	B. M. OUTHWAITE
A. J. Attaheri	S. E. HAKENBECK	N. A. OVENDEN
V. Baena	R. HAYNES	Darerca Owen
N. Bastani	C. J. HOULDCROFT	B. A. Parsons
M. B. Beckles	M. Hrebeniak	S. L. PAUL
M. N. Beg	I. R. B. M. Hussain	R. T. RANASINGHE
J. R. Bellis	F. L. Јернсотт	D. C. D. Roberts
D. L. BOWMAN	M. H. Johnson	A. O. Scally
C. Brown	P. M. Knox	S. Srinivasan
Ј. Совве	N. Krishnaswami	Z. A. M. Svendsen
N. Crisafi	J. P. T. la Hausse de Lalouvière	N. E. Taylor
G. Cronin	H. R. McCarthy	L. A. Weinert
T. Demetriou	E. S. Mackinnon	D. H. Weiss
T. J. Denmead	G. F. Mantilla Casas	J. J. Welch
J. M. Dixon	D. Margocsy	R. Wightman
A. L. Erickson	P. Mendes Loureiro	C. L. WILKINSON
G. R. Evans	T. G. MICKLEM	R. M. WILSON
C. J. Farr	A. W. Moore	M. B. WINGATE
J. A. Freeman	R. M. Mortier	K. A. WINSTON
A. Garg	H. R. Мотт	L. J. Wrapson
L. Gazzotti	С. G. А. Моинот	A. E. Zurcher
D. J. GOODE	R. L. Newman	
P. GOPAL	D. NIETLISPACH	

https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/1231efe3-e050-47b2-8e63-c6d99d95144f/regulatory framework 2022.pdf

COLLEGE NOTICES

Vacancies

Christ's College: College Lectureship and Fellowship in Medieval English Literature; tenure: three years from 1 September 2023 (or as otherwise agreed); Lectureship renewable (permanent); stipend: £37,386; closing date: 12 June 2023; further details: https://www.christs.cam.ac.uk/vacancies-christ-college

Darwin College: Postdoctoral Research Associates; tenure: one year from 1 October 2023, with the possibility of annual renewal to a maximum of three years; non-stipendiary but certain collegiate benefits apply; closing date: 10 June 2023 at 5 p.m.; further details: https://www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/vacancies

Darwin College/Cambridge Zero David MacKay Research Associates (up to three available); tenure: one year from 1 July 2023; non-stipendiary but certain collegiate benefits apply; closing date: 7 June 2023 at 12 noon; further details: https://www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/ vacancies

Downing College: Fellowship in Biological Science; tenure: three years from 1 October 2023 with the possibility of re-election; non-stipendiary but certain collegiate benefits apply; closing date: 9 June 2023 at 12 noon; further details: https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/vacancies/academic-vacancies

Events

Jesus College

China Forum Seminar Series

Professor David Archard (Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Queen's University Belfast, Chair of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, and Honorary Vice-President of the Society for Applied Philosophy) will deliver a virtual lecture on *Bioethics in China Today* on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 at 5 p.m.; further details and booking: https://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/events/bioethics-china-today

EXTERNAL NOTICES

Oxford Notices

Saïd Business School and Wadham College: Peter Moores Professorship of Management Studies; tenure: from 1 September 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter; closing date: 5 June 2023 at 12 noon; further details: https://candidates.perrettlaver.com/vacancies/, quote ref: 6540, and https://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk, vacancy ID: 165279

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