REPORTER

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NOTICES

Calendar

9 November, Saturday. Michaelmas Term divides.

29 November, Friday. End of third quarter of Michaelmas Term.

30 November, Saturday. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m.

Discussions (Tuesdays at 2 p.m.)

Congregations (at 10 a.m. unless otherwise stated)

10 December

30 November

Joint Report of the Council and the General Board on the review of examination regulations following the marking and assessment boycott: Notice in response to Discussion remarks

The Council has received the remarks made at the Discussion on 8 October concerning the above Report (*Reporter*: 6750, 2023–24, p. 806; 6755, 2024–25, p. 46). It has consulted with the General Board in preparing this response.

This Report represents the conclusion of Phase 1 of a review. The Council thanks the speakers for their contributions, which will be shared with the Task and Finish Group undertaking the review, given that several comments refer to the Group's work in Phase 2. The Council believes that it shares with all three speakers a desire for greater clarity in the Ordinances governing examination and assessment.

Mr Knight refers to a new measure proposed in the Report that would enable Examiners to include candidates declared to have deserved honours on the class-list, to be classed later. He asks for a clarification about the way in which the Examiners are expected to use this authority. The General Board has confirmed that the Examiners' decision would be based on a 'strict computation' (to use Mr Knight's words) of the marks available rather than academic judgement, i.e. each candidate would need to have received sufficient marks from marked papers to have reached the threshold for a pass and therefore achieved the honours standard, with only the class remaining to be determined.¹

The Council can confirm, in response to Mr Knight's question, that in circumstances similar to the 2023 marking and assessment boycott (MAB), where students were unable to graduate, similar arrangements would be made, including the option for such students to attend a ceremony celebrating the end of their studies. The Council notes Mr Knight's comments on messages sent to students during the MAB, and on the operational arrangements that underlie effective assessments and the Framework for Assessment, and his acknowledgement of the ongoing work in these areas, but agrees that it is important to get these right. It has referred his comments to Education Services for consideration in consultation with Internal Communications.

Dr Astle notes that this review was prompted by the Acting Vice-Chancellor's decision (in his role as Chair of the Council) to give notice of a reportable event to the Office for Students (OfS) concerning condition of registration E2 (good governance) in May 2023, following the rejection by the Regent House of short-term measures proposed by the Council to mitigate the impact of the MAB on students during the 2023 summer examination season.² Dr Astle queries the authority of the Acting Vice-Chancellor to 'offer up a review intended to prevent the repetition of a lawful decision of the Regent House'. Dr Astle also comments on the introduction of the phrase 'to protect the interests of students' in the proposed changes to the regulations. The Acting Vice-Chancellor, in giving notice to the OfS in May 2023, did not question the authority of the Regent House to reject the mitigations proposed. However, the rejection of them did call into question the ability of the University's existing governance arrangements to secure the interests of students in those circumstances, suggesting that a review was necessary.

Dr Astle suggests that the proposal to introduce new Regulation 7 and part of new Regulation 6 in the Ordinance for the Approval of Class-lists should be the subject of a Regent House ballot because they cover the same ground as some of the mitigations rejected by the Regent House in 2023. Members of the Regent House can, of course, decide for themselves whether they wish to call a ballot on these proposals, but the Council has decided not to do so. The Council understood that the main concerns raised by the Regent House in 2023 were about the maintenance of academic standards. The Task and Finish Group, when making the recommendations embodied in this Report, took great care to balance the need to mitigate the impact of serious disruption of the examination process on students with the maintenance of academic standards, whilst respecting the right to take industrial action. These provisions are different from those presented for approval in 2023. They are now expressly subject to the maintenance of academic standards and the protection of the interests of students, whereas previously they relied on the General Board's general responsibility under Statute A V 1 for setting and maintaining the academic and educational policy of the University.

¹ Candidates would also need to meet any additional criteria, such as achieving a pass in a particular paper.

² See the voting results in 2023: *Reporter*, 6700, 2022–23, p. 667.

If industrial action has not affected students' ability to be assessed properly (as in the case of the scenarios covered by Regulations 6 and 7), the University ought to consider changes to its Ordinances to confirm their ability to graduate, simply on the grounds of fairness to those students. There is also a second reason for the University considering such changes: it may be in breach of its conditions of registration with the OfS if it does not do so. Professor Evans observes that the concern raised by this notification of a reportable event will remain in the OfS's records. The OfS has certainly taken an active interest in the progress of this review.

Professor Evans asks whether decisions taken by the Commissary under Statute A IX 1(b) should be published, in full or in part, where they have been relied on as authority for proposing a constitutional change. The Council agrees that this is a question that should be followed up. It has asked the Registrary to consult the Acting Commissary on this point.

Finally, the Council has received a proposal from a member of the Regent House suggesting a further amendment to the Ordinance for the Approval of Class-Lists (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 258). The Council is willing to revise the Report's recommendations to make a further change to provide certainty. New Regulation 4, as set out in paragraph A(b) of Annex B of the Report, therefore now reads as follows (changes to the text highlighted in bold).

4. Where any Examiner fails to attend a meeting referred to in Regulation 1(a) or 1(b) without such absence being excused in advance by either the General Board or the Vice-Chancellor under Regulation 1, those present may, if they consider it appropriate to do so, proceed with the meeting, but the Chair of Examiners must immediately thereafter seek the General Board's approval for the absence under Regulation 1. If the General Board does not grant such approval, the final approval of the class-list under Regulation 3 shall be invalid and the process for the approval of the class-list for the examination in question shall start again as set out in Regulations 1 to 4.

The Council is submitting a Grace (Grace 1, p. 106) for the approval of the recommendations of this Report, as amended by this Notice.

6 November 2024

DEBORAH PRENTICE,	ANTHONY DAVENPORT	RICHARD MORTIER
Vice-Chancellor	John Dix	Sharon Peacock
ZOE ADAMS	Sharon Flood	Michael Sewell
SARAH ANDERSON	HEATHER HANCOCK	Alan Short
Madeleine Atkins	Louise Joy	Pieter van Houten
GAENOR BAGLEY	SCOTT MANDELBROTE	Andrew Wathey
MILLY BODFISH	Sally Morgan	

6 November 2024

DEBORAH PRENTICE,NEELA MAADHUREEPIETER VAN HOUTENVice-ChancellorNIGEL PEAKEBHASKAR VIRAMADELEINE ATKINSRICHARD PENTYJOCELYN WYBURD

TIM HARPER EMILY SO

VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Vacancies in the University

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

Prince Philip Professorship of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in the Department of Zoology; tenure: from 1 October 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter; informal enquiries: Professor Rebecca Kilner, Head of Department and Convenor of the Board of Electors (email: HoD@zoo.cam.ac.uk); closing date: 6 January 2025; further details: https://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/job/48966/; quote reference: PF43857

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.

NOTICES BY FACULTY BOARDS, ETC.

Annual meetings of the Faculties

History

The Chair of the Faculty Board of History gives notice that the Annual Meeting of the Faculty will be held at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday, 19 November 2024, in Room 6 in the Faculty of History.

The agenda for the meeting will be circulated to each member of the Faculty. One of the items of business will be the election of two members of the Faculty Board in class (*c*) to serve for four years from 1 January 2025, in accordance with Regulation 1 of the General Regulations for the Constitution of the Faculty Boards (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 605).

Nominations, for which the consent of the candidate must be obtained, signed by the proposer and seconder, and notice of any other business, should be sent to the Deputy Faculty Manager (Undergraduates and Facilities), Lee Huskinson (email: deputy.manager@hist.cam.ac.uk), Faculty of History, West Road, not later than 12 noon on Wednesday, 13 November 2024.

Philosophy

The Chair of the Faculty Board of Philosophy gives notice that the Annual Meeting of the Faculty will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, 25 November 2024 at the Faculty of Philosophy.

The business to be discussed will include the Chair's Report and the election of three members of the Faculty Board in class (*c*) to serve for four calendar years from 1 January 2025, in accordance with Regulation 1 of the General Regulations for the Constitution of the Faculty Boards (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 605).

Nominations for election, signed by the proposer and seconder, and accompanied by the consent of the person nominated, together with notice of any other business for this meeting, should reach the Faculty Manager, Jo Farmer (email: facultymanager@phil.cam.ac.uk), not later than Friday, 15 November 2024.

Physics and Chemistry

The Chair of the Faculty Board of Physics and Chemistry gives notice that the Annual Meeting of the Faculty will be held at 2.15 p.m. on Friday, 15 November 2024 in person at the Institute of Astronomy and online via Zoom.

Notice of any business should reach the Secretary of the Faculty Board, Angela Macharia (email: departmental. administrator@ast.cam.ac.uk), Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road, by Wednesday, 6 November 2024.

Mathematical Tripos, Part III, 2024–25: Papers

The Faculty Board of Mathematics gives notice that, in accordance with Regulations 15 and 16 for the Mathematical Tripos (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 392), there will be set in 2024–25 if candidates desire to present themselves therein, a paper in each of the subjects in the following list. The duration of the paper is also shown.

Paper	Paper title	Examination duration
101	Commutative algebra	3 hours
102	Lie algebras and their representations	3 hours
105	Analysis of partial differential equations	3 hours
106	Functional analysis	3 hours
107	Elliptic partial differential equations	3 hours
109	Combinatorics	2 hours
111	Coxeter groups	2 hours
113	Algebraic geometry	3 hours
114	Algebraic topology	3 hours
115	Differential geometry	3 hours
118	Complex manifolds	3 hours
119	Category theory	3 hours
120	Logic and computability	3 hours
125	Elliptic curves	3 hours
126	Abelian varieties	3 hours
128	Forcing and the continuum hypothesis	2 hours
129	Introduction to additive combinatorics	2 hours
130	Ramsey theory	2 hours
133	Geometric group theory	3 hours
136	Local fields	3 hours
144	Model theory	2 hours
150	Analytic number theory	3 hours
162	Intersection theory	3 hours
163	Fourier restriction theory and applications	3 hours
164	Entropy methods in combinatorics	2 hours

Paper	Paper title	Examination duration
165	Simplicial homotopy theory	3 hours
166	Diophantine analysis	3 hours
167	Introduction to geometric representation theory	3 hours
201	Advanced probability	3 hours
202	Stochastic calculus with applications to finance	3 hours
205	Modern statistical methods	3 hours
207	Statistics in medicine	3 hours
208	Concentration inequalities	2 hours
209	Random structures in finite-dimensional space	3 hours
210	Topics in statistical theory	2 hours
215	Mixing times of Markov chains	3 hours
218	Statistical learning in practice	3 hours
219	Astrostatistics	3 hours
221	Causal inference	2 hours
224	Information theory	2 hours
301	Quantum field theory	3 hours
302	Symmetries, fields and particles	3 hours
303	Statistical field theory	2 hours
304	Advanced quantum field theory	3 hours
305	The standard model	3 hours
306	String theory	3 hours
307	Supersymmetry	2 hours
309	General relativity	3 hours
310	Cosmology	3 hours
311	Black holes	3 hours
312	Field theory in cosmology	3 hours
313	Solitons, instantons and geometry	2 hours
314	Astrophysical fluid dynamics	3 hours
315	Extrasolar planets: Atmospheres and interiors	3 hours
316	Planetary system dynamics	3 hours
317	Structure and evolution of stars	3 hours
318	Approximation theory	2 hours
321	Dynamics of astrophysical discs	2 hours
324	Quantum computation	2 hours
325	Quantum information, foundations and gravity	2 hours
326	Inverse problems	3 hours
327	Distribution theory and applications	2 hours
329	Slow viscous flow	3 hours
332	Fluid dynamics of the solid earth	3 hours
333	Fluid dynamics of climate	3 hours
335	Direct and inverse scattering of waves	2 hours
336	Perturbation methods	2 hours
337	Applications of quantum field theory	2 hours
342	Topological quantum matter	2 hours
343	Quantum entanglement in many-body physics	2 hours
344	Theoretical physics of soft condensed matter	2 hours
345	Fluid dynamics of the environment	3 hours
346	Formation of galaxies	3 hours
352	Non-Newtonian fluid mechanics	2 hours
354	Gauge/gravity duality	2 hours
355	Biological physics	3 hours
357	Gravitational waves and numerical relativity	2 hours
358	Spectral computations in infinite dimensions	2 hours
359	Mathematical analysis of the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations	3 hours
	•	

The Faculty Board reminds candidates and Tutors that requests for papers to be set on additional subjects should be sent to the Secretary of the Faculty Board, c/o the Undergraduate Office, Faculty of Mathematics, Wilberforce Road (faculty@maths.cam.ac.uk) not later than 9 November 2024.

OBITUARIES

Obituary Notice

Paul David Skinner, CBE, B.A., Fellow Commoner of Pembroke College and formerly Chair of the College Development Board, died on 21 October 2024, aged 79 years.

GRACES

Grace submitted to the Regent House on 6 November 2024

The Council submits the following Grace to the Regent House. This Grace, unless it is 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, 15 November 2024.

1. That the recommendations in paragraph 10 of the Joint Report of the Council and the General Board, dated 18 July 2024, on the review of examination regulations following the marking and assessment boycott (*Reporter*, 6750, 2023–24, p. 806), as amended by the Council's Notice dated 6 November 2024 (p. 102), be approved.

ACTA

Approval of Grace submitted to the Regent House on 23 October 2024

The Grace submitted to the Regent House on 23 October 2024 (*Reporter*, 6756, 2024–25, p. 80) was approved at 4 p.m. on Friday, 1 November 2024.

Result of ballot on Grace 2 of 17 July 2024 (Chancellor fixed term)

4 November 2024

The Registrary gives notice that, as a result of the ballot held between 22 October and 1 November 2024, Grace 2 of 17 July 2024¹ was **approved**:

That the recommendations in paragraph 5 of the Report of the Council, dated 4 June 2024, on the term of office of the Chancellor and the High Steward (*Reporter*, 6744, 2023–24, p. 634), as amended by the Council's Notice dated 11 July 2024, be approved.

The results of the voting, conducted under the Single Transferable Vote regulations (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 121), are shown below.

Number of valid votes: 1,749 (no invalid votes)
In favour of the Grace (placet) 1,411
Against the Grace (non-placet) 338

Two fly-sheets signed by members of the Regent House were received in relation to this ballot. In accordance with the Council's Notice on Discussions and Fly-sheets (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 116), the fly-sheets are reprinted below (from p. 107).

- ¹ Reporter, 2023–24: 6749, p. 789; 6750, p. 800.
- ² Reporter, 6749, 2023–24, p. 778.

E. M. C. RAMPTON, Registrary

END OF THE OFFICIAL PART OF THE 'REPORTER'

T. N. HARPER

FLY-SHEETS REPRINTED

Fly-sheets relating to the ballot on Grace 2 of 17 July 2024 (Chancellor fixed term)

In accordance with the Council's Notice on Discussions and Fly-sheets (*Statutes and Ordinances*, p. 116), the two fly-sheets signed by members of the Regent House received for the ballot on Grace 2 of 17 July 2024 (Chancellor fixed term) are reprinted below. Fly-sheets are reprinted in the order in which they appeared in the ballot booklet, which was random. For the result of the ballot see p. 106.

Fly-sheet in favour of Grace 2 of 17 July 2024

This Grace's main proposal is to revise the term of the Chancellor and the High Steward, so that those appointed serve for 10 years instead of for life (retaining the option of stepping down before the end of their term).

The offices of Chancellor and High Steward are two of the highest positions in the University. The duties of the Chancellor are wide-ranging. Although perhaps most well-known for presiding at Honorary Degrees and other important events in the University calendar, the Chancellor is also a public face of the University on the national and international stages. The officeholder also does valuable work behind the scenes, providing advice and acting as a sounding board for the Vice-Chancellor and other senior staff in the University. Finally, the Chancellor holds the role of Visitor at some Cambridge Colleges, usually providing arbitration in internal disputes. This is therefore more than a ceremonial role, with those elected expected to represent, and advance the interests of, the University.

When we invite people to stand for election to these offices, we are asking individuals who are likely to be in demand for their knowledge and skills to make a substantial commitment to the University. We need to ensure that these are attractive positions so that we have the best candidates, from the widest pool, wanting to take on these important but unpaid roles.

A 10-year term allows enough time for the officeholder to make a valuable contribution to the work of the University, and is also sufficient to provide the University with stability. Turnover at least every 10 years will bring new people with fresh perspectives and different talents and experiences to the roles, and this will help to encourage equality, diversity and inclusion. Instead of being a once-in-a-lifetime event, elections will become more routine, and there will be institutional knowledge to support the election and the transition from one officeholder to the next.

For these reasons we urge you to vote in favour of the Grace.

Signed by the following members of the Regent House:

S. M. Adolphson L. M. Joy N. Peake G. A. BAGLEY M. J. KEENE L. Pellegrini D. M. Broom J. C. KENYON R. V. PENTY S. Burgess P. M. KNOX T. J. V. ROULET D. J. H. CLIFFORD E. E. McPherson R. B. SILEO K. S. Coats S. K. Mohaddes Ardebili J. S. SIMONS S. J. COLVIN F. P. L. Moore A. Smytsniuk A. P. DAVENPORT R. M. MORTIER D. Trocmé-Latter R. G. DILLON K. A. Munir P. J. VAN HOUTEN S. E. Flood D. O'BRIEN A. WATHEY F. Gallo T. C. O'CONNELL STEPHEN WATTS M. R. W. GLOVER J. O'DONOGHUE R. L. WILLIAMS A. Gurria E. G. OZYUREK BAER J. M. Wyburd H. J. HANCOCK J. PARTNER

S. J. Peacock

¹ The proposed changes also aim to spell out how a decision to remove a Chancellor would be made in practice, by the Council submitting a Grace to the Senate for approval.

² The High Steward discharges the duties and powers of the Chancellor if that office is vacant.

Grace limiting the length of office of Cambridge's Chancellor

The reasons set out by the Council in its Report (*Reporter*, 6744, 2023–24, p. 634) for fixing the Chancellor's term of office do not correspond to the way the Chancellor's role and functions are currently understood in the University.

The Council desires a ten-year term of office so that officeholders are rotated more regularly. This is a significant departure from established practice. In the last 50 years there have been three officeholders. HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, served the University well as Chancellor for 35 years.

The Council's justifications for moving away from a lifetime appointment, with suitable safeguards and the possibility of retirement at the officeholder's choosing, are not to the point.

The Council wishes to encourage 'a wider field of candidates to stand for election'. A ten-year term will certainly encourage more frequent and contested elections (14 candidates are vying to be elected Chancellor of the University of Oxford at the last count). But experience shows how disruptive such elections can be.

While the Council's concerns for diversity and representation are welcome, there are other ways of addressing these concerns without making significant changes to the office of Chancellor. In an increasingly politicised higher education sector, we should be cautious of more frequent and possibly more acrimonious elections which may put off as many potential candidates as they attract.

The Council says a fixed term will ensure the 'more frequent introduction of different skills and experience' to the office. But it is unclear what skills and experiences are now considered necessary. The University's Statutes, Ordinances and past practice suggest the role of Chancellor is principally ceremonial and representative. Anyone who seeks that office will be expected to possess a similar set of key skills. By claiming that different skills and experiences might be needed from different officeholders at different times, the Council suggests a broader range of necessary skills and experience which no single individual could possess. This in turn suggests a more active role for the Chancellor than is currently the case. Further details should be provided by the Council before the Regent House is asked to vote for statutory change.

The way in which the office of Chancellor has hitherto been conceived has served the University well for many years. We should be wary of altering a mode of governance that works, and of disturbing the careful balance of responsibilities and duties that currently characterise our common life.

Members of the Regent House are urged to vote 'No' in the ballot.

Signed by the following members of the Regent House:

D. S. H. ABULAFIA R. HANKA I. N. MCCAVE
C. M. S. DA S. CALDAS T. J. HEARN P. MURRAY
S. CONWAY MORRIS C. L. JENKINS R. RAU
A. W. F. EDWARDS G. A. C. JONES C. A. TOUT
G. R. EVANS P. A. LYON C. D. WARNER

COLLEGE NOTICES

Vacancies

Fitzwilliam College: Director of Operations; salary: c. £70,000; closing date: 22 November 2024; further details: https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/vacancies-fitzwilliam and https://www.minervasearch.com/current-opportunities/fitzwilliamcollege

Trinity College: Head of Academic, Personal and Professional Development (maternity cover); tenure: start of January 2025 until (provisionally) end of January 2026; salary: £48,737 plus additional benefits; closing date: 20 November 2024; further details: https://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/vacancies/head-of-academic-personal-and-professional-development-maternity-cover

Events

Emmanuel College

Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography

Maurice Whitehead (Venerable English College, Rome) will present *Maps, meridians and missions: Christopher Maire, SJ (1697–1767), an English cartographer in continental Europe,* on Tuesday, 19 November 2024 at 5.30 p.m., online via Zoom. Further details and joining instructions at https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/maps/cartographic-events/camsem

Memorial Service

Professor Haroon Ahmed

The funeral of Professor Haroon Ahmed, Ph.D., Sc.D., FREng, former Master of Corpus Christi College (*Reporter*, 6757, 2024–25, p. 88), will be held on Friday, 15 November 2024 at 11.30 a.m. in Corpus Christi College Chapel. Refreshments will be served following the service. If you are planning to attend, please indicate so in a brief email to masters-EA@corpus.cam.ac.uk.

SOCIETIES, ETC.

Cambridge Philosophical Society

A. V. Hill Lecture

The Society's third talk of the Michaelmas Term will be the A. V. Hill Lecture. Professor Ewan St John Smith (Department of Pharmacology) will give the lecture, entitled *Pain: Why does it exist, how does it work and how can we more effectively treat it?*, on Monday, 11 November 2024 at 6 p.m., in person at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre, Department of Chemistry, Lensfield Road. Free and open to all. Further details and booking: https://www.cambridgephilosophicalsociety.org/events/event/pain-why-does-it-exist-how-does-it-work-and-how-can-we-more-effectively-treat-it

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