

# CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY REPORTER

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### *End of the Official Part of the 'Reporter'*

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UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

## NOTICES

## Calendar

24 June, *Wednesday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 2.45 p.m. (Honorary Degrees).

25 June, *Thursday*. Easter Term ends.

30 June, *Tuesday*. Discussion by videoconference at 2 p.m. (see below).

1 July, *Wednesday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (General Admission).

2 July, *Thursday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (General Admission).

3 July, *Friday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (General Admission).

4 July, *Saturday*. Scarlet Day. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m. (General Admission).

14 July, *Tuesday*. Discussion by videoconference at 2 p.m. (see below).

## Discussions (Tuesdays at 2 p.m.)

30 June

14 July

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

24 June, 2.45 p.m. (Honorary Degrees)

1, 2, 3 and 4 July (General Admission)

23, 24 and 25 July

## Discussion on Tuesday, 30 June 2026

The 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*, 2024, p. 111) to attend a Discussion **by videoconference** on Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at 2 p.m. The following item will be discussed:

1. Report of the General Board, dated 10 June 2026, on the outcomes of the Academic Career Pathways (Research and Teaching) and (Teaching and Scholarship) 2025–26 exercises (*Reporter*, 6828, 2025–26, p. 524).

Those wishing to join the Discussion by videoconference should email [Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk) 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 [Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk), by no later than 10 a.m. on the day of the Discussion for reading out by the Proctors,<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup> 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 Director of Governance and Compliance, on paper or by email to [UniversityDraftsman@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto: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.

For general information on Discussions see the *Reporter* website at <https://www.reporter.admin.cam.ac.uk/discussions>.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.scrutiny.cam.ac.uk/> and [https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent\\_house\\_roll/](https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent_house_roll/).

## Discussion on Tuesday, 14 July 2026

The 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*, 2024, p. 111) to attend a Discussion **by videoconference** on Tuesday, 14 July 2026 at 2 p.m. The following item will be discussed:

1. Report of the Council, dated 23 June 2026, pursuant to Special Ordinance A (ii) 7 (divestment from fossil fuel and arms companies) (p. 572).

Those wishing to join the Discussion by videoconference should email [Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk) 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 [Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Discussions@admin.cam.ac.uk), by no later than 10 a.m. on the day of the Discussion for reading out by the Proctors,<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup> 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 Director of Governance and Compliance, on paper or by email to [UniversityDraftsman@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto: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.

For general information on Discussions see the *Reporter* website at <https://www.reporter.admin.cam.ac.uk/discussions>.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.scrutiny.cam.ac.uk/> and [https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent\\_house\\_roll/](https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent_house_roll/).

## Notice of a benefaction

18 June 2026

The Vice-Chancellor gives notice that she has received with gratitude a benefaction of £5m from Trinity College, following a donation of £3.5m from the Hatton Trust, payable over four years, to endow the Professorship of Sustainability established by Grace 3 of 19 April 2023 on the occasion of the coronation of the King (*Reporter*, 6696, 2022–23, p. 601). The Council has agreed to provide match funding of £2m over the same period, to be paid from the Investment Fund. The holder of the Professorship is expected to be a Fellow of Trinity College. The Council is submitting Graces (Graces 1 and 2, p. 575) to retitle the Professorship the Hatton Professorship of Sustainability and to include an additional member on the Board of Electors appointed by the General Board on the nomination of the Council of Trinity College, in accordance with the Hatton Trust's wishes.

## VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

### Election

The following election has been made:

Professor OLIVER HAUSER, B.Sc., *University of Innsbruck*, Ph.D., *Harvard University*, Professor of Economics, University of Exeter, elected Professor of Public Policy with effect from 1 July 2026.

## REGULATIONS FOR EXAMINATIONS

### Music for the M. Phil. Degree

(*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 527)

#### With effect from 1 October 2027

The General Board, on the recommendation of the Degree Committee for the Faculty of Music, has approved amendments to the special regulations for the course in Music for the degree of Master of Philosophy by advanced study as follows:

Regulation 3(b).

By reducing the total performance time for compositions *from* 30–45 minutes *to* 25–30 minutes and retaining the footnote to read as follows:

- (b) four compositions in any idiom of the candidate's choice; the compositions should require 25–30 minutes in total to perform. Scores and recordings should be included as appropriate to the nature of the music; the submission should also be accompanied by an explanatory essay of not more than 5,000 words<sup>1</sup> on issues in composition as approved by the Degree Committee.

Regulation 3(c).

By reducing the total performance time for compositions *from* 45–60 minutes *to* 35–45 minutes and retaining the footnote to read as follows:

- (c) four compositions in any idiom of the candidate's choice; the compositions should require 35–45 minutes in total to perform. Scores and recordings should be included as appropriate to the nature of the music; the submission should also be accompanied by an explanatory essay of not more than 7,500 words<sup>1</sup> on issues in composition as approved by the Degree Committee.

### Clinical Medicine for the M.St. Degree

(*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 551. See also *Reporter*, 6811, 2025–26, p. 261)

#### With effect from 1 October 2027

The General Board, on the recommendation of the Degree Committee for the Faculties of Clinical Medicine and Veterinary Medicine and the Strategic Committee for the Institute of Professional and Continuing Education, has approved a change in title from 'Clinical Medicine' for the degree of Master of Studies to 'Clinical Leadership, Education and Research'. This change also applies to the Postgraduate Diploma as follows:

Regulation 4.

To replace 'Postgraduate Diploma' with 'Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Leadership, Education and Research'.

## NOTICES BY FACULTY BOARDS, ETC.

**Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Tripos, Part III, 2026–27**

The Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Syndicate gives notice that the modules available for study in the academic year 2026–27 will be as follows.

Topics in Group A and Group C are compulsory for all candidates. The regulations specify that each candidate takes a total of four modules from Group B. The Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Syndicate imposes the restriction that at least two of these modules should be assessed principally or entirely by written examination.

| Group | Number and title of module                       | Mode of assessment         |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A     | <i>Compulsory topics</i>                         |                            |
|       | A1: Energy Technology                            | Examination                |
|       | A2: Sustainability                               | Coursework                 |
|       | A3: Advanced Design                              | Coursework                 |
| B     | <i>Elective topics</i>                           |                            |
|       | B1: Electrochemical Engineering                  | Examination                |
|       | B2: Pharmaceutical Engineering                   | Examination                |
|       | B4: Computational Fluid Dynamics                 | Coursework                 |
|       | B6: Adsorption and Advanced Nanoporous Materials | Examination                |
|       | B7: Optical Microscopy                           | Examination                |
|       | B9: Healthcare Biotechnology                     | Examination                |
|       | B10: AI and Machine Learning for Data Pipelines  | Examination and coursework |
|       | B11: Colloid Science                             | Examination                |
|       | 4G2: Bioelectronics                              | Coursework                 |
| C     | <i>Research components</i>                       |                            |
|       | C1: Research Project                             |                            |
|       | C2: Research Skills                              | Coursework                 |

## REPORTS

**Report of the Council pursuant to Special Ordinance A (ii) 7 (divestment from fossil fuel and arms companies)**

The COUNCIL begs leave to report to the University as follows:

1. The Council has received a Grace, which has been initiated under Special Ordinance A (ii) 5 by 155 members of the Regent House.<sup>1</sup> The Grace proposes amendments to the Ordinance for the Cambridge University Endowment Trustee Body (CUETB), which represents the University in its role as sole trustee of the University's Endowment Fund (CUEF). Those amendments seek to direct the CUETB to ensure:

- the CUEF is 'an environmentally, ethically, and socially responsible investment scheme and oversee its approach to responsible investment', in revised Regulation 5(c); and
- as part of that approach, there is a 'progressive decline in direct and indirect exposure to fossil fuel companies and arms companies, as defined by Ordinance, towards no exposure', in new Regulation 5(d).

Further amendments include a new Ordinance providing a definition of fossil fuel and arms companies, to come into effect if the Regent House does not approve an alternative definition (which the Council is ordered to provide), and a requirement (new Regulation 5(e)) to report on progress on the above matters.

2. The Council has decided, for the reasons set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 below, to withhold authorisation of the initiated Grace and is recommending that the Regent House approve its decision. The main reason is that the amendments require the CUETB to act in a certain way, and it would be unlawful for the CUETB to act contrary to its own judgement. This outcome would be the same if the University were acting as trustee through the Council rather than through the CUETB. The Council has made this decision in accordance with Special Ordinance A (ii) 7 in its capacity as the principal executive and policy-making body of the University under Statute A IV 1(a).

3. This Grace was initiated in March, shortly before the Council agreed its support for the CUETB adopting a monitoring regime that aims to ensure there is no meaningful exposure to various investment categories in addition to fossil fuels. The Council acknowledges that the Grace may have been prompted by frustration at the pace of its decision-making on this matter. The Grace would be in conflict with the legal framework within which the CUEF operates. By supporting the monitoring regime, the Council has found a way to address the underlying concern of the Grace that works within that framework.

<sup>1</sup> *Reporter*, 6819, 2025–26, p. 389.

## Context

4. The CUEF is a trust fund established by deed. It currently has 25 unitholders (i.e. investors), comprising the University, 18 Colleges and 6 charitable trusts associated with the University. The CUEF operates a fund of funds investment model based on the careful selection of third-party fund managers rather than direct investment. Over the ten years ended 30 June 2025, the CUEF has returned an annualised +8.3%, outperforming a comparable passive portfolio.<sup>2</sup> University of Cambridge Investment Management Limited (UCIM) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority as the fund manager of the CUEF. The CUETB was established in 2022 to ensure that UCIM manages the CUEF in accordance with the investment and distribution objectives as well as the Investment Principles set by the CUETB. The CUETB governs the CUEF on behalf of all unitholders, thereby avoiding the potential conflict of interest that previously existed when the Council acted as trustee on behalf of all unitholders. The CUETB's Investment Principles comply with the University's Statement of Investment Responsibility as determined by the Council under Statute A IV 1(a). The CUEF's approach to investment accords with the Investment Principles and is set out in the Trust Deed for the CUEF.

5. The Council welcomes comments from members of the Regent House, students and others on the University's investment policy and will continue to bring those views to the attention of the CUETB, on behalf of the University as investor in the CUEF. In October 2024, the Council established a working group to consider a Grace and requests from students with a similar focus on arms divestment. Earlier this academic year, the Council reported on its acceptance of the Working Group's 11 recommendations.<sup>3</sup> The Council also considered options concerning investment in companies manufacturing conventional weapons, culminating in its support for a new monitoring regime to be developed in consultation with the CUETB. In this new monitoring regime, if the CUEF's exposure to companies which primarily manufacture conventional weapons were to exceed a certain threshold as a proportion of its assets, the CUETB would receive a transparency report including details of all relevant companies, which the CUETB would take into account when advising UCIM.<sup>4</sup> The CUETB will meet in July to discuss the details, including the setting of the threshold. The Council was able to take the views expressed in this initiated Grace into account when reaching that decision. The Council will keep the monitoring regime under review.

6. In addition, and in support of greater interaction with the CUETB, the Council also endorsed the Working Group's suggestion that UCIM and CUETB should consider whether more transparent communication about investments is possible. Whilst it recognises that not all information can be shared, it encouraged the CUETB to hold UCIM to account and to be as open as possible with CUEF unitholders.

The Council has therefore asked the CUETB to provide greater clarity on the information that it can share with unitholders without compromising the confidentiality undertakings in non-disclosure agreements between UCIM and third-party fund managers. Greater engagement, including through the provision of more detailed reports on investments, will provide the Council with the assurance that its concerns are being taken into consideration by the CUETB. The recent appointment of Council member Dr Pieter van Houten to the membership of the CUETB will support this ongoing interaction.

7. In this way, the Council has sought to establish a path that enables better oversight of the University's investments in the CUEF while continuing to support the fund of funds model and ensure compliance with legal and regulatory stipulations. This position has been arrived at after careful consideration of differing viewpoints to reach a compromise that delivers meaningful progress within those parameters.

8. The Council further notes that, in 2020, UCIM agreed that the CUEF would aim to have no meaningful exposure to fossil fuel companies by 2030.<sup>5</sup> Responding to engagement from staff and students, and the Council's desire to include investments in its carbon emission reduction strategy, UCIM was able to identify ways of reducing exposure within the existing legal and regulatory framework whilst maintaining the CUEF's long-term investment objective, which has resulted in significant reductions.

9. Both this previous example of UCIM's willingness to adapt and the new monitoring regime show that a collaborative approach, working in partnership with the CUETB and UCIM to explore ways to provide more transparent reporting and accountability, has enabled the University to make significant progress. It is also an approach that allows for consultation with the other investors in the CUEF, so that there is consensus on the direction of travel. Setting absolute targets is unlikely to bring about the desired change, given that movement is necessarily achieved by negotiation.

10. The Council acknowledges the strength of feeling that lies behind this initiated Grace. However, irrespective of the validity of the Grace (see below), it does not support the Grace's proposed progressive decline towards no exposure to investments in all arms companies, instead favouring the monitoring of investment in companies that manufacture conventional weapons alongside an exclusion of investment in companies that manufacture weapons that would be illegal under English law. It believes its current approach (as described in paragraph 5) is a positive outcome at the conclusion of proper consideration of the complexities of this subject, noting the nuances articulated in the Working Group's report and recommendations. To determine whether members of the Regent House support that approach, the Council is submitting an additional recommendation to endorse the Council's position on investment in conventional weapons (in paragraph 14).

<sup>2</sup> See UCIM's Annual Review 2025: <https://www.ucim.co.uk/annual-report-2025/strategy-and-performance>.

<sup>3</sup> These recommendations include the formal exclusion of investment of any funds, either directly or indirectly, in any company which manufactures weapons which are illegal by English law.

<sup>4</sup> *Reporter*, 2025–26: 6800, p. 56; 6821, p. 411. Other product categories of investment that fall within the monitoring regime include fossil fuels.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cam.ac.uk/news/cambridge-to-divest-from-fossil-fuels-with-net-zero-plan>.

### Reasons for decision

11. The Statutes of the University vest the University with broad powers, including powers to act as trustee. When acting as trustee, the University must comply with the law and properly discharge its trustee responsibilities. It is a well-established principle of trust law that trustees must act in the best interests of beneficiaries. The proposed introduction of new Regulation 5(d) would mandate the CUETB to act in a particular way regardless of its own judgment as to what is in the best interests of the investors in the CUEF as a whole. It may therefore cause the University (through the CUETB) to act unlawfully, i.e. in a way which is contrary to trust law. A provision which has that effect is not a lawful one to include in an Ordinance.

12. Under the Trust Deed for the CUEF, the CUETB may set high-level investment principles relating to responsible investment, but such principles have the status of non-binding guidance – the fund manager must consider them but need not implement them. New Regulation 5(c) seeks to mandate the CUETB to ensure that the CUEF is a particular type of investment scheme in circumstances where the CUETB has no power to impose such a mandate. Consequentially, the proposed new Regulation 5(e) is not effective in so far as it references regulations (i.e. the proposed new Regulations 5(c) and 5(d)) which are themselves invalid and ineffective, and the proposed Order to the Council to provide a new definition of fossil fuel companies and arms companies, and the proposed Ordinance providing the default definitions of those terms, are redundant without Regulation 5(d).

### Recommendations

13. For the reasons given in paragraphs 11 and 12, the Council has decided to withhold authorisation of the initiated Grace and **recommends** that the Regent House approves that decision.

14. The Council **recommends** that the Regent House endorse its approach to the University's investment in companies that manufacture conventional weapons, as described in paragraph 5 of this Report.

23 June 2026

DEBORAH PRENTICE,  
*Vice-Chancellor*  
GAENOR BAGLEY  
JO DEKKERS  
JOHN DIX

HEATHER HANCOCK  
SCOTT MANDELBROTE  
EWA MAREK  
SALLY MORGAN  
RICHARD MORTIER

ALAN SHORT  
PIETER VAN HOUTEN  
ANDREW WATHEY  
GARTH WELLS  
STEPHEN WILSON

### NOTE OF DISSENT

In this Report, the Council has acknowledged that it has no control of the University's permanent endowment, and is unable to manage or meaningfully influence the vast majority of the University's investments – £4.6 billion. This means that the six members of the CUETB have more control over the University's assets than the Council. These members are not trustees of the CUEF, despite the implication otherwise in this Report; the University remains fully liable for the decisions that they make and has no formal mechanism to hold this body to account. It raises serious questions about the ability of the Council to be 'the principal executive ... body of the University' and responsible for 'the management of its resources'.

We also have continuing concerns about the transparency regime, for which the threshold for monitoring arms is to be determined by the CUETB. The Council and the University as a whole have been told very little about our investments in arms, but it is understood that they make up less than 1.7% of the endowment. A threshold of even 2% would therefore represent a continuation of the *status quo*, or indeed an increase in arms investments. Failing to even consider this threshold represents an abdication of responsibility, not a 'proper consideration of the complexities of this subject'.

The Council was given a proposed amendment of this Grace, fully compliant with trust law, that would have enshrined the transparency regime and a 0% threshold for arms and fossil fuels into Ordinance, thereby addressing the issues raised above. It declined to adopt it.

It is right that, in the absence of direction from the Council, the Regent House takes a view on the University's investments.

23 June 2026

AUGUSTIN DENIS

MEZNA QATO

DÁIRE Ó RAGHALLAGH

### NOTE OF PARTIAL DISSENT

We agree with the recommendation set out in paragraph 13 of the Report that the submission of the initiated Grace to the Regent House should not be authorized, for the reasons given. However, a modified version of the initiated Grace, apparently compliant with trust law and enshrining in Ordinance a 0% reporting threshold on investment exposure, was put before the Council when it discussed the Report. We would have preferred that the Council give the Regent House the opportunity to decide, as the governing body, whether it wished the University to adopt that approach or the approach recommended by the Council in paragraph 14.

23 June 2026

W. J. ASTLE

ELLA MCPHERSON

## OBITUARIES

### Obituary Notices

DENIS JOHN HARVEY MURPHY, M.A., Honorary Fellow and formerly Official Fellow, Senior Bursar, Steward, Tutor and Development Director of Magdalene College, member of St Edmund's College, sometime Assistant Registrar, died on 11 June 2026, aged 89 years.

Dr COLIN FRASER, M.A., Emeritus Fellow and formerly Teaching Fellow, Director of Studies in Social and Political Sciences and Senior Tutor of Churchill College, sometime University Lecturer in the former Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, died on 15 June 2026, aged 88 years.

## GRACES

### Graces submitted to the Regent House on 24 June 2026

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*, 2024, p. 111), will be deemed to have been approved at **4 p.m. on Friday, 3 July 2026**. 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.<sup>§</sup>

1. That the Professorship of Sustainability be retitled the Hatton Professorship of Sustainability.<sup>1</sup>
2. That the following new regulation be added to the special regulations for the Professorship of Sustainability:<sup>1</sup>  
The Professor shall be elected in accordance with Special Ordinance C (vii) B.1(c)(iv) by the General Board on the advice of a committee which shall be established as if it were a Board of Electors constituted under Special Ordinance C (vii) B. 3, but including an additional member appointed by the General Board on the nomination of the Council of Trinity College.
3. That the MRC Research Professorship of Epidemiology (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 734) be assigned to the Department of Clinical Biochemistry and be retitled the Professorship of Epidemiology.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See the Vice-Chancellor's Notice, p. 571, and *Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 754.

<sup>2</sup> The MRC Research Professorship of Epidemiology was established within the Faculty of Clinical Medicine in order to facilitate interaction between the MRC Epidemiology Unit and the School of Clinical Medicine. This was an unusual arrangement, made for a specific purpose – almost all Professorships are established within one of the School's academic departments. With the integration of the continuing research programmes from the former Unit into the Department of Clinical Biochemistry (as the Division of the Institute of Metabolic Science – Epidemiology), such a reporting arrangement is no longer required, and it is appropriate to retitle and assign the Professorship to the academic Department in which the duties are carried out. The Council, on the recommendation of the General Board and the Regius Professor as Head of the Clinical School, is therefore submitting this Grace for approval.

<sup>§</sup> Accessible by members of the Regent House at <https://universityofcambridgecloud.sharepoint.com/sites/RegentHousePetitions> [University account required].

R. B. SACHERS, *Director of Governance and Compliance*

END OF THE OFFICIAL PART OF THE 'REPORTER'

## REPORT OF DISCUSSION

**Tuesday, 16 June 2026**

A Discussion was scheduled by videoconference. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lord Woolley of Woodford, *HO*, was presiding, with the deputy for the Director of Governance and Compliance, the Junior Proctor and the Senior Pro-Proctor as the attending officers.

Remarks were received as follows:

***Report of the Council, dated 3 June 2026, recommending the budget and allocations from the Chest for 2026–27***

(*Reporter*, 6827, 2025–26, p. 510).

Dr D. R. H. JONES (Christ's College):

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I would like to draw your attention to Paragraph 19 of this Report. For ease of reference, I quote that paragraph as follows.

19. The Resource Management Committee met regularly during Lent Term 2026 to review expenditure plans in Schools and institutions and for centrally administered funds. Planning submissions from each UAS division were reviewed individually, and the RMC was satisfied that each division has credible plans to reduce its expenditure in 2025–26 and to sustain those reductions in 2026–27. The RMC accepted for its part that further, material reductions in professional services expenditure are unlikely without structural and organisational change within the University's professional services (including those not part of the UAS), which would enable greater rationalisation and economies of scale.

In the Discussion of last year's Report (*Reporter*, 6790, 2024–25, p. 687) I pointed out that over the previous five years there had been a massive expansion in UAS posts of 487, but a *decrease* in academic posts across the University of about 250. I suggested that the Council should exert direct control over the UAS, freezing staff numbers, rationalising and optimising performance, and in the medium term reducing staff numbers. I also suggested that the savings from this exercise should be used to restore the ratio of administrative to academic staff to 50:50 (as is the case for Exeter, Glasgow, Imperial, King's College, Queen Mary and UCL).

I am encouraged to see that the RMC is considering the need to achieve 'further, material reductions' in expenditure, although 'these are unlikely without structural and organisational change'. This is consistent with the Annual Report of the Audit Committee (*Reporter*, 6809, 2025–26, p. 198, Paragraph 6.4), which includes:

transformation programmes, which are expected to deliver efficiencies through redesigned processes and improved systems ... Success will depend on ... addressing cultural challenges associated with new ways of working ... significant effort required ... importance of maintaining momentum.

So, both the RMC and the Audit Committee appear aware of the problem, but nowhere do I see the urgency and action needed to correct the imbalance on any defined timescale. As Trustees, the Council needs to take ownership of this process and drive it forward. It should also ask itself how it allowed this imbalance to develop in the first place.

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

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am a member of the Council, but these remarks are made on my own behalf. Statute A X 4 states that 'A Report of the Council, or of any other body that has the right of reporting to the University, shall be signed by those members of the reporting body who agree with the Report'.

Disagreement with a Report implies a preference for an alternative. In the case of a proposal for a legislative change, that alternative is likely to be the *status quo*. In the case of a proposal for a budget, what it means to disagree is less obvious, because, as Stephen Cowley wrote in his note of partial dissent on the 2020 Allocations Report, 'the University needs a budget'.<sup>1</sup>

Given that need, I believe the Regent House ought to approve the recommendations of this Report. Nevertheless, to explain my failure to sign, I note that the nominal increase proposed for the aggregate of the line items corresponding to the academic part of the University (the Schools, the Library, the museums, Professional and Continuing Education and the Centre for Music Performance) is about 1.7% lower than the nominal increase proposed for the aggregate of the line items corresponding to the operational side of the University. There may be several good short-term reasons for this, some of which are described in the Report. However, the concerning long-term trend is illustrated by comparison of the 30% increase in the size of the academic staff (1659 to 2162) with the 127% increase in the size of the administrative staff (1084 to 2463) that occurred between 2014–15 and 2024–25.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Reporter*, 6593, 2020–21, p. 101.

<sup>2</sup> See [https://tableau.blue.cam.ac.uk/#/site/InformationHub/views/PBID-264\\_WiP\\_DataBookwithtemplate/1\\_StaffHeadcount?iid=3](https://tableau.blue.cam.ac.uk/#/site/InformationHub/views/PBID-264_WiP_DataBookwithtemplate/1_StaffHeadcount?iid=3).

***Report of the Council, dated 3 June 2026, pursuant to Special Ordinance A (ii) 7 (exchanges of Professorships)***

(*Reporter*, 6827, 2025–26, p. 513).

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

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am a member of the Council, but, again, these remarks are made on my own behalf.

In Paragraph 3 of this Report, the Council explains its reason for rejecting the amendment, which would require the Regent House to approve by Grace any proposal of the General Board to move a person between Professorships. The Council states that:

it does not agree with the proposers of this amendment that the Regent House is an appropriate body to make decisions on the academic standing of an individual for election to a Professorship.

This misses the point spectacularly. Obviously, any Professor who is the subject of a prospective exchange will have the academic standing for election to a Professorship, because she or he will already be a Professor. The reason for insisting that an exchange be approved by Grace is to ensure that the General Board has a justification for dispensing with the requirement for an open competitive election to the recipient Professorship; it is not to allow the Regent House to make decisions about the qualifications of the person concerned. If the amendment is approved, the General Board will propose any exchange for the Regent House to approve.

The Council seems to be under the impression that the Regent House is an inappropriate body to make appointments to Professorships and that it is not involved in the appointment of individuals to Professorships at present. But in the case of a single-tenure Professorship ‘established for a particular person by Grace,’ no other body appears to have the power under the Statutes and Ordinances to make or to authorise an appointment (once the Professorship has been established).<sup>1</sup> When the Regent House approves the recommendation of the General Board in an annual promotions Report that ‘Professorships be established for each of the following named persons for one tenure’ it is presumably approving both the establishment of the offices and the appointment of the individuals into them (as separate acts). If this is so, then there is an extant precedent for the Regent House approving proposals of the General Board for appointments to Professorships. If this is not so, then perhaps the Council might explain in response which body, other than the Regent House, makes appointments to personal Professorships and under what statutory authority.

The 2014 Statutes, which came into force following a technical revision,<sup>2</sup> included new Statute C XI 3, which reads:

Detailed provision for the procedure for election or appointment to Professorships shall be made by Special Ordinance, made on the recommendation of the General Board.

The only mention of appointments to personal Professorships in the Special Ordinances is in Special Ordinance C (vii) B 1(b),<sup>3</sup> which excludes elections to ‘Professorship[s] limited to the tenure of one Professor only, if established for a particular person by Grace’ from the provisions of Special Ordinance C (vii), apparently creating a self-referential paradox. Notwithstanding the self-reference (which perhaps needs tidying up), is this a provision for a procedure for appointment? If it is, then appointments to personal Professorships are indeed made by Grace. If it is not, then all appointments to personal Professorships since 2014 have presumably been made in contravention of Statute C. Although the employment security of these Professors is assured by the 30-day limitation on invalid acts provided for by Statute A IX 1(c), to address concerns about future appointments, it might be prudent to remove any ambiguity from the Special Ordinances.

If Recommendation II of this Report is approved, then the General Board will appoint an advisory committee for the purpose of recommending an exchange of Professorships. What exactly will this committee be advising? That the General Board has a justification for dropping an open election? How can it be any kind of assurance that a committee appointed by the General Board has advised the General Board that everything it wants to do is above board?

Given the weaknesses of the case made, I suggest that the Council’s decision to withhold authorisation of the amendment should be rejected by the Regent House.

<sup>1</sup> Special Ordinance C (vii) B 1(b).

<sup>2</sup> *Reporter*, 6338, 2013–14, p. 371.

<sup>3</sup> Special Ordinance C (vii) A 3 is about establishment rather than appointment.

**COLLEGE NOTICES****Elections****Peterhouse**

Elected to a Bye Fellowship in Mathematics for three years from 1 October 2026:

Anthony Ashton, M.A., Ph.D., *PET*

**Selwyn College**

Elected to a Governing Body Fellowship from 1 October 2026:

Christopher V. Jones, M.A., *CC*, M.Phil., D.Phil., *Oxford*

Maria Marti-Solano, M.Sc., Ph.D., *Pompeu Fabra*

James Higham, B.Sc., M.Sc., *Bristol*, Ph.D., *PET*

Erin Charles, M.A., *Oxford*

Elected Henslow Cambridge Philosophical Society Research Fellow from 1 October 2026:

Zoe Clarke, B.Sc., *Queen's University Canada*, Ph.D., *Toronto*

Elected Keasbey Isaac Newton Research Fellow from 1 October 2026:

Samuel Burry, M.A., *HO*, M.Phil., *CHR*

**Vacancies***Annual College Research Fellowship competitions*

A number of Colleges propose to hold competitions for Research Fellowships tenable from the start of the academic year 2027–28 with closing dates for application on or near 1 October 2026. Advertisements will appear online at <https://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/college> not later than 31 August 2026. Advertisements for competitions with a later closing date will normally appear in the *Cambridge University Reporter* and the *Oxford University Gazette*, as well as online, not less than 28 days before the closing date.

*Corpus Christi College*: Research Associate Scheme 2026 (up to four posts available); tenure: two years, with the possibility of renewal for a further two years; closing date: 13 July 2026 at 12 noon; further details: <https://www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/about/opportunities/academic-vacancies>

*Trinity College*: Junior Research Fellowships 2027 (several available, any subject); tenure: four years from October 2027; stipend: £36,128 plus benefits; closing date: 27 August 2026 at 12 noon; further details: <https://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/vacancies/jrf2027/>

**EXTERNAL NOTICES****Oxford Notices**

*Merton College*: One-Year Stipendiary Lectureship in Applied Mathematics (6 hours); tenure: from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027; stipend: £18,669; closing date: 14 July 2026 at 9 a.m.; further details: <https://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/vacancies>

*St Catherine's College*: Library Assistant; salary: £26,093–£27,319; closing date: 9 July 2026 at 12 noon; further details: <https://www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk/library-assistant-closing-date-9-july/>