Council and Main Committees

Council 3 December:
Voting on Legislative Proposal: Statute VI: Council (correction to be made under the slip rule)

Congregation 10 March:
Resolution for Phasing-out of the Graduate Application Fee

Council of the University:
Register of Congregation

Examinations and Boards

Changes to Examination Regulations: Humanities Board

Elections

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Supplement included with this issue:
(1) to No 5271: Oration by the Demitting Senior Proctor 351-354

Congregation

Congregation 28 April:
Fossil Fuel Divestment and Net Zero Investment Resolution

Congregation 5 May:
(1) Voting on a Resolution authorising that approximately 1,219 sq m Gross Internal Area (GIA) of the new Humanities building on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter be allocated to the Oxford Internet Institute
(2) Voting on a Resolution authorising the allocation of space within the FMRIB Building to the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences

Notices

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External Membership of Council Sustainability

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Gazette publication arrangements

Changes to previously published events
Council and Main Committees

Voting on Legislative Proposal: Statute VI: Council

CORRECTION TO BE MADE UNDER THE SLIP RULE

Explanatory Note

Regulation 1.17 of Congregation Regulations 2 of 2002 (Regulations of Congregation for the Conduct of Business in Congregation) gives the Vice-Chancellor the power, after consultation with the Registrar and the Proctors, to correct any clerical error, slip or omission in the text of a legislative proposal which has been made.

After consultation, the Vice-Chancellor has agreed to the correction set out below.

When the proposed amendments to Statute VI were published, references to gender identity were removed throughout. Statute VI were published, references to ‘him or her’ which were not replaced, in section 9 (1) (f) and in section 11 (1). These should have been replaced with ‘them’.

Text of Correction made to the Legislative Proposal

9. (1) ...

(f) automatically for an existing appointed, elected or co-opted member on taking office which entitles him or her to serve as an ex-officio member of Council;

...

11. (1) No person appointed, elected, or serving as a member of Council while holding any academic post of the University or any other of the university or college posts specified in section 3 (6)–(9) of Statute IV shall continue to serve on Council after having retired from that post (or, in the case of a person retiring at different dates from those university and college posts previously held by him or her after the date of the later of those retirements), unless the Chancellor shall otherwise determine in an individual case.'
Congregation

28 April

Members of Congregation are reminded that any two members may, not later than noon on 20 April, give notice in writing to the Registrar that they wish to oppose or amend the resolution below (see the note on the conduct of business in Congregation below). If no such notice has been given, and unless Council has declared otherwise or the meeting has been adjourned, the resolution shall be declared carried, and the meeting may be cancelled.

Fossil Fuel Divestment and Net Zero Investment Resolution

The evidence for anthropogenic climate change, and the fossil fuel industry’s key role in it, is overwhelming. Climate change has already had disastrous effects on human communities – often the most marginalised and vulnerable – as well as many of the world’s most valuable ecosystems. The current rate of fossil fuel production and usage and lack of scaled investment in real negative emissions strategies will lead to a catastrophic level of atmospheric CO2, threatening much life on earth. The University of Oxford must lead by calling on fossil fuel companies to take responsibility for their damage, to act in line with science of the IPCC and the goals of the Paris Agreement to develop credible net zero plans, and by removing financial and social support from those companies that continue to fail to demonstrate meaningful action to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. Oxford’s fund managers have an existing framework for engaging on matters of sustainability and maintain a selective investment strategy especially with regards to fossil fuel investments. This, in partnership with the best available research on climate conscious business practices, puts Oxford in a strong position to act as a world leader on climate conscious investment and to implement the following.

1. Divestment: Congregation instructs Council to divest from the fossil fuel industry, including but not limited to the Carbon Underground’s top 200 (https://fossillreeffunds.org/carbon-underground-200), requiring an immediate restriction on all direct investment in any fossil fuel exploration and extraction companies and an immediate restriction on new investments in funds which invest primarily in fossil fuel extraction companies (including coal, oil and gas, exploration and extraction, as an addition to Oxford University’s existing restriction on thermal coal and tar sands).

2. Engagement: Congregation instructs Council to require the University’s endowment managers to actively engage with fund managers per the Oxford Martin Principles (www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/blog/investing-for-a-stable-climate-adopting-the-oxford-martin-principles) to request evidence of net zero business plans across Oxford’s entire portfolio of investments, including but not limited to fossil fuel companies. Congregation instructs Council to review an annual review of any remaining fossil fuel investments for Paris- and IPCC-aligned, “hard” net zero plans, and to request that the University’s endowment managers communicate a restriction on any fossil fuel companies which fail to meet that standard to all fund managers, and review and reallocate investments as appropriate.

3. Oversight: Congregation instructs Council to amend the regulations for the Investment Committee (Part 23 of Council Regulations 15 of 2002) to create a third nominated member of the Investment Committee (who may be internal or external) who shall have recent and relevant expertise in investment management, as well as recent and relevant expertise in climate-conscious investment. Starting from the passage of this resolution, this member on behalf of the Investment Committee, will review and engage with progress on 1 through 2 and report this to the chair of the Investment Committee. This will be set out in the Investment Committee’s annual SRI report to Council, which will be made publically available. This engagement process will refer to ongoing Oxford University research on companies’ alignment with net zero per the Oxford Martin Principles, in line with the University’s own net zero trajectory.

Signatories:
Roger Crisp, St Anne’s
Benjamin Bollig, St Catherine’s
Patrick McGuinness, St Anne’s
Katherine Rundell, All Souls
Barbara Harris-White, Wolfson
Timothy Mawson, St Peter’s
Laura Rival, Linacre
Thomas Kuhn, St Hugh’s
Alexander Georgiou, All Souls
Catherine Scutt, Bodleian
Neil Kenny, Medieval and Modern Languages
Tommaso Pizziari, St Catherine’s
David Gellner, All Souls
Maya Krishnan, All Souls
Moritz Riede, Wolfson
Erik Panzer, All Souls
Timothy Power, OSGA
Kate Sullivan de Estrada, OSGA
Paul Chaisty, Politics
Rebecca Armstrong, St Hilda’s
Emily Kearns, St Hilda’s
Nicholas Purcell, Classics
Sarah Bulfin, All Souls
Sneha Krishnan, Geography
William Thomas Sinclair, Wadham
Derek McCormack, Mansfield
Beth Greenhough, Keble
Aris Katzourakis, St Hilda’s
John Parrington, Worcester
James McDougall, Trinity
Stefano Salvini, Engineering Science
Lee Sweetlove, St Cross
Robert Scotland, Plant Sciences
Michael Stuart Armstrong, Philosophy
Dariusz Wojcik, Geography
Daniel Dorling, Geography
Iain Morley, Anthropology
Francesco Pezzella, RDM
Valeria Frighi, Psychiatry
Nicholas Myers, Experimental Psychology
Neil Kenny, Medieval and Modern Languages
Adam Bows, Estates Services
Thomas Hale, St Antony’s
Maya Tudor, St Hilda’s
Emily Jones, University College
Matthew Ives, Wolfson
Cameron Hepburn, New College
Myles Allen, Linacre
Bartholomew Ashton, Lady Margaret Hall
Stephen Goddard, St Catherine’s
Jane Henderson, NDPH
reduce as these illiquid investments run-off in future years. Furthermore, OUem has made substantial investments in the area of solutions to climate change and sustainability. The changes proposed by the resolution, although they may lead to a situation where the University’s hands are tied in ways Council would have preferred to avoid, will codify the good practice already in place and encourage it to be continued and expanded as part of the University’s wider sustainability strategy currently being developed.

Council’s response

Council considers the resolution to be acceptable to it.

Council recognises the strength of feeling on this issue evidenced by the resolution and its signatories. The resolution has been the product of intensive engagement between the relevant stakeholders, including the SU VP for Charities and Communities, the Oxford Climate Justice Network, members of the Oxford Martin School and Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, and OUem, and has secured widespread support. Council is grateful to OUem for its existing, sector-leading work on reducing exposure to fossil fuel extractors and engaging with fund managers to do so. At many other institutions, commitments to ‘divest from fossil fuels’ are aimed at bringing them down to the levels of exposure Oxford has already achieved. When OUem took over management of investments in 2007, there were an estimated 8.5% of holdings in the energy sector; typical of many investment portfolios. Today it stands at 2.6% (including renewables) of which just 0.6% is in fossil fuel extractors. OUem has not made an investment in an oil and gas specialist since 2012, so this indirect exposure will

Text of Resolution

That approximately 1.219 sq m Gross Internal Area (GIA) of the new Humanities building on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter be allocated to the Oxford Internet Institute, with immediate effect.

(2) Voting on a Resolution authorising the allocation of space within the FMRIB Building to the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences

Explanatory Note

The original FMRIB building was constructed on the John Radcliffe Hospital site (JRH) by the University, and occupied under a 25-year lease from 1 April 1996.

In 2002 the University entered into an Agreement for Lease to construct an extension to the building (FMRIB B) under which a co-terminus lease of the second phase was to have been granted by the Trust.

FMRIB is one of the core facilities of The Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging (WIN). It houses the Oxford Centre for Functional MRI of the Brain, part of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences (NDCN).

The University is in the process of surrendering a current lease with the NHS Trust and agreeing new lease arrangements that will secure the department’s continued occupation of the building beyond 2021. This necessitates a new space allocation to the department.

Text of Resolution

That approximately 792 sq m net usable area (NUA) in the FMRIB Building be allocated to Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, from the date on which the lease commences until 16 December 2036.

Note on procedures in Congregation

¶ Business in Congregation is conducted in accordance with Congregation Regulations 2 of 2002 (http://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/congregation-regulations-2-of-2002). A printout of these regulations, or of any statute or other regulations, is available from the Council Secretariat on request. A member of Congregation seeking advice on questions relating to its procedures, other than elections, should contact Mrs R Thomas at the University Offices, Wellington Square (telephone: (2)80317; email rebecca.thomas@admin.ox.ac.uk); questions relating to elections should be directed to the Elections Officer, Ms S L S Mulvihill (telephone: (2)80463; email: elections.office@admin.ox.ac.uk).
Consultative Notices

External Membership of Council

INVITATION TO CONGREGATION
TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Procedure for election of external members of Council

There are two vacancies on the University’s Council for external members, one immediate and one from summer 2020. The member filling the immediate vacancy will also chair the University’s Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The appointments are for a term of four years, extendable for a further four years.

Council is the University’s executive governing body. It has up to 28 members, including up to 4 external members (increasing to 5 in summer 2020, subject to Privy Council approval). Council is responsible for the academic policy and strategic direction of the University, for its administration and for the management of its finances and property. More information, including details of current members, is available on Council’s website (https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/council/home). An external member is ‘a person who is not the resident holder of a teaching, research or administrative post in the University or in any college, society or Permanent Private Hall.

Members of Congregation are invited to submit nominations for consideration by the Nominations Committee for each place on Council, taking account of the criteria set out below, on a form available at https://governance.web.ox.ac.uk/council/how-do-i or from Rebecca Thomas, Planning and Council Secretariat (rebecca.thomas@admin.ox.ac.uk; 01865 280317). The Nominations Committee understands that nominations may be made without any communication by the nominator with the nominee. Nominators should indicate on the nominations form if any informal communication has taken place.


The committee will select from applicants using the criteria below and applying principles of equality and diversity. Being mindful of these principles, and in recognition of the need for Council to support and represent a diverse University community, the committee particularly encourages applications from groups not currently well represented on Council. The immediate vacancy has been left by Dame Kate Barker and the University is committed to ensuring a gender balance among external members.

The closing date for applications is 17 May 2020.

Criteria for external members of Council

All members of Council have a strong personal commitment to higher education and to the values, aims and objectives of Oxford as a collegiate University. In considering nominations for external membership of Council, personal qualities will be the primary consideration, but successful candidates will need to be able to demonstrate significant levels of relevant experience. The Nominations Committee look for evidence of the following:

- significant experience in a position or positions requiring the exercise of high levels of responsibility;
- substantial experience in the governance of large complex organisations in the public, private or not-for-profit sectors;
- a willingness to represent the values, aims and objectives of the University to those who are not part of the institution and to bring a better understanding of issues outside the institution to the members of the collegiate University;
- the capacity to act fairly and impartially in the interests of the University as a whole, using independent judgement, maintaining confidentiality as appropriate and avoiding conflicts of interest; and
- the willingness to listen, engage, understand and interact with members of the collegiate University at all levels.

Commitment

There are eight main meetings of Council each year, which in most cases take place in the afternoon. It is expected that external members will become involved in the life of the University and will join other committees or help with ad hoc projects and challenges as they arise. It is likely that external members will be involved in University business on two to three days a month during term time, with some availability by phone or email.

All members have a responsibility for ensuring that Council conducts itself in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour in public life, embracing selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. They must also play an appropriate part in ensuring that the business of Council is carried out effectively, efficiently, and in a manner appropriate for the proper conduct of public business.

Legally, the members of Council are charity trustees and are bound by fiduciary duties. Each must comply with the duties of a charity trustee, and when doing so must exercise the proper standard of care.

Audit and Scrutiny Committee

One of the two vacancies includes chairing the Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee reports annually to Council on the following five elements: risk management; control; governance; economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money); and management and quality assurance of data submitted to HESA and to HEFCE and other funding bodies. The committee meets at least four times a year, with special meetings held as required (this workload falls within the anticipated overall commitment for Council members). The committee has nine members, of which five (including the chair) are external members. Information about the committee and its terms of reference are available at https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/audit-and-scrutiny-committee.

The person appointed to chair the committee will work with the other committee members to ensure that the
committee fulfils its responsibilities. In addition to the experience required as a member of Council, the Nominations Committee will be looking for a person who is able to demonstrate the following:

• an understanding of the principles and practice of good corporate governance and the role of the committee;

• a commitment to the committee's aims and objectives and willingness to work within the terms of reference;

• an ability to analyse complex information, to question, probe and seek clarification and come to an independent and unbiased view;

• personal courage to raise and deal with difficult/challenging issues and support other committee members to do the same;

• an understanding of the importance of the committee's relationships with senior officers, external audit partner, internal audit partner, committee members and other stakeholders and interpersonal skills to build and maintain effective working relationships; and

• experience of chairing committees.

Current external members of Council

Mr Charles Harman has over 35 years' experience in a variety of commercial and banking roles. He is currently a Vice Chairman of J.P. Morgan. His previous positions include Chief Executive Officer of BXR Partners, an emerging markets investment group. Charles is also Chair of Peters Fraser & Dunlop, a UK-based literary agency and publisher, and business ambassador of United Purpose, an international development charity. He graduated in PPE from Magdalen College.

Mr Nicholas Kroll CB has enjoyed a varied career in a number of senior roles in the public sector including HM Treasury, where he was head of the Banking Policy Branch and Head of the European Community Budget Division. He was appointed to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), where he worked in a number of senior roles, and was responsible for leading on DCMS's spending reviews, managing its strategic priorities and public appointments. In 2002, he became COO & Deputy Permanent Secretary, a role in which he was a senior member of the department's Management Board and responsible for the Exchequer and National Lottery funds of £3.5 billion. In 2005 he became Director of the BBC Trust, where he established new oversight structures and acted as principal liaison between the governing body and the BBC's executive board and Whitehall. He holds a BA in Classics from Corpus Christi College.

Sir Chris Deverell’s portfolio includes advising a cyber security venture capital fund and an artificial intelligence business. He retired from the Army in 2019 in the rank of General, after a 40-year career which included operational, procurement, policy, planning, and international appointments. His most recent role was as one of the UK Chiefs of Staff and Commander of Joint Forces. He graduated in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Mansfield College in 1982.

Environmental Sustainability

STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The University’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy Consultation takes place between 2 March and 14 April. The consultation aims to stimulate debate across the University about ambitious action it could take in the short, medium and long term to reduce its environmental impact and reach net zero carbon emissions and net biodiversity gain. All staff and students are invited to respond: https://sustainability.admin.ox.ac.uk/consultation.

General Notices

Gazette publication arrangements

This is the final Gazette of Hilary term and is restricted to Council and Congregation business and changes to Examination Regulations only. We have also added a section below about cancellations/postponements to previously publicised events.

The first Gazette of Trinity term will be published on 23 April, and will include the Trinity term lecture supplement.

Changes to previously published events

Please see https://gazette.web.ox.ac.uk/changes-to-previously-published-event-notices for up-to-date details of all previously advertised events where we have been notified of changes.

Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

James Foley's viva on 26 March will now take place via Skype.

Social Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The inaugural lecture by Professor Amia Srinivasan, Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory, due to take place on 11 June, has been cancelled.

SMITH SCHOOL OF ENTERPRISE AND THE ENVIRONMENT LECTURE

The lecture by Jeremy Grantham, due to take place at 4.30pm on 27 April in the Sheldonian Theatre, has been postponed.

Queen’s

The memorial service for Professor Brian McGuinness, due to take place on 25 April, has been postponed.

University College

The HLA Hart Memorial Lecture 2020, to be given by Professor Sally Haslinger, Ford Professor of Philosophy and Women’s and Gender Studies, MIT, and due to take place at 5pm on 28 May at University College, has been cancelled.
Examinations and Boards

Changes to Examination Regulations

For the complete text of each regulation listed below and a listing of all changes to regulations for this year to date, please see https://gazette.web.ox.ac.uk/examination-regulations-0.

Humanities Board

FHS OF HISTORY OF ART
change to submission methods for BA theses

Elections

Elections

Other Committees and University Bodies

POOL FOR CONSTITUTING PANELS CONVENED UNDER STATUTE XII PARTS B, D AND H

The result of the 5 March contested election will be published in the Gazette in due course.
This is the final Gazette of Hilary term. The first Gazette of Trinity term will be published on 23 April and will include the termly lecture supplement.

Gazette copy must be received in the week before publication. Deadline: noon on Wednesday. Inclusion is subject to availability of space.

Certain sections in the Gazette include official announcements by the University but the University accepts no responsibility for the content of any other material in the Gazette.

Next Gazette: Thursday, 23 April