Council and Main Committees

Council of the University: Changes to Regulations: Safety, Health and Environment Management Subcommittee

General Purposes Committee of Council:
(a) Professor of Molecular Immunology
(b) Nuffield Professor of Primary Care Health Sciences
(c) Whitley Professor of Biochemistry

Congregation

Congregation 26 April:
Resolution in respect of the response to the war against Ukraine
Council’s response

Notices

Consultative Notices:
Finance White Paper

General Notices:
Gazette publication arrangements

Supplements included with this issue:
(1) to No 5344: Revised Register of Congregation 2022 283-308
(2) to No 5344: Oration by the Demitting Proctors and Assessor 2022 309-312
Council and Main Committees

Council of the University

Changes to Regulations
Council has made the following changes to regulations, to come into effect on 8 April.

Safety, Health and Environment Management Subcommittee

Explanatory Note
In 2019 Council appointed a group to review health and safety at the University. The Health and Safety Review’s recommendations were approved by Council at its meeting on 29 November 2021. As a part of this, Council endorsed a proposed new Health and Safety Governance structure, including the establishment of a Safety Executive Group (SEG), to replace the current Safety, Health and Environment Management Subcommittee (SHEMS).

The proposed new regulations for SEG are set out below. The current SHEMS regulations, which these replace, can be seen at https://governance.admin.ox.ac.uk/legislation/part-20-health-and-safety-management-subcommittee-of-the-general-purposes-committee. The remit of SEG includes all of the current responsibilities of SHEMS. However, changes have been made to:

• the membership, to strengthen assurance and better emphasise the significance of health and safety within the University;
• the meeting arrangements, to add an expectation that work will be ongoing between termly meetings;
• the reporting line, to change this from the General Purpose Committee to Council;
• the sub-groups, to add a new Safety, Health and Environment Operations Network (and associated Steering Group) which will support SEG; and
• the remit, to divide responsibility for five themes between committee members and to make the group’s role in consultation explicit.

Text of Regulations
In Part 20 of Council Regulations 15 of 2002, concerning the Safety, Health and Environment Management Subcommittee, delete the current text and replace with the following:

‘Part 20: Safety Executive Group
Membership and meetings
20.1. The Safety Executive Group will consist of:
(1) a person appointed by Council as co-chair of the group;
(2) the Registrar as co-chair of the group;
(3) one of the Proctors and the Assessor as may be agreed between them;
(4) the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research);
(5) the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education);
(6) the Director of Assurance;
(7) the Director of Occupational Health and Safety;
(8) the Director of Human Resources;
(9) the Director of Estates;
(10) the Chief Financial Officer;
(11) the Chair of the Buildings and Estates Subcommittee
(12)–(15) the Divisional Registrars of each division;
(16) the Chief Operating Officer of Gardens, Libraries and Museums;
(17) one member of a faculty within the Social Sciences or Humanities Divisions, with expertise in a relevant area, appointed by Council, taking into account the overall balance of the group’s membership; and
(18) one member of a faculty within the Medical Sciences or MPLS Divisions, with expertise in a relevant area, appointed by Council, taking into account the overall balance of the group’s membership.

20.2. The group may co-opt up to four additional members, who will hold office for such period as the committee may determine.

20.3. A representative of the Conference of Colleges will be invited to attend meetings of the group.

20.4. The group will:
(1) meet at least once each term;
(2) have access to and be expected to participate in a shared online space through which decisions will be made, issues addressed, and the group’s actions tracked in a decision log (the content of which will be formally reported to the group at each meeting);
(3) be given access to the training and support required to ensure that they are competent and comfortable in their roles.

20.5. The quorum for the group will be not less than six members. Where decisions are taken outside of meetings, these will be approved by a minimum of three members of the group (including at least one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors and one of the Divisional Registrars or the Chief Operating Officer of Gardens, Libraries and Museums).

Themes and support
20.6. The group will have collective responsibility for promoting a positive culture, setting strategy and implementing policy on behalf of Council in respect of safety, occupational health and the environment within the following five themes. Members of the group will take lead responsibility for the themes as indicated and the group will delegate authority for decision making within these themes and to these or other individuals as it considers appropriate:

(1) People, being the responsibility of the Director of Human Resources supported by the Personnel Committee. This theme includes: training; occupational health; wellbeing; first aid; work-related stress and mental health; and consultation, including with the Trade Unions.
20.7 The group will agree and keep under review the terms of reference and membership of a Network Steering Group (supported by a Safety, Health and Environment Operations Network) which will deal with operational aspects of safety, occupational health and the environment, and will support the group in all of its responsibilities. The group will have the ability to delegate appropriate decision making powers to the Network Steering Group.

20.8 The group will expect to receive full co-operation from all staff and students of the University in relation to all aspects of the group’s activity.

Consultation

20.9. The group will agree and keep under review the terms of reference and membership of a Consultative Committee for Health and Safety and will:

(1) maintain a Schedule of Safety Consultations;
(2) ensure that meaningful consultation takes place with the Consultative Committee in advance of any significant changes to the policies or arrangements which the group is responsible for; and
(3) make its decision log and the minutes of its meetings available to the Consultative Committee.

Enforcement action

20.10. The group will have the authority to recommend and to take whatever action it deems necessary in relation to matters of safety, health and environmental protection where the group considers practices to pose imminent potential danger or there to be a significant risk of enforcement action from appropriate authorities. This will include the authority to issue internal notices to prohibit continued work in cases of serious or persistent non-compliance with policies for which the group is responsible, or with Health and Safety legislation.

Remit and other responsibilities of the group

20.11. The remit of the group extends to work-related, sporting and other society activities which take place away from University premises and to parties on University premises or who may be affected by the University’s work and activities, as well as to matters covered by legislation including fire safety, food safety and the transport of dangerous goods.

20.12. In respect of the themes set out above, the group will:

(1) keep under review the University’s legal and statutory obligations and identify and monitor where basic standards are not being met or are at risk of not being met;
(2) undertake horizon scanning for emerging legislation and risks, and review these in terms of policy and operations to enable compliance;
(3) consider major findings of internal and external audits and investigations, and the management responses to these, ensuring recommendations are implemented; and
(4) monitor the effectiveness of audits and planned audits to ensure their completion and resourcing.

Reporting

20.13. The group will receive and act on the following in relation to safety, occupational health and environmental issues:

(1) reports, minutes and other comments from the Consultative Committee for Health and Safety and the Network Steering Group;
(2) internal and external audit findings, performance statistics, and correspondence with enforcing authorities; and
(3) reports or requests from other committees.

20.14. The group will report as follows:

(1) following each meeting, to Council on the principal matters which it has discussed including an update on progress against key targets; and
(2) at any time to Council on any matter which it regards as necessary to bring to the attention of Council.
The General Purposes Committee of Council has made the following changes to regulations, to come into effect on 8 April.

(a) Professor of Molecular Immunology

Explanatory Note

The following changes have been made to amend the title of the Professorship of Molecular Immunology to the Kennedy Trust Professorship of Molecular Immunology to recognise the trust’s investment in this post and major wider support for the Kennedy Institute and its research.

Text of Regulations

In Council Regulations 24 of 2002, concerning individual professorships, amend the Kennedy Trust Professorship of Molecular Immunology as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

Kennedy Trust Professor of Molecular Immunology

1. The Kennedy Trust Professor of Molecular Immunology shall undertake research in Molecular Immunology and shall lecture and give instruction in this subject.

2. The professor shall be elected by an electoral board consisting of:

   (1) the Vice-Chancellor;

   (2) the head of the college to which the professorship may be allocated by Council from time to time; or if the head is unable or unwilling to act, a person appointed by the governing body of that college;

   (3) a person appointed by the governing body of the college specified in paragraph (2) above;

   (4) (5) two persons appointed by Council;

   (6)–(9) four persons appointed by the Medical Sciences Board.

3. The professor shall be subject to the General Provisions of the regulations concerning the duties of professors and to those Particular Provisions of the same regulations which are applicable to this chair.

(b) Nuffield Professor of Primary Care Health Sciences

Explanatory Note

The following changes have been made to remove from the board the reference to the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust and substitute it with the Oxford Integrated Care Partnership, and to update outdated references.

Text of Regulations

In Council Regulations 24 of 2002, concerning individual professorships, amend the Nuffield Professorship of Primary Care Health Sciences as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

Nuffield Professor of Primary Care Health Sciences

1. The Nuffield Professor of Primary Care Health Sciences shall engage in advanced study and research and shall lecture and give instruction in Primary Health Care.

2. The professor shall be elected by an electoral board consisting of:

   (1) the Vice-Chancellor; or, if the head of the college specified in (2) of this clause is Vice-Chancellor, a person appointed by Council on the occurrence of a vacancy to act as an elector on that occasion;

   (2) the head of the college to which the professorship shall be for the time being allocated by Council under any decree in that behalf, or, if the head is unable or unwilling to act, a person appointed by the governing body of the college;

   (3) a person appointed by the governing body of the college specified in paragraph (2) above;

   (4), (5) two persons appointed by Council;

   (6)–(9) four persons appointed by the Medical Sciences Board;

   (10) a person holding a clinical appointment appointed by the Oxford Integrated Care Partnership Oxfordshire Primary Care Partnership (or the relevant successor body in the NHS should that Trust body cease to exist). At least three members of the board, of whom one shall be a professor, shall hold clinical appointments.

3. The professor shall be subject to the General Provisions of the regulations concerning the duties of professors and to those Particular Provisions of the same regulations which are applicable to this Chair.

(c) Whitley Professor of Biochemistry

Explanatory Note

The following changes have been made to amend the regulations for the Whitley Professor of Biochemistry to update the name of the field from ‘Biochemistry and Physiological Chemistry’ to ‘Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry’; to remove from the board the representatives of the Life and Environmental Sciences Board; to include research in the duties of the professor; to remove the reference to the professor not being permitted to engage in private medical or surgical practice; and to update other outdated references.

Text of Regulations

In Council Regulations 24 of 2002, concerning individual professorships, amend the Whitley Professorship of Biochemistry as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

Whitley Professor of Biochemistry

1. The Whitley Professor of Biochemistry shall undertake research, lecture and give instruction in Biochemistry and Physiological
2. The professor shall be elected by an electoral board consisting of:

1. the Vice-Chancellor, if the President of Trinity College is Vice-Chancellor, a person appointed by Council;
2. the President of Trinity College, or, if the President is unable or unwilling to act, a person appointed by the Governing Body of Trinity College;
3. a person appointed by the governing body of Trinity College;
4. (6)–(9) four persons appointed by the Medical Sciences Board.

(6)–(9) four persons appointed by the Medical Sciences Board.

(7)–(9) three persons appointed by the Life and Environmental Sciences Board.

(1)–(9) persons appointed by the Life and Environmental Sciences Board.

2. The professor shall be elected by an electoral board consisting of:

1. the Vice-Chancellor, if the President of Trinity College is Vice-Chancellor, a person appointed by Council;
2. the President of Trinity College, or, if the President is unable or unwilling to act, a person appointed by the Governing Body of Trinity College;
3. a person appointed by the governing body of Trinity College;
4. (5) two persons appointed by Council;
5. (6)–(9) persons appointed by the Medical Sciences Board;
6. (7)–(9) three persons appointed by the Life and Environmental Sciences Board.

(6)–(9) persons appointed by the Life and Environmental Sciences Board.

3. The professor shall not be allowed to engage in private medical or surgical practice. He or she shall be subject to the General Provisions of the regulations concerning the duties of professors and to those Particular Provisions of the same regulations which are applicable to this chair.

Congregation

Resolution in respect of the response to the war against Ukraine

Congregation expresses its strongest condemnation of the war of aggression started by Putin's regime against Ukraine; its sympathy and support for the people of Ukraine in its struggle for freedom, for the anti-war and human rights movement in Russia, and for all civilians endangered by this war whatever their nationality; affirms its support for the independence and self-determination of democratic Ukraine; enjoins Council to take measures to support members of the University, particularly in the student community, affected by the conflict; and asks Council to explore participation in humanitarian support, in particular via the Council of At-Risk Academics, in line with Oxford's long-standing tradition of support for refugee scholars and for cultural institutions abroad.

Signatories:

Anna Abulafia, Lady Margaret Hall
A.K.M. Adam, St Stephen's House
Nihan Akylken, Kellogg
Peter Alsop, Wadham
Ben Ansell, Nuffield
Rhiannon Ash, Merton
Roderick Bagshaw, Magdalen
Masooda Bano, Brasenose
Teresa Bejan, Oriel
Matthew Bevis, Keble
Paul Billingham, Magdalen
Ed Bispham, Brasenose
Daniela Bortolotto, Brasenose
Carole Bourne-Taylor, Brasenose
Christopher Bowdler, Oriel
Richard Breen, Nuffield
Philip Bullock, Wadham
Harvey Burd, Brasenose
Michael Burden, New College
Martin Bureau, Wadham
Daniel Butt, Balliol
Jennifer Castle, Magdalen
Morgan Clarke, Keble
Eric Clarke, Wadham
Patricia Clavin, Worcester
Samuel Cohen, New College
Andrew Counter, New College
Anne Davies, Brasenose

Sergio De Ferra, Brasenose
Anne Deighton, Wolfson
Julie Durcan, Brasenose
Chiha El Khachab, Wolfson
Martin Ellison, Nuffield
Sos Eltsi, Brasenose
Elizabeth Ewart, Linacre
Andrew Farmery, Wadham
Laura Fortunato, Magdalen
Christopher Garland, Magdalen
Jane Garnett, Wadham
Alexandra Gajda, Jesus
Raphaele Garrod, Magdalen
David Gellner, All Souls
John-Paul Ghobrial, Balliol
Christina Goldschmidt, Lady Margaret Hall
Lydia Gilday, Wadham
Robert Gildea, Worcester
Jane Green, Nuffield
Emma Greensmith, St John's
Adrian Gregory, Pembroke
John Griffiths, Keble
Jane Griffiths, Wadham
Jeffrey Hackney, Wadham
Julie Hage, Wadham
Robert Hannigan, Wadham
Ruth Harris, All Souls
Stephen Heyworth, Wadham
Christina Howells, Wadham
Katherine Ibbett, Trinity
Ben Jackson, University
Jan O. Jonsson, Nuffield
Georgy Kantor, St John's
Varun Kanade, Lady Margaret Hall
Margaret Kean, St Hilda's
Eleni Kechagia-Ovseiko, Nuffield
Juliane Kerkhecker, Oriel
Paulina Kewes, Jesus
Stefan Kiefer, St John's
Desmond King, Nuffield
David Kirk, Nuffield
Ian Kline, St John's
Cecile Laborde, Nuffield
Dave Leal, Brasenose
Christian Leitmeir, Magdalen
David Leopold, Mansfield
Owen Lewis, Brasenose
Theo Maarten Van Lint, Pembroke
Noel Malcolm, All Souls
Paul Martin, Wadham
Nayanika Mathur, Wolfson
Katie McKeogh, New College
Jeff McMahan, Corpus Christi
Andrew Meadows, New College
Colin Mills, Nuffield
Christina Monton, Nuffield
Alfonso Moreno, Lady Margaret Hall
Llewelyn Morgan, Brasenose
Vlad Mykhnenko, St Peter's
Sonali Nag, Brasenose
Matthew Nicholls, St John's
Annalisa Nicholson, Queen's
Luke O'Sullivan, St Hilda's
Jan Obloj, St John's
Jennifer Oliver, Worcester
Zuzanna Olszewska, St John's
Patricia Owens, Somerville
Simon Palfrey, Brasenose
John Parrington, Worcester
David Parrott, New College
Claudia Pazos Alonso, Wadham
Michail Peramatzis, Worcester
Luke Pitcher, Somerville
Nicholas Purcell, Brasenose
Paolo Radaelli, Wadham
Sophie Ratcliffe, Lady Margaret Hall
Ferdinand Rauch, Brasenose
Madeleine Reeves, St Hugh's
Daniel Robinson, Magdalen
Lyndal Roper, Oriel
Alice Roulliere, St John's
Andrea Ruggeri, Brasenose
Rahul Sarro, St Antony's
Alexander Schekochihin, Merton
Scott Scullion, Worcester
Ekaterina Shamonina, Wadham
Dean Sheppard, Lady Margaret Hall
Thomas Sinclair, Wadham
Hannah Skoda, St John's
Sophie Smith, University
George Southcombe, Wadham
Katherine Southwood, St John's
Amia Srinivasan, All Souls
Nicholas Stargardt, Magdalen
Giuseppe Stellardi, St Hugh's
Zofia Stemplowska, Worcester
Noel Sugimura, St John's
Endre Süli, Worcester
William Swadling, Brasenose
Grant Tapsell, Lady Margaret Hall
Peter Thonemann, Wadham
Kate Tunstall, Worcester
Marion Turner, Jesus
Bart van Es, St Catherine's
Olivia Vázquez-Medina, Wadham
Caroline Warman, Jesus
Jan Westerhoff, Lady Margaret Hall
Stuart White, Jesus
Stephen Whitefield, Pembroke
William Whyte, St John's
Giles Wiggs, Brasenose
Rebecca Williams, Pembroke
Wes Williams, St Edmund Hall
Brian Young, Christ Church
Juliane Zachhuber, Wadham
Standa Zivny, Jesus

Council's response
Council considers the resolution to be acceptable to it.

The unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia is causing a humanitarian catastrophe to unfold in Europe. Members of our community are appalled by Russia's action and in awe of the bravery shown by Ukrainians as well as the bravery of those Russians who have denounced their government's aggression. The University has published details on its website (www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/university-response-invasion-ukraine) of its response to the invasion of Ukraine, as well as advice and support for staff and students impacted. Given the rapidly changing situation, the website will be updated to provide details of the nature of the University's participation in humanitarian support, via the Council of At-Risk Academics and other routes, as this is confirmed. The wording of the resolution has been added to this webpage.

Meeting information
Members of Congregation are reminded that any two members may, not later than noon on 18 April, give notice in writing to the Registrar that they wish to oppose or amend the resolution above (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.

Members of Congregation are asked to note that 18 April is Easter Monday and that the University Offices will be closed from Thursday 14 April. Any notice submitted after noon on 14 April should be sent by email to registrar@admin.ox.ac.uk; notices submitted before that time may be sent either by email or delivered to the Registrar at the University Offices.

Note on procedures in Congregation
¶ Business in Congregation is conducted in accordance with Congregation Regulations 2 of 2002 (https://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 Office (email: elections.office@admin.ox.ac.uk).

While COVID-19 working restrictions remain in place, any notice that needs to be given to the Registrar in writing should be sent by email to registrar@admin.ox.ac.uk. Notices sent to the University Offices may not be received.
Consultative Notices

Finance White Paper

On 14 March Council approved the Finance White Paper for consultation. The Finance White Paper puts forward a series of proposals to improve financial planning processes within the University. These proposals suggest a settlement for historic reserves, create cash-backed reserves for surpluses going forward, simplify funding flows and introduce a 3-year settlement for central charges. It is important to realise that the changes set out in this Finance White Paper do not of themselves ‘create’ any more money. They are expected to increase transparency, improve decision making, better align governance with financial responsibility, provide better financial incentives to increase both income and value for money, and promote more informed investment in the University’s academic future.

The proposals described in this consultation have been endorsed by the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee (PRAC) and the Finance Committee after substantial engagement with divisions, department and services over the past two years. Academic divisions have reviewed the proposals in detail and consulted extensively with their departments, and their views to date have substantially informed these proposals.

This consultation aims to explain the rationale behind the Finance White Paper, describe the proposed changes and offer the opportunity for comment on the proposals.

TAKE PART

The consultation closes on 13 May. Comments can be made via a short online form, or by emailing financewhitepaper@admin.ox.ac.uk.

The key elements of the Finance White Paper are summarised below. The full Finance White Paper and also the Finance Green Paper can be accessed on the consultation website: https://governance.web.ox.ac.uk/finance-white-paper. Some content will be behind University single sign-on, but please email financewhitepaper@admin.ox.ac.uk if there are any access difficulties.

PRINCIPLES

The Finance White Paper’s proposals have been guided by the following principles:

Sustainability

All parts of the University have a responsibility for the financial wellbeing and viability of the University as a whole, now and in the future.

1. Financial information should be used to inform decision-making by transparently linking income, expenditure and funding.

2. Decisions should be made with awareness of current and future financial implications at departmental, divisional and University level.

3. Incentives should ensure the alignment of short, medium and long-term interests and encourage efficiency and effectiveness across the University.

Subsidiarity

Financial responsibility should be held at the lowest appropriate level.

1. Governance, decision-making and accountability should rest at the same level as financial responsibility.

2. Financial responsibility includes the compliant and sustainable management of income, expenditure and funding (the ‘as earned’ model).

3. The application of subsidiarity should take into account the importance of fairness and the need for appropriate standards of service and infrastructure across the University.

WHY WE NEED TO CHANGE

• A lack of transparency and accountability make it difficult to identify the financial consequences of decisions and ensure that there is alignment of costs and benefits;

• The surplus that the academic divisions generate is being double-counted, as part of the surplus is required to fund core University investments;

• A number of the academic divisions are in recurrent financial deficit;

• There is a lack of clarity over the status and use of historic departmental reserves;

• Financial planning is focused on a single year; and

• There is insufficient provision for future capital requirements and for meeting increasing challenges in providing essential services such as IT and repairs and maintenance.

PROPOSALS

• A simplification of funding flows - the abolition of the current 123 infrastructure charge and capital charge and the introduction of new Space and Service Charges;

• The elimination of the double-count by introducing a contribution from the divisions, to be transparent about how the divisions are contributing to the funding of a number of specific University activities agreed by Council;

• A 3-year funding settlement for the new charges and contribution to provide greater certainty to all parts of the University and support longer-term planning;

• The creation of cash-backed reserves to enable the divisions and departments to manage the financial ups and downs each year, plan for income and expenditure over more than one year, and fund modest investment to sustain and grow income;
• Drawing a line under the historic reserves, with deficit reserves being written off, surplus reserves being maintained, with the access to surplus reserves being broadened; 
• Continuity of access to accumulated PI funds and SRF reserves; and 
• The abolition of the 1.25% financing charge.

These reforms are underpinned by the creation of new governance arrangements for the revised funding flows, enabling the divisions departments and the services to consider collectively the best way to support academic activity across the University.

**TIMETABLE**

The results of the consultation will be reported back to PRAC and the Finance Committee in June to inform a final set of recommendations to be put to Council for approval in July. If approved, the proposals would operate from the start of the financial year 2023/24 (with the transitional changes to governance and processes in 2022/23.)

**General Notices**

**Gazette publication arrangements**

This is the final Gazette of Hilary term. The first Gazette of Trinity term will be published on 21 April. The deadline for submitting items for publication in the termly lecture supplement, published with the 21 April issue, has been brought forward to 6 April as a result of Easter falling in 0th week.