



The Governing Body: Structure and Role

The membership and role of the Governing Body is laid down in the Charter [Sections 4-10] and the Statutes [Statute IV].

The Principal, Professorial Fellows, Fellows in Category A, Fellows in Category D, Research Fellows and Associate Fellows are Senior Members of the Governing Body. The President of the JCR and two further members of the JCR, elected by the JCR, and one member of the MCR, elected by the MCR, are Junior Members of the Governing Body. The Bursar (if not a Fellow), and College Lecturers who are not Fellows receive the papers and are entitled to attend meetings of the Governing Body. The Development Director and Domestic Bursar (if not Fellows) normally receive the papers and are invited to attend meetings of the Governing Body. Senior Members remain members for the length of their Fellowship. Junior Members serve for one year.

The College's Charter states that the powers of the Governing Body "extend ... to all questions affecting the good Government of the College ...". The Council deals with the day-to-day management; the Governing Body considers the more long term strategic vision of the College. It also handles a number of specific responsibilities, for example:

- electing a new Principal (technically, by the Fellowship)
- appointing the Bursar
- electing Honorary Fellows, Fellows Emeritae and Associate Fellows
- approving the College accounts, and the constitutions of the JCR and MCR
- amending the Statutes
- electing guest lecturers.

It is in the presence of the Governing Body that Fellows, Research Students and Scholars make their "Solemn Promise" on joining the College or taking up a Studentship or Scholarship.

Most Governing Body business is considered under "Open Business", for which Junior Members are present. Open Business may be discussed in advance of the meeting when it will be considered, but supporting papers are treated as confidential unless the Chairman has directed otherwise.

Matters relating to individuals, employment, duties and emoluments are considered under Reserved Business for which Senior Members only are present. Occasionally, other matters of sensitivity are dealt with under Reserved Business. The Agenda for Reserved Business is circulated to the Junior Members of the Governing Body but must be treated as confidential. All Reserved Business is confidential; papers considered under Reserved Business may not be shown to individuals who are not members of the Governing Body.