

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY REPORTER

No 6825

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UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

NOTICES**Calendar**

21 May, *Thursday*. Easter Term divides.

22 May, *Friday*. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m.

23 May, *Saturday*. Congregation of the Regent House at 10 a.m.

24 May, *Sunday*. Scarlet Day. Whitsunday.

26 May, *Tuesday*. Discussion by videoconference at 2 p.m. (see below).

31 May, *Sunday*. Scarlet Day. Trinity Sunday. Preacher before the University at 11.30 a.m., The Rt Revd Dr Paul Swarup, of Clare College, Bishop of Delhi, Church of North India (*Ramsden Preacher*).

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

8 June, *Monday*. End of third quarter of Easter Term.

Discussions (Tuesdays at 2 p.m.)

26 May

2 June

16 June

30 June

14 July

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

22 and 23 May

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

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

23, 24 and 25 July

Discussion on Tuesday, 26 May 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, 26 May 2026 at 2 p.m. The following item will be discussed:

1. Consultation on proposals for changes to senior administrative offices (*Reporter*, 6823, 2025–26, p. 447).

Those wishing to join the Discussion by videoconference should email 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, by no later than 10 a.m. on the day of the Discussion for reading out by the Proctors,¹ 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 House² 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 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>.

¹ 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.

² <https://www.scrutiny.cam.ac.uk/> and https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent_house_roll/.

Discussion on Tuesday, 2 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, 2 June 2026 at 2 p.m. The following item will be discussed:

1. Topic of concern to the University: Pause of UIS reorganisation (p. 475).

Those wishing to join the Discussion by videoconference should email 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, by no later than 10 a.m. on the day of the Discussion for reading out by the Proctors,¹ 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 House² 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 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.

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¹ 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.

² <https://www.scrutiny.cam.ac.uk/> and https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/regent_house_roll/.

Amending Statutes for Hughes Hall

14 May 2026

The Vice-Chancellor begs leave to refer to the Notice of 11 June 2025 (*Reporter*, 6788, 2024–25, p. 628), concerning the text of a Statute to amend the Statutes of Hughes Hall. She hereby gives notice that she has since received from the Governing Body of Hughes Hall, in accordance with the provisions of Section 7(2) of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act 1923, a revised Statute to amend the Statutes of the College, which includes further amendments in response to comments from the Privy Council’s advisers. The current Statutes of the College and the proposed amendments are available on the College’s website at <https://www.hughes.cam.ac.uk/revisions-to-statutes-of-hughes-hall/>.

The Council will consider the amendments after 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 27 May 2026.

General Admission to Degrees 2026: Procedure

The Vice-Chancellor gives notice that the Congregations for General Admission to Degrees will be held on 1, 2, 3, and 4 July 2026. The Congregations will take place at 10 a.m. in the Senate-House.

Tickets will be required for admission to the Senate-House and the Yard, including for children of any age, who must be accompanied by an adult. Graduands should apply through their Colleges for tickets for their intended guests and other members of the University who wish to be present are also asked to obtain tickets from their Colleges if possible. Although a limited number of places will be available at each session for gowned members of the University in general who wish to be present, these cannot be reserved and will be allocated to those first to arrive, so any College wishing to seat groups of Fellows etc. in their session is requested to issue them with tickets within their permitted limit and to contact the University Marshal (email: universitymarshal@admin.cam.ac.uk) by 30 June to ensure that they can be seated appropriately.

The Ceremonies will be divided into separate sessions, with intervals between the presentation of graduands by successive Colleges, although those from Murray Edwards College and Wolfson College, and those from St Edmund’s College and Hughes Hall, will proceed together in single sessions and some larger Colleges will divide their session. Guests may not leave except in the intervals between sessions. Members of the University attending should wear academical dress. A member who is not acting as an officer at the Congregations or presenting candidates for admission to a degree or receiving a degree and who holds a degree of another university or degree-awarding institution may wear the dress of that degree on this occasion. The days of General Admission to Degrees are ‘scarlet’ days, so Doctors should wear their festal gowns.

TIMETABLE FOR THE CEREMONIES

Wednesday, 1 July

The doors of the Senate-House will be opened at 9.30 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and graduands are asked to arrive by the following times (for those Colleges with divided sessions, only the time for the first part is given). Timings given are provisional.

King’s College	9.50 a.m.
Trinity College	10.45 a.m. (Session 1)
St John’s College	12.05 p.m. (Session 1)
Peterhouse	2.05 p.m.
Clare College	2.50 p.m. (Session 1)
Pembroke College	4.10 p.m.

The ceremony will end at about 5 p.m.

Thursday, 2 July

The doors of the Senate-House will be opened at 9.30 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and graduands are asked to arrive by the following times (for those Colleges with divided sessions, only the time for the first part is given). Timings given are provisional.

Gonville and Caius College	9.50 a.m. (Session 1)
Trinity Hall	11.10 a.m.
Corpus Christi College	12 p.m.
Queens’ College	1.25 p.m. (Session 1)
St Catharine’s College	2.50 p.m.
Jesus College	3.50 p.m. (Session 1)
Christ’s College	5.10 p.m.

The ceremony will end at about 6 p.m.

Friday, 3 July

The doors of the Senate-House will be opened at 9.30 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and graduands are asked to arrive by the following times (for those Colleges with divided sessions, only the time for the first part is given). Timings given are provisional.

Magdalene College	9.50 a.m.
Emmanuel College	10.45 a.m. (Session 1)
Sidney Sussex College	12.05 p.m.
Downing College	12.55 p.m.
Girton College	2.20 p.m. (Session 1)
Newnham College	3.50 p.m.
Selwyn College	4.40 p.m.

The ceremony will end at about 5.20 p.m.

Saturday, 4 July

The doors of the Senate-House will be opened at 9.30 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and graduands are asked to arrive by the following times (for those Colleges with divided sessions, only the time for the first part is given). Timings given are provisional.

Fitzwilliam College	9.50 a.m.
Churchill College	10.50 a.m.
Murray Edwards College <i>and</i> Wolfson College	11.50 a.m.
Robinson College	12.45 p.m.
Lucy Cavendish College	2.20 p.m.
St Edmund's College <i>and</i> Hughes Hall	3.10 p.m.
Homerton College	3.55 p.m. (Session 1)

The ceremony will end at about 5.15 p.m.

General Admission to Degrees: Notice by the Director of Governance and Compliance

The Director of Governance and Compliance gives notice that the latest time for the receipt of supplicants and any necessary certificates of terms for persons who propose to take degrees at General Admission on Wednesday, 1 July, Thursday, 2 July, Friday, 3 July, or Saturday, 4 July 2026, is 10 a.m. on Friday, 19 June 2026. No further additions to degree lists can be accepted after that date.

Health and Safety Policy

14 May 2026

The Council and the General Board, on the recommendation of the Health and Safety Executive Committee, have approved an updated University Health and Safety Policy. The revised Policy simplifies the description of the responsibilities of individual roleholders without making material changes. Detail has also been added to note how institutions use and maintain data in the various systems that have been deployed for safety management since the last version of the Policy was approved in 2022. The Policy is available at: https://www.safety.admin.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/hsd016m_2.pdf.

Topic of concern to the University: Pause of UIS reorganisation

19 May 2026

The Director of Governance and Compliance gives notice that she has received the following request for the discussion of a Topic of concern to the University:

Urgent Pause of Proposed UIS Reorganisation and Relegation under UAS

Immediate Concerns

On 6 May the Council announced proposed changes to the senior administrative offices (*Reporter*, 6823, 2025–26, p. 447) that would relegate the UIS under the Unified Administrative Service (UAS), and introduce a new University Chief Operating Officer (COO).

These rushed, but substantive proposals raise serious questions (11 May All Staff meeting) about the disconnection of the UIS from its academically-interconnected roots and responsibilities, including as part of the digital strategy-related work just launched.

On 29 April the new University CIO initiated a formal organisational change process for the University Information Services (UIS). The proposal includes significant staff redundancies, and the reduction or closure of long-standing UIS services, alongside the recruitment of new, top-heavy and very expensive administrative roles.

If adopted, this reorganisation will result in a critical loss of domain knowledge and expertise. It represents a shift away from user-led, academic-focused IT development and would yield minimal net staff reductions or financial savings.

Strategic Contradiction

On 27 April the CIO launched a draft University-wide Digital Strategy and Maturity Model framework, two days before initiating the proposed UIS restructuring.

A mature, co-created and co-assessed digital strategy is likely to require at least a year of meaningful consultation with the Collegiate University community. Initiating a drastic, top-heavy structural overhaul *before* the University's digital needs and capabilities have been understood and determined is logically flawed and strategically premature.

Disconnection from Academic Priorities

The proposed UIS reorganisation, along with the proposed changes to senior administrative offices, would move UIS under the UAS, reporting to the proposed new COO. This risks entirely disconnecting UIS from its roots in the academic community, and consequently risks refocusing its work away from academic priorities.

Relegating UIS under the UAS effectively recreates the more bureaucratic, administrative focus of the former MISD – a retrograde step that directly violates the key principles of the University's rigorous 2013 *Review of IT Infrastructure and Support*. That Review explicitly mandated that:

- IT strategy must be driven by user needs in teaching, learning, and research, not pure administration.
- The central IT organisation must remain **outside** the UAS and under the supervision of the Council to balance academic and administrative needs.
- Talented computing support staff must be retained and supported.

Call to Action

We call for an **immediate suspension** of both the internal UIS reorganisation and the proposed relocation under the UAS/COO. Pausing these processes will allow the University Digital Strategy to be genuinely academically-led and user-driven.

Taking the time to co-create and co-assess this strategy properly will enable the University to:

- **Address Skills and Service Gaps:** Align our IT quality with world-class peer institutions, and expand collaborative development of comprehensive digital skills delivery, in response to community-identified users' needs.
- **Foster Innovation:** Restore focus and funding for community-led innovation (akin to the former 'Bright Ideas' project and existing programs at Oxford and Harvard).
- **Fix Working Culture:** Provide the stability needed to address deep-seated workplace culture and bullying issues highlighted in recent internal surveys.
- **Ensure Accessibility:** Select and develop systems and services that are appropriate and usable by all end users.
- **Optimise Professional Standards:** Use established frameworks (SFIA and Government Capability) to align IT roles accurately with evidenced University needs.

(Further Details: Background Information)

This request is supported by the 75 members of the Regent House listed in Annex A.

The Council has agreed that this topic will be included on the agenda of the Discussion on **Tuesday, 2 June 2026 at 2 p.m. by videoconference** (see p. 472).

ANNEX A

J. AHRINGER	J. EGAN	M. V. LUCAS-SMITH
T. ALEXOPOULOU	S. J. EGLEN	D. S. MARSHALL
M. R. ANDREWS	G. R. EVANS	J. E. MARSHALL
B. D. ARGYLE	N. W. EVANS	P. MENDES LOUREIRO
W. J. ASTLE	A. J. FAUVERGE	T. G. MICKLEM
J. M. BACK	R. A. FOLEY	J. M. MOORE
P. BADA KHCHANI	S. B. FRANKLIN	R. MORIEUX
P. M. BAYS	N. J. GAY	A. MORON HERNANDEZ
M. B. BECKLES	R. F. GILES	Y. NOBIS
M. N. BEG	G. F. GILMORE	S. M. OOSTHUIZEN
N. C. BERRYMAN	K. C. GORI	L. PELLEGRINI
H. W. T. BLACKBURN	R. HARRINGTON	J. L. POLLARD
A. F. BLACKWELL	B. J. HARRIS	C. M. F. RAE
P. M. BLAKELY	D. K. HART	A. ROSELLO DIEZ
R. W. H. BRICHENO	R. S. HAYNES	M. A. RUEHL
M. CALLEJA	T. J. HEARN	M. R. SMITH
J. P. CARR	S. HENNESSY	R. J. SMITH
L. CARRARA	MARK HILL	H. M. STRUDWICK
DAVID MCKAY CHALMERS	P. D. HORROCKS	C. D. N. THOMSON
P. J. CHARAUD	I. M. HOSKING	C. A. TOUT
I. C. CLARK	S. J. ISON	H. E. TURTON
J. CLARK	S. O. JENSEN	R. J. WAREHAM
S. T. CLARK	D. R. H. JONES	M. WEINZIERL
A. J. F. DEACON	J. P. KING	S. D. WENHAM
R. M. DURBIN	M. H. KRAMER	M. B. WINGATE

VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.**Electors to the Herchel Smith Professorship of Biochemistry**

The Council has appointed members of the *ad hoc* Board of Electors to the Herchel Smith Professorship of Biochemistry as follows:

Professor Sir John Aston, *CHU*, in the Chair, as the Vice-Chancellor's deputy

(a) on the nomination of the Council:

Professor Rob Klose, *University of Oxford*
Professor Adele Marston, *University of Edinburgh*

(b) on the nomination of the General Board:

Professor Laura Itzhaki, *N*
Professor Stephen Eglen, *M*
Professor Petra Hajkova, *Imperial College London*

(c) on the nomination of the Faculty Board of Biology:

Professor Jon Simons, *EM*
Professor Kathryn Lilley, *JE*
Professor Julian Hibberd, *EM*

AWARDS, ETC.**Visiting Fellowships at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand**

The University of Cambridge and the University of Canterbury have a reciprocal visitor exchange programme between the two universities entitled the Cambridge–Canterbury Exchange Programme.

Applications are invited for two visiting fellowships at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Academic staff members of any subject may apply. Further particulars may be obtained from the Global Engagement Office at <https://www.cam.ac.uk/a-global-university/support-for-international-activity/exchange-programmes>.

Completed applications must be submitted to the Global Engagement Office by email to globalengagementoffice@admin.cam.ac.uk or by post to The Old Schools, Trinity Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1TN. Applications must be submitted no later than **15 July 2026**.

NOTICES BY THE GENERAL BOARD**Department of Veterinary Medicine****With immediate effect**

The General Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board of Veterinary Medicine, has approved changes to the regulations governing the use of titles in the Department of Veterinary Medicine. The amendments enable a Deputy Head of the Department to be designated as Dean of the Veterinary School during a period in which the Head of the Department is not a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. They also remove the titles of Associate Dean for Education, Associate Clinical Dean and Associate Dean for Research, as they are no longer used.

In the General Board Regulations for the Department of Veterinary Medicine (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 635), Regulation 2 has been amended to read as follows and Regulations 3–5 have been rescinded:

2. The Faculty Board of Veterinary Medicine shall designate as Dean of the Veterinary School the Head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, or a Deputy Head of that Department, providing always that the person so designated is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Master of Surgery: Membership of the M.Chir. Committee**With immediate effect**

The General Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board of Clinical Medicine, has approved a change to the membership of the M.Chir. Committee, to remove a requirement that at least two of the five members of the Faculty of Clinical Medicine appointed by the Faculty Board are the holders of Professorships or Readerships. Regulation 2(d) of the General Board Regulations for the degree of Master of Surgery (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 479) has therefore been amended to read as follows:

- (d) five members of the Faculty of Clinical Medicine;

REGULATIONS FOR EXAMINATIONS**Natural Sciences Tripos**

(*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 406 and *Reporter*, 6811, 2025–26, p. 231)

With effect from 1 October 2026

The General Board, on the recommendation of the Committee of Management for the Natural Sciences Tripos, has approved the amendment of the regulations to exclude the combination of Biodiversity, Evolution and Ecology and Materials Science in Part IA.

Regulation 16.

By including a sentence to exclude the combination and amending the text to read as follows:

16. Each candidate shall offer three subjects from Group A and one subject from Group B. A candidate will not be permitted to take Biodiversity, Evolution and Ecology alongside Materials Science. A candidate will not be permitted to take Introduction to Experimental Psychology: From Brain to Cognition alongside Chemistry. A candidate taking the examination under the provisions of Regulation 2(b) shall not offer Biodiversity, Evolution and Ecology, Biomedical Sciences or Biomolecules and Cells if they have previously obtained honours in the Medical and Veterinary Sciences Tripos.

Certificate of Higher Education in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

(*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 572)

With effect from 1 October 2027

The General Board, on the recommendation of the Foundation Year Management Committee, has approved amendments to the course assessment by amending Regulation 2 to reduce the volume of written assessment and to include an oral examination as Regulation 2(d).

Regulation 2.

By amending Regulation 2(a)–(c) and including a new Regulation 2(d) to read as follows:

2. The qualification examination for the Certificate shall consist of:
 - (a) two written examinations, Paper 1 being of two hours' duration and Paper 2 being of two and a half hours' duration;
 - (b) written work, consisting of two essays of not less than 1,500 words and not more than 2,000 words in length; and one essay of not less than 2,000 words and not more than 3,000 words in length;
 - (c) a project, of no less than 4,500 words and no more than 5,000 words in length on a subject area of interest to the student, which has been approved by the General Board¹, and which shall be submitted in typewritten form;
 - (d) an oral examination which shall consist of a five-minute presentation and ten-minute conversation between the candidate and the Examiners: the subject of the presentation and discussion shall be the candidate's Extended Project.

Basic and Translational Neuroscience for the M.Phil. Degree

(*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 505)

With effect from 1 October 2026

The General Board, on the recommendation of the Degree Committee for the Faculty of Biology, has approved the suspension of admission to be followed by the withdrawal of Basic and Translational Neuroscience from 2027 as a subject for examination for the degree of Master of Philosophy by advanced study.

Biological Sciences for the M.Phil. Degree

(*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 506)

With effect from 1 October 2027

The General Board, on the recommendation of the Degree Committee for the Faculty of Biology, has approved the addition of a new pathway to the course of study in Biological Sciences for the degree of Master of Philosophy by advanced study by adding 'Basic and Translational Neuroscience' to the list of pathways.

OBITUARIES

Obituary Notices

GILLIAN JONDORF, M.A., Ph.D., Life Fellow and formerly Vice-Mistress and Director of Studies in Modern Languages of Girton College and sometime University Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, now the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, died on 26 March 2026, aged 88 years.

Professor REX EDWARD BRITTER, M.A., Emeritus Fellow and formerly Director of Studies in Engineering of Pembroke College, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Fluid Dynamics, co-founder of Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants (CERC), died on 3 May 2026, aged 79 years.

GRACES

Graces submitted to the Regent House on 20 May 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*, p. 111), will be deemed to have been approved at **4 p.m. on Friday, 29 May 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.[§]

1. That on the nomination of Jesus College, SHAILAJA FENNELL, of that College, be appointed a Pro-Proctor for the academic year 2026–27.
2. That on the nomination of Murray Edwards College, BRYAN KARETNYK, of that College, be appointed a Pro-Proctor for the academic year 2026–27.
3. That on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctors Designate, BENJAMIN JAMES SPAGNOLO, of Trinity College, be appointed an additional Pro-Proctor for the academic year 2026–27.¹
4. That on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctors Designate, MARK EDWARD PURCELL, of Pembroke College, be appointed an additional Pro-Proctor for the academic year 2026–27.¹
5. That Regulations 2 and 8 of the Ordinance for Dress at Graduation (*Statutes and Ordinances*, 2024, p. 181) be amended to read as follows:²
 2. All persons presenting for degrees wear with their academical dress such dark clothes as may be prescribed by the Senate-House Syndicate.
 8. All persons being admitted to degrees wear with their academical dress such dark clothes as may be prescribed by the Senate-House Syndicate.

¹ Also nominated under Special Ordinance C (iii) 3 for election on 1 October 2026 as a Deputy Proctor for the year 2026–27, along with Martin Parker Dixon, of Sidney Sussex College, and Markus Wilhelm Gehring, of Hughes Hall.

² The Council, on the recommendation of the Proctors and the Senate-House Syndicate and following consultation with the Congregations team and College Praelectors, propose this amendment to facilitate updating graduands' dress at graduation with a view to making the requirements simpler, more flexible, more comfortable and more consistent. The current detailed guidance is available on the University website at: <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/graduation/degree-ceremonies/academical-dress>.

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

Graces to be submitted to the Regent House at a Congregation on 22 May 2026

The Council has sanctioned the submission of the following Graces to the Regent House at a Congregation to be held on 22 May 2026.

That the following persons be admitted to the degree of Master of Arts under the provisions of Statute B II 2:

1. MELODY SUSAN CLARK, Fellow of Wolfson College.
2. JULIE SUZANNE DENNIS, Chief Technology Officer, Architecture and Direction (Technology) in the Press and Assessment Department.
3. MARC DEWEY, Clinical Professor of Radiology in the Department of Radiology.
4. HANNA GRAZYNA EARLS, Director of MI, Data and Analytics (Finance) in the Press and Assessment Department.
5. JENNIFER KATE GOODWIN, Administrative Officer in the Academic Division of the University Offices.
6. ARABELLA LORNA ISOBEL HILTON, Head of Strategy (Strategy and Integration) in the Press and Assessment Department.
7. NICHOLAS PAUL KELLY, Global Assessment Operations and Transformation Director (English) in the Press and Assessment Department.
8. KAREN ANNE LIVINGSTONE, Fellow of Murray Edwards College.
9. LUCY JANE MACGREGOR, Fellow of Murray Edwards College.
10. MICHAEL PAUL MEREDITH, Fellow of Murray Edwards College.
11. LETIZIA MORTARA, Fellow of Newnham College, University Associate Professor in the Department of Engineering.
12. CHARLIE PERKS, Director of Reward and Analytics (People and Culture) in the Press and Assessment Department.
13. SERITA SUMAN, Global Director of Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (People and Culture) in the Press and Assessment Department.
14. BENEDICT GEORGE EDWARD WIEDEMANN, Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College.

Graces to be submitted to the Regent House at a Congregation on 23 May 2026

The Council has sanctioned the submission of the following Graces to the Regent House at a Congregation to be held on 23 May 2026.

That the following persons be admitted to the degree of Master of Arts under the provisions of Statute B II 2:

1. STEPHANIE ANNE ARCHER, Fellow of Robinson College, University Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology.
2. PETER LUC BOSSAERTS, Fellow of Robinson College, Leverhulme International Professor of Neuroeconomics (2022) in the Faculty of Economics.

ACTA

Approval of Graces submitted to the Regent House on 7 May 2026

The Graces submitted to the Regent House on 7 May 2026 (*Reporter*, 6823, 2025–26, p. 456) were approved at 4 p.m. on Friday, 15 May 2026.

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

END OF THE OFFICIAL PART OF THE ‘REPORTER’

REPORT OF DISCUSSION

Tuesday, 12 May 2026

A Discussion was convened by videoconference. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Mr Douglas Chalmers, *EM*, was presiding, with the deputy for the Director of Governance and Compliance, the Junior Proctor, the Senior Pro-Proctor and eighteen other persons present.

The following item was discussed:

Report of the General Board, dated 31 March 2026, on the establishment of a Faculty of Government (Rokos School of Government)

(*Reporter*, 6821, 2025–26, p. 417).

Professor Sir JOHN ASTON (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics and Churchill College):

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am speaking in my capacity as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and as one of the University's nominated Trustees for the Rokos School of Government Charitable Trust. I was fortunate to be part of the discussions on the Rokos School of Government for about a year prior to the announcement.

The Rokos School of Government represents an exceptional opportunity for the University. The University's mission is 'to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence'. This is a very suitable articulation of the aligned ambitions of the Rokos School, to ensure that research and education across the university makes global impact with governments around the world and their future leaders.

There are many reasons why this gift is of significance to the University. The level of support of this gift will ensure; that we continue to bring and retain world-class faculty, including through a wide-range of joint appointments across the University; that we provide new endowed support for Ph.D. students right across the University; that we train future leaders from around the world through the taught programmes the School will offer; that we support projects and ideas relating to Government right across the Collegiate University; and that we continue to develop world-class facilities on the Cambridge West campus. As an example, the endowed studentships should support 80–100 Ph.D. students over the first ten years across a very wide range of departments and disciplines. It also gives us the opportunity to determine how we might want joint faculty appointments between departments to work on a significant scale.

The need for a different type of School of Government is clear. The world we live in has changed, and the decisions that affect everyone now incorporate science and technology to an extent never seen before. Indeed, strategic advantage worldwide now depends more than ever on rapid technological changes. Any School of Government must ensure there is a strong political, economic and social science basis to its thinking, but it would be easy to ignore (as others outside of Cambridge have done) the now inevitable need for science and technology to be incorporated directly into that basis as well. By situating the Rokos School of Government in the School of the Physical Sciences we are addressing that need head on, while recognizing that the Rokos School needs to engage with every part of the University to achieve its goals.

We are proud of the many Cambridge departments and centres already working in this area. They provide exceptional research and teaching and have remarkable impact within and outside of academia. The Rokos School is now the once-in-a-generation opportunity for Cambridge's Governmental, Public Policy and (Geo)Political landscape to compete at a level with any other institution worldwide. Cambridge has a long and successful history of building internal collaborations that exist well beyond departmental and other institutional boundaries, and we will want to do likewise here. This environment will also allow disciplines not traditionally associated with policy to participate, from the Sciences and Technology through to all the Arts and Humanities. Cambridge thrives on being an academic-led rather than top-down institution, and so we must leave the ultimate vision for the School to the incoming Head of Department (Dean) and faculty, but also maintain a clear sense that the Rokos School will only succeed if there is wide involvement right across the Collegiate University.

However, this gift also has a wider significance for the University. It is a profound statement of confidence in Cambridge as an Institution. Taken with the very recent considerable government investments in High Performance Computing as well as the largest ever corporate partnership with IonQ in the area of Quantum, the University is breaking new ground on how we can support and achieve the levels of ambition for world-class research and education to which we all aspire. This ambition and confidence are infectious, and while today we are discussing a gift to establish the Rokos School of Government, I very much hope and indeed expect that we will continue in future to engender support for our research and education at similar levels of ambition, retaining and further enhancing our status as a globally leading academic institution.

Dr R. V. L. DOUBLEDAY (Centre for Science and Policy and Christ's College):

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am speaking as Executive Director of the Centre for Science and Policy in support of the General Board's proposal to establish the Rokos School of Government.

None can doubt the scale of challenges facing societies today. Environmental, technological and demographic transformations pose fundamental questions to governments everywhere, perhaps particularly to democratic governments.

Our University's mission is to 'contribute to society' – the question seems to me to be 'how can we do more to contribute at this critical moment?' That is why the Rokos School proposal is so timely – it stands to enable the University to increase the connectedness, scale and impact of our engagement with governments and public policy.

There are impressive existing strengths to build on. In addition to the outstanding range of policy relevant research and teaching across departments in all six schools there are a growing number of cross-cutting initiatives.

Ranging from the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, founded in 1989 in the School of Technology, to most recently the Bennett School of Public Policy, launched as its own department in 2025 within the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

There are, of course, a huge number of other excellent initiatives launched between 1989 and 2025. If I attempted to list them all I would likely miss many significant entities.

These existing strengths illustrate the potential role for the Rokos School as a catalyst and support:

- to add capacity for training a greater number of future public leaders
- to connect and support existing initiatives across Cambridge, bringing interdisciplinary insights to bear on public policy and enabling far greater impact.

From my experience at CSaP I know how much relevant work is going on across the University and how much appetite there is to increase the contribution of our expertise and evidence to public policy.

What we currently lack is the scale of support and connective infrastructure to make the most of the intellectual resources we have. The Rokos School could help catalyse this potential, and that's why I so warmly support it.

Dr S. J. COWLEY (Faculty of Mathematics):

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am Secretary of the Board of Scrutiny, but I speak in a personal capacity.

This donation is very welcome news, as just explained by Sir John Aston and Rob Doubleday.

One aspect which might benefit from further elucidation is in paragraph 4 of the Report where it is noted that:

The benefaction has been donated to a new charitable trust, subject to Regent House approval of this Report's recommendations and to registration with the Charity Commission. Under the terms governing the trust, the trustees are obliged to invest the donated funds in the University Endowment Fund and to provide the new institution with an annual grant to cover its costs.

Would it be possible to give some justification for the funds being channelled through a Trust rather than directly to the University?

When the Stephen W. Hawking Professorship of Cosmology was established, part of the donation from the Avery-Tsui Foundation was similarly channelled through a charitable trust. The Deed Agreement of that Trust was published, as was the Guide for Trustees, where the risks and proposed operational arrangements were identified and discussed. Some members of the Regent House had concerns about those arrangements. Moreover, some of these concerns may possibly been manifested in the eight years that it has taken to make the first appointment (albeit part-time in the first instance) to that Chair.

Following precedent, and to ensure good governance and transparency, please will the General Board publish the Deed Agreement of the Trust established in association with this benefaction?

Professor R. J. BOWRING (Emeritus Professor of Japanese Studies and Selwyn College), read by the Junior Proctor:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, this Report is surely too opaque and thin on detail for the University to accept it as it stands. The preamble is so vacuous that I had to read it a number of times before gleaning a modicum of sense, and it is followed by what can only be politely described as yet further waffle about 'collaborations across disciplinary boundaries' and bringing 'together leaders to discuss interdisciplinary ideas'. Is there anything here that we do not do already? I would not accept this kind of empty rhetoric from a first-year undergraduate. What is more, how this might relate to Government and why Cambridge must create this new faculty is not at all clear. What emerges is that we are being asked to accept a benefaction of £130 million for something that we do not need on condition that the University will contribute £26 million of its own funds and then commit itself to raising a further £60 million. At a time when faculties that teach core subjects are being put under extreme pressure to reduce expenditure this simply beggars belief. We are also being asked to accept the establishment of a School within a School, as if nomenclature in Cambridge were not complicated enough, and a professorship in a field as yet undefined. I fear that this has all the hallmarks of a vanity project and I would suggest that the vets, who are mercifully still with us, be asked to examine its teeth. The golden rule of fundraising is that if the donor, no matter how generous, cannot be persuaded to fund something that the University actually needs, the gift should be politely but firmly rejected.

Professor J. S. SIMONS (Department of Psychology and Emmanuel College), read by the Senior Pro-Proctor:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I write as Head of the School of the Biological Sciences in support of the proposal to establish the Rokos School of Government, which reflects Cambridge's distinctive strength in bringing together science, technology, and the humanities to address urgent public challenges. The focus on practical leadership, cross-disciplinary thinking, and service to society makes a compelling case for this once-in-a-generation initiative.

The proposal is welcome in recognising an important role for the University as a whole. A School of Government of this kind can serve as a genuinely university-wide asset, strengthening Cambridge's ability to bring together expertise across disciplines in response to the challenges facing the world.

I hope that the School of the Biological Sciences will have an important role to play in the proposed work. Many of the most pressing issues facing society now sit at the intersection of biological processes affecting organisms, populations and ecosystems, with impacts on policy, regulation, ethics, and public decision-making, and this proposal offers a valuable framework for those connections to be deepened and made more visible across the University.

Dr C. NIFADOPOULOS (King's College), read by the Junior Proctor:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I matriculated in 1997 at King's College. I studied for an M.Phil. in Linguistics in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and then completed in 2001 an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the history of linguistic thought, in the Department of Linguistics and the Faculty of Classics. My research explored the emergence of the discipline of etymology in the second century CE. Following a year-long postdoctoral appointment at the Faculty of Classics in Bristol, I pursued a career in law and finance in the City of London. Over the years, I have proudly retained a strong connection with Cambridge, and in particular with King's. I am currently the Chief Legal Officer and a Partner at Rokos Capital Management, an investment management firm headquartered in London. I should declare that, subject to the approval of the Charity Commission, I will also serve as one of the trustees of the Rokos School of Government Charitable Trust.

It is a privilege to speak briefly today in support of the proposal. As a Cambridge alumnus and someone who is committed to the ongoing success of the University, I believe that the School of Government will provide a further boost to the global impact of this world-class institution: it will do so by connecting the existing exciting areas of research within Cambridge in an imaginative interdisciplinary manner and by bridging the gap between academia and applied government. The commitment underlying the Rokos School of Government is, at its heart, a commitment to a place for wide-ranging ideas right across the fields of government, politics and policymaking. Cambridge's world-class expertise across the disciplinary spectrum and manifest commitment to academic freedom is precisely the mix needed in the current national and geopolitical landscape. The world our future leaders will inherit is one of great structural change – political, technological, demographic and economic – and the processes of government must adapt accordingly. The School is therefore conceived as an important and necessary tool to equip future leaders by drawing on the full breadth of Cambridge's disciplines, from the sciences and engineering to history, economics and the humanities. But its ultimate measure will not be just its publications or its convenings; it will be the leaders it produces; the School aims to leave people equipped with the analytical and technological skills, the institutional understanding and the ethical grounding to bridge academic research and practical action; to generate lasting, positive impact in public life around the globe. We believe that the School will be uniquely placed to make an impact beyond the borders of this country and this continent.

Finally, on a personal note, I wanted to say that it has been a great honour to oversee the detailed negotiations that led to the Rokos School of Government announcement, and I consider my involvement with this initiative and the School as one of the great privileges that life has afforded me. I can honestly say that what has struck me throughout this process has been the care, the rigour and the widespread excitement with which the University has approached this project. Cambridge is, quite simply, the right home for the School, and I very much look forward to continuing to work with the Vice-Chancellor, the other Trustees, with colleagues across the Colleges and the University, and with the Regent House, to make the Rokos School of Government the major and lasting success that its ambition deserves.

Professor M. DESAI (Department of Sociology and Newnham College), read by the Senior Pro-Proctor:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, as the Head of the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences I welcome the opportunity to extend the work we do in areas of government and policy through close collaboration with the Rokos School of Government. The establishment of this School is a significant opportunity for the University and, in particular, for our School. The funding available for Ph.D. studentships in areas of government and policy, as well as research collaborations for exciting and innovative projects across the two Schools are particularly welcome at a time when funding is increasingly scarce. It will ensure that Cambridge remains a world-leading institution in the area of government, while creating new opportunities in areas of practice and leadership.

Professor N. PEAKE (Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics and Emmanuel College), read by the Junior Proctor:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am the Head of the School of the Physical Sciences. I am also a member of the General Board and a signatory of this Report.

I would like to start by adding my sincere thanks for the magnificent generosity and foresight of Mr Christopher Rokos, whose extraordinary, timely and transformational gift will enable the creation of the Rokos School of Government.

The Council of the School of the Physical Sciences warmly welcomes and endorses the proposal to establish the Faculty of Government (Rokos School of Government) as a new department within Physical Sciences. We recognise the importance of fostering engagement and new research at the intersection of science, government and society, and of shaping future leaders equipped to understand and influence complex systems. We also believe that the Rokos School will provide an ideal home for the kind of broad interdisciplinary collaborations that the future demands. The Rokos School will use its resources to forge the strongest links right across the academic University, supporting significant activity reaching into all the six academic Schools and well beyond Physical Sciences.

I believe that the School of the Physical Sciences will provide an ideal home for the new Rokos School:

- Through our existing departments we already support significant activity in quantitative thinking and analysis of complex systems and data, and, through our outstanding Department of Geography, have important activity in the social sciences.
- The major presence of Physical Sciences departments on the West Cambridge site will provide the opportunity, in time, for close tie-in of the Rokos School with academic and commercial activity as the University's vision for Cambridge West develops.
- Physical Sciences has the experience and capacity within the School office team to undertake the major administrative task of creating a new department from scratch.

I strongly support the recommendation to establish the new Faculty of Government (the Rokos School of Government).

Professor K. A. MUNIR (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for University Community and Engagement, Judge Business School and Homerton College), read by the Senior Pro-Proctor:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am speaking in my capacity as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for University Community and Engagement, a Professor of Strategy and Policy and as one of the University's nominated Trustees for the Rokos School of Government Charitable Trust.

Cambridge has always renewed itself at moments of profound historical change and we must do so again now. We are living through a period in which the assumptions that shaped government over the last half century are being fundamentally challenged. Geopolitical fragmentation is reshaping trade, security, and international cooperation. Artificial intelligence is transforming work, decision-making, and the nature of expertise itself. Social media and digital platforms are altering how public opinion is formed, how democracies function, and how trust is created – or eroded. Demographic change, climate pressures, migration, public health crises, and new forms of inequality are placing extraordinary strain on governing institutions across the world.

At the same time, power is shifting in unprecedented ways. In some domains, technology platforms now possess capabilities, data, and influence once associated primarily with states. New analytical tools and vast data resources are changing how policy can be designed, tested, and implemented. Citizens increasingly expect governments that are faster, more adaptive, more transparent, and more effective – yet many institutions remain structured for a very different era.

This is not simply a policy challenge. It is also an intellectual challenge. We need to rethink how government works, what capabilities governments require, how public institutions maintain legitimacy, and how societies govern technological and economic transformation in ways that are both effective and humane.

I believe this is precisely the right moment for Cambridge to establish a School of Government. Few universities in the world possess the ecosystem that Cambridge already has. We have world-leading strengths in economics, engineering, computer science, public policy, law, history, philosophy, international relations, management, data science, and the life sciences. We have a globally respected business school, outstanding expertise in policy and geopolitics, and deep traditions of interdisciplinary inquiry. Most importantly, we have a culture that combines analytical rigour with public purpose.

The Rokos School of Government would bring these strengths together around one of the defining questions of our age: how societies can govern effectively in conditions of complexity, uncertainty, and rapid technological change.

This should not be conceived narrowly as a school for public administration. It will be global in aspiration and interdisciplinary in design. It will draw insights from different models of governance around the world – democratic and non-democratic, centralised and federal, developed and emerging – while contributing ideas, evidence, and leadership back to them. It will educate not only future civil servants, but also political leaders, regulators, technologists, entrepreneurs, diplomats, and citizens who will shape public life in the decades ahead.

And critically, it will not only study government – it will help reinvent it. That means building expertise in areas such as AI and governance, digital states, geopolitical risk, institutional trust, public sector innovation, quantitative policy analysis, climate governance, health systems, migration, and the future of work. It means creating spaces where technologists work alongside political scientists, economists alongside historians, philosophers alongside data scientists.

Above all, it means reaffirming a principle that has always mattered deeply at Cambridge: that universities do not merely observe the world; they help shape it. The opportunity before us is therefore not simply to create another academic institution. It is to establish a global centre for thinking seriously about governance in the twenty-first century. I can think of few challenges more important – or more worthy of Cambridge.

Mr G. P. ALLEN (Wolfson College), read by the Junior Proctor:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, those responsible for securing this very substantial benefaction of £130m are to be congratulated. However, the skeletal nature of this Report suggests that the School is a 'work in progress' which I would like to comment on.

First, the Board reports that the benefaction 'has been donated' to a new charitable trust, subject to the Regent House approving this Report's recommendations and to registration with the Charity Commission. It is welcome that the trustees will be obliged to invest the donated funds in the Cambridge University Endowment Fund and provide the School with an annual grant to cover its costs. This is an unusual arrangement compared to the 'standard model' of a Fund, established by Grace, and governed by regulations in our Ordinances setting out the detailed provisions for managing a Fund's income. While the concept of an annual grant is some reassurance, such a short timescale suggests significant risk for the University, which will be making long-term commitments to academic staff, as well as difficulties for planning year by year. There are also obvious risks if the trustees use their financial muscle to influence the academic direction of the School. I trust these matters have been thought through. So, will the Board advise the Council to publish the Trust Deed so that the full arrangements are out in the open?

Secondly, will the Board inform the Regent House of the broad allocation of the £130m (or income accruing from it) between academic posts, studentships, premises, and other running costs?

Finally, the Board report match funding from the University of £10m for Ph.D. studentships and £16m for running costs. These are significant commitments given the University's financial position. Are the match funds from Chest funds or restricted funds and over what period will they be spent?

COLLEGE NOTICES**Elections****Robinson College**

Elected to a Fellowship in Class B for three years from 28 September 2026:

Olivia Glaze, B.A., *Southampton*, M.St., D.Phil., *Oxford*

Elected to a Fellowship in Class D for three years from 1 October 2026:

Lucy Thompson, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., *T*

Vacancies

Clare College: College Teaching Officer in Economics; tenure: three years from October 2026; stipend: £43,310; closing date: 3 June 2026; further details: <https://www.clare.cam.ac.uk/college-teaching-officer-economics>

Newnham College: Governance Manager; salary: £42,254; closing date: 1 June 2026 at 12 noon; further details: <https://newn.cam.ac.uk/vacancy/governance-manager>

Selwyn College: Spencer-Fairest Teaching Fellowship in Law; tenure: five years from 1 October 2026; salary: £34,610–£36,636; closing date: 19 June 2026 at 9 a.m.; further details: <https://www.sel.cam.ac.uk/jobs/spencer-fairest-teaching-fellowship-law-1>

Events*Wolfson College***Annual South Asian Public Affairs Lecture 2026**

‘A sense of self with situated pedagogies and Humanities Across Borders’, by Dr Aarti Kawlra (International Institute for Asian Studies) with Dr Tharaphi Than (Humanities Across Borders), on Wednesday, 27 May 2026 at 5 p.m. at Lee Hall, Wolfson College; free to attend; all welcome.

EXTERNAL NOTICES**Oxford Notices**

St Catherine’s College: Study Skills Advisor; tenure: part-time (0.8 FTE) or full-time during term, with hours to be arranged outside term, for an initial period of four years; salary: £35,681–£41,636 (*pro rata* if applicable); closing date: 15 June 2026; further details: <https://www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk/study-skills-advisor-fixed-term-closing-date-15-june/>

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