

## Summary of the Alumni Board Meeting on 3 June 2019

The Board met at St Cross College on a beautiful spring afternoon and, after approving the minutes and reviewing matters arising, got down to business.

Robert Easton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Development and External Affairs provided a brief update on recent developments including financial pressures currently being faced by the University and the announcement of two new access schemes designed to increase the percentage of applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds who would not normally think to apply.

The Board then turned their attention to a presentation by Liesl Elder, Chief Development Officer for the University. She reviewed the history of the Oxford Thinking Campaign, the ratio of funds raised by colleges versus the University, comparing how Oxford performed in relation to its sister institutions in the UK and abroad and reviewing the impact of some of those contributions.

Discussion then shifted to the University's Strategic Plan (2018-2023) and the ways in which alumni might contribute to realising some of those priorities. After a discussion about how alumni might serve as Admissions 'ambassadors' to encourage more talented students to apply, they turned to a general discussion around the challenges of building an engaged and dedicated alumni community, similar to the ones you see associated with American universities. The Director of Alumni Relations discussed the importance of better understanding the alumni 'journey' whereby the institution might create an experience or set of benefits for its alumni that would be relevant to them at specific times of their lives and in accordance with where they are in the world. This work will be discussed more fully at the September meeting.

The Treasurer presented a proposal to redirect funds that are at the Board's disposal towards activities directly related to increasing alumni engagement. The Board agreed that these funds had the potential to have a wide and tangible impact on the alumni experience by supplementing the fairly modest budget of the Alumni Office.

And finally, reports were received from the various Working Groups: Networks, Benefits and Internships and it was agreed that these would continue and might indeed be expanded to respond to new challenges.

The Board concluded the meeting by thanking Oliver Holloway for his service as an ex officio member in light of his retirement from the presidency of Oxford10.