

Summary of the May 2020 Alumni Board meeting

The Board meeting (hosted on Zoom) commenced with the announcement by Chairman, Nick Segal that upon his retirement, James Dancer (Keble, 1994) would be taking over as Chair and Judith Tew (LMH, 1980) as Deputy Chair as of September 2020. Nick went on to thank Helen Wright, Deputy Chair (Lincoln, 1988) and Jackie Ranawake King (St Peter's, 1988) for their steadfast service to the Board throughout their terms. Robert Easton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Development and External Affairs provided an update on the University and specifically the impact of the COVID crisis and Dr Nick Brown provided the perspective from Conference of Colleges. The Board then went on to discuss the proposal to review the distinction between Alumni and Associate status. The Board agreed with the proposal to raise the threshold for Associate status from 4 days to 12 weeks as of Michaelmas Term 2021 (grandfathering in those already designated as Associates). The Director of Alumni Relations will inform those departments affected and seek further guidance on next steps. The Board went on to approve proposals for two new alumni networks: OUS Finland and the Oxford Climate Alumni Network. Finally, with regards to Board funds, the Board approved the allocation of extra funds to cover a shortfall in the Alumni Office budget due to recent budget cuts and went on to discuss more broadly how centralised services could be made available to colleges, departments and alumni networks worldwide. Judith Tew, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that out of 50 applications for the 4 open seats, the Committee had narrowed the field to 18. Interviews are underway and they plan to arrive at 4 finalists in June. The meeting ended with sincere thanks to Nick Segal for his valuable leadership over the years.