

Report of the Fees and Student Finance Sub-Committee

Since the previous meeting of the Bursars' Committee, formal meetings have been held on [8 July 2022](#) and [12 October 2022](#). An informal extraordinary meeting was also held on [30 September 2022](#).

Matters for approval

There are no matters recommended to the Bursars' Committee for approval.

Other matters to which attention is drawn

1. Raising the 2023-24 postgraduate maintenance rate

The Sub-Committee approved the new postgraduate maintenance rate of £17,668, recommended by the University, set against the recent uplift of the 2022-23 UKRI stipend. This methodology is a temporary measure whilst the University and Cambridge SU create a Cambridge-specific cost of living index.

30 September 2022, minute 1

2. Cambridge Bursary Scheme funding cap proposal

The Sub-Committee discussed results from an intercollegiate survey concerning the proposed funding cap for the Cambridge Bursary Scheme. In general Colleges were supportive of a cap in principle, though many saw £17,668 as being too high: pegging the award cap to the UKRI stipend was seen as inappropriate for undergraduates. Several responders made the point that the SLC maintenance loan should be included in the amount of money available, as well as means-tested bursaries or scholarships. Many responders wanted flexibility, in allowing specific students to receive additional financial support and that any cap should not include other grants offered by the College or elsewhere (e.g. childcare bursaries, hardship funds, travel grants). There was also queries as to how such a cap could be policed.

The survey results were provided to the UAC Cambridge Bursary Schemes Sub-Group, showing initial views from Colleges, with the request for clear articulation as to what was included or not included in the proposed cap. The Sub-Committee recommended that any proposal should be delayed until the cost-of-living index was established.

12 October 2022, minute 6

M Millbrook
8 November 2022

Report of the Fees and Student Finance Sub-Committee

Since the 17 November 2022 meeting of the Bursars' Committee, formal meetings have been held on [30 November 2022](#) and [25 January 2023](#).

Matters for approval

1. Adding University representation to the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee endorsed amendments to its terms of reference, to include the Deputy Head of Education Services (Admissions and Participation) as a member and to allow reserved business.

25 January 2023, minute 24.c

2. Funding for Recital Tuition within the Music Tripos

The Sub-Committee recommended that a proposal from the Faculty of Music, to raise rates of pay for recital tuition, be approved by the Bursars' Committee. The annual increase in the minimum rates of pay be published alongside the uplift in the intercollegiate recharge rates for supervisions.

25 January 2023, minute 27

Other matters to which attention is drawn

1. Cambridge Bursary Scheme

The Sub-Committee considered whether CBS bursaries should be increased in response to the rising cost of living. Members discussed the difficulty in responding to the rise in the cost of living collectively by the University and Colleges, as it appeared that there was no locus for such high-level discussions to occur.

After the Sub-Committee meeting OIS was informed that the University was no longer making plans to adjust the CBS bursaries, following an analysis of the Cambridge undergraduate cost of living.

25 January 2023, minute 25

2. Non-payment of tuition fees

The Sub-Committee supported a draft policy for the non-payment of tuition fees from the PRC Fees and Funding Sub-Committee, except for concerns regarding the terminology and definitions used within it. Matthew Russell would liaise with the secretary of the PRC Fees and Funding Sub-Committee on the concerns expressed.

25 January 2023, minute 29.a

3. University proposals regarding the Staff Fee Scheme and undergraduate fee status assessment

The Sub-Committee discussed the outcome of two PRC Fees and Funding Sub-Committee consultations, on the establishment of a Staff Fee Scheme and the centralisation of undergraduate fee status assessments. The Sub-Committee strongly supported both proposals, and for a second consultation to be sent out on the Staff Fee Scheme proposal.

M Millbrook
10 February 2023

Report of the Fees and Student Finance Sub-Committee

Since the 2 March 2023 meeting of the Bursars' Committee, formal meetings have been held on [15 March 2023](#) and [3 May 2023](#).

Matters for approval

1. College Fee verification audits

The Sub-Committee discussed disbanding the audits. Fee status assessments were moving to the University, and of all recent audits only one had revealed any systemic issues. The original need for the audits to meet regulatory requirements no longer existed, as HEFCE had closed in 2018.

The Sub-Committee recommended that the Bursars' Committee disband the College fee verification audits process.

3 May 2023, minute 43

Other matters to which attention is drawn

1. Student financial support

The Sub-Committee agreed that a Sub-Group should be established to explore the enhancement of student financial support, to present its recommendations by the start of the next term. The Chair, Richard Anthony (JE), Jane Greateorex (LC), and Matthew Russell (OIS) agreed to serve on the Sub-Group.

Matthew Russell agreed to approach Sarah Bonnett (SID), Jackie Tasioulas (CL), and Mike Sewell (SE) to join the Sub-Group on student financial support enhancement.

15 March 2023, minute 36

The Sub-Committee approved the direction of travel set by the CBS Working Group. *Proposals were subsequently presented to Bursars and Senior Tutors.*

3 May 2023, minute 41

2. Anomalous University-College fee sharing agreements

Two anomalous University-College fee sharing agreements were discussed: £21 per term for each Home MML student on the compulsory year abroad was being transferred by the University to Colleges. The PRC Fees and Funding Sub-Committee agreed to halt these transfers. Colleges transferring £10 per 4th year clinical medicine student each year was still under discussion between the University and Clinical School.

Malcolm Millbrook would inform College accountants to pay invoices from the Clinical School for the 4th year clinical medic fees, whilst the matter was still under review.

3 May 2023, minute 42

M Millbrook
31 May 2023

Report of the Fees and Student Finance Sub-Committee

Since the 8 June 2023 meeting of the Bursars' Committee, a formal meeting was held on [21 June 2023](#).

Matters for which attention is drawn

1. Anomalous University-College fee sharing agreements

The PRC's Fees and Funding Sub-Committee was due to meet on 5 July, where an update on discontinuing the anomalous clinical medic fee from Colleges was expected. The Sub-Committee agreed that, if the University did not discontinue requesting £10 per clinical medic per year, that Malcolm Millbrook (OIS) would instruct Colleges not to process future invoices.

21 June 2023, minute 47.b

2. Student financial support

The Sub-Committee considered what further matters the Working Group should explore. The key consideration was at what point the Student Loans Company would need to be informed of any overall change to the scheme, to then calculate when an agreement by the collegiate University would be required for further expansion of CBS and therefore at what point the Working Group should reconvene. *Malcolm Millbrook agreed to explore the matter.*

21 June 2023, minute 48

3. Payment process for hardship grants

The Hardship Committee, which reports to the PRC Fees and Funding Sub-committee, was asked at its 5 June 2023 meeting to consider changing the payment process of hardship grants. The process would move from paying grants to Colleges (who would then pass the funding on to the student deducting any College debt) to paying students directly.

The Hardship Committee recommend that the proposal be put into effect, but it recognised that it would give Colleges less agency in ensuring whatever they might be owed by a student was paid. The Sub-Committee agreed that the simplified administration was beneficial, and that funding awarded to students should be delivered directly to them. It requested that the application form have a section which stated whether the College had provided funding whilst the application was being considered, and if so that any resulting award should be sent to the College and not the student. *Malcolm Millbrook agreed to pass on the Sub-Committee's feedback.*

21 June 2023, minute 49

M Millbrook
3 July 2023