

Ordinance:	Registration, Declaration and Conflicts of Interests
Statute:	IV
Approved:	21 November 2007; amended 2 June 2010 and 7 July 2010; amended 28 November 2018 and 30 January 2019
Minute Nos:	5803; amended 6213(a) and 6225(c); amended 7487 and 7512
Version:	3

Introduction

Fitzwilliam College is committed to managing possible conflicts of interest transparently. In accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission, the College has adopted a policy describing the way in which it deals with any conflicts of interest to which Fellows (as trustees) may be subject as a result of their involvement in the work and decision-making processes of the College. All Fellows are in a fiduciary relationship with the College and therefore must act, as their overriding duty, wholly and exclusively in the best interests of the College when participating in any aspect of its management and governance. This duty is made clear to Fellows upon admission.

Registration of Interests

The Secretary of the Governing Body shall maintain a Register of Interests of members of the Governing Body. The Register of Interests shall include a statement of membership of any Faculty or Department in the University, and the holding of any office or position in the University. It shall also include any other matters as may be specified by the Governing Body by Ordinance or as may reasonably be requested by the Secretary.

The Secretary shall seek information for entry into the Register of Interests from members of the Governing Body when they become members, and also annually. Members of the Governing Body shall notify the Secretary of changes in their information relevant to the Register of Interests as they occur.

The Register of Interests shall be available for inspection upon application to the Secretary of the Governing Body at Fitzwilliam College.

Declaration of Interests

Members of the College must declare any personal or prejudicial interest in any matter before the Governing Body or its Committees whether at a meeting, or by circulation; a member of the College wishing to remain for the discussion of that matter should abide by the decision of the chair at the meeting (or in the case of business being conducted by circulation by the signatory of the circular) as to whether the member remains and as to whether the member may take part in deliberation on the matter.

Special decisions

A special decision of the Governing Body is one in which a majority of the decision-makers have a material interest. For this purpose the decision-makers shall be taken to comprise the members of the Governing Body present when the decision is made, except for any member who is not entitled to vote in consequence of these rules or for any other reason.

Before the Governing Body makes a special decision it will consider, having taken full regard of all the circumstances of the matter (including legal advice where appropriate):

- whether the nature of the conflict of interest is so pervasive throughout the Governing Body that it has no alternative but to surrender its discretion by seeking the direction of the Charity Commission in the matter; or
- whether, notwithstanding the conflict of interest, it is nevertheless able fairly and reasonably to take the decision; and, in that case,
- whether, before making its decision, the advice of the Charity Commission in the matter should be sought.

Remuneration

Neither the Master nor any Fellows shall receive any pecuniary emolument in their capacity as Fellows (Trustees) of the College; but reasonable remuneration and benefits may be paid to the Master and to any Fellow in respect of work undertaken for the College in furtherance of its charitable objects. These benefits, and any annual increments, shall be as the Master and Fellows may determine, acting upon the advice of the Stipends and Remuneration Committee.

In relation to Statute LV, a decision to implement the results of the annual pay settlement agreed by the Council and General Board of the University may be taken by the College Committee, provided that it is confirmed by the Governing Body at its next meeting.