The arrival of COVID-19 meant that the format for the Board meeting had to shift into full digital mode. Kudos to Board members for carving out the three hours needed for the virtual meeting and maintaining their focus throughout. Dr Robert Easton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Development and External Affairs provided an update on how the University has responded to the impact of the coronavirus: transitions to lockdown, delivering the remainder of the term to students via digital means, preparations for Michaelmas Term, associated financial pressures brought on by the pandemic and the overall dedication by Oxford researchers to find a vaccine. Board member Nick Brown, Principal at Linacre College, gave a report from Conference of Colleges as to how they were coping with the financial pressures related to COVID-19 and the potential fundraising effort around raising money to support students facing a shortfall. The Board then went on to further discuss the distinctions between Alumni and Associate status, the data from other universities and whether the threshold for the latter was indeed high enough. It was agreed to carry this discussion into the next meeting after further consultation with the departments who are affected. Two applications for group status were reviewed and approved: Alumni Climate Network and the Oxford University Society of Finland. The Board then turned its attention to the disbursement of funds and whether those funds might indeed be deployed to fill a budget shortfall the Office faces in 2020/21 along with supporting other project-based work. The Nominating Committee reported on the progress made in soliciting nominations for the 4 open seats on the Board – explaining that 50 nominations very strong were received. These were then narrowed down to 18 with a plan of further narrowing the field to 6 for a final set of interviews before confirming the 4 finalists. The Board was extremely pleased with the commitment of those who applied and is keen to find ways to utilise those who don’t make it to the final round. And finally, the Board offered heartfelt thanks to outgoing Chair Nick Segal, Deputy Chair Helen Wright and Board member Jackie Ranawake for their long-standing and dedicated service. They offered a warm welcome to incoming Chair James Dancer and Deputy Chair Judith Tew.