



APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Gresham College has been providing free public lectures since 1597, when Sir Thomas Gresham founded the college to bring the 'new learning' to Londoners. Today we carry on Sir Thomas's vision, bringing some of the world's most brilliant minds to speak in fields ranging across the arts and sciences. Whilst Gresham College is London's oldest institution of higher education, it has no registered students, runs no courses and does not confer degrees or diplomas. Instead, its focus remains bringing knowledge to the broadest audience possible.

Primarily funded by the City of London Corporation and the Mercers' Company through their joint trusteeship of Sir Thomas Gresham's estate, the College offers around 120 lectures a year, mainly staged at Barnard's Inn Hall in Holborn within the City of London and all free to the public to attend in person or view online. All lectures are live-streamed and recordings made available on the College website, through YouTube and as podcasts; there are now over 2,000 Gresham lectures accessible through the College website.

The College is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity, and the Council is its board of directors. The company's members are the two sponsors, the City Corporation and the Mercers, who also nominate a majority of the members of Council (8 out of 14) including the two Vice Chairs. The remaining members comprise four independents (of whom the Chair is one) and two nominees of the College Academic Board, which comprises current and recent Gresham professors. The College senior management is led by Richard Smith OBE, recently appointed as Executive Director, and Professor Martin Elliott FRCS, the Provost who oversees the academic programme and chairs the Academic Board.

The College is now seeking to appoint a new Chair of Council in succession to Dr Loyd Grossman CBE, who demits from office on 31 July 2024.

THE ROLE OF CHAIR

The Chair's principal responsibilities are:

- **Strategy:** Supporting the Executive Director to implement the goals and ambitions of the College, in particular, helping the College to further its outreach (particularly its digital platform), and supporting the maintenance of academic standards
- **Leadership and Governance:** Alongside the two Vice Chairs, providing leadership for Council, and supporting other members in fulfilling their respective roles on Council and its committees, developing the knowledge and capability of Council and appraising the performance of its members and Council on a regular basis
- **External relations and fundraising:** Acting as ambassador for the College and its work, particularly with regard to its relationship with its sponsors, the City of London Corporation and the Mercers' Company, and other current and prospective donors

- **Efficiency and effectiveness:** Chairing meetings of Council effectively and efficiently, bringing impartiality and objectivity to the decision-making process
- **Relationships with the Executive Director, Provost, and Academic Board:** Maintaining an excellent working relationship with the Executive Director (for whom the Chair will be line manager), Provost, and Academic Board, supporting them in achieving agreed strategic objectives

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will have an understanding of and a sympathy with the educational mission and goals of the College. In addition, they should possess some or all of the following skills and experience:

- **Board-level leadership:** The successful candidate will have experience of leading successfully at Board level in a multi-stakeholder environment, ideally as Chair, Deputy Chair, or Chair of a major committee.
- **Strategy and Business Development:** The successful candidate would benefit from having supported the development and implementation of strategy in a business or third sector environment, particularly the growth of audiences through digital platforms.
- **Income Generation and Fundraising:** It would be beneficial if the Chair had experience of successfully building income generation through opening up new revenue streams or development of philanthropic support.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate their personal commitment to and achievement in promoting diversity and inclusion.
- **Knowledge of the City of London:** It would be beneficial if the appointed candidate had some knowledge and experience of the City of London Corporation and the livery companies. Experience of business development in this context, with an ability to forge strong and sustainable external partnerships with commercial bodies within in the City of London, is desirable.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

The time commitment is normally approximately 2 days per month in term-time, and the position is pro bono, with reasonable expenses paid.

The Council meets in London four times annually, normally in November, March, May and July. The November meeting is followed by the AGM. In addition to formal meetings of Council, the Chair will be expected to meet (in person or virtually) with the Executive Director and the Vice Chairs on a regular basis as well as attending (and in some cases hosting) College social events.

The Chair will also be expected to attend one or two meetings of the Joint Gresham Committee (a joint committee of the sponsors) to report on progress and respond to any questions and will also be invited to other events by the sponsors. It would be beneficial if the Chair could attend a number of Gresham lectures each year, particularly the headline lectures given by the Lord Mayor and the Provost.

January 2024