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1st March 2021

I'm writing to voice my disquiet at impending changes to the governance of Trinity College; these changes have not been decided or agreed by College in any way but are to be imposed by government (with a closing date for comment/objection of 5th March). My objection is not that there should be government representation on Board given Government provides a significant slice of College's income (there has been such a presence for a while).

My objection is rather that this marks the end of a system of collegiate self-governance that has existed and worked well since 1592. The College's Statutes define the "body corporate" as "the Provost, Fellows, Foundation Scholars and the other members of Board". Under the proposed new arrangements, the Fellows (once upon a time, Senior Fellows effectively constituted the Board) will have little or no possible input in the governance of College, so that the College may be in breach of its own Statutes, and in effect, only the name of the institution will remain. The sense of belonging to a community of scholars has counted for much in Trinity's historic success in international rankings, and it is doubtful whether it will fare better under a top-down managerialist structure.

[REDACTED]