

Purpose

Subject to the provisions of the Articles of Government; the overall responsibility of the Board of Governors; the responsibilities of the Vice-Chancellor and the requirements of validating and accrediting bodies, the Academic Board is responsible for:

- (a) General issues relating to the research, scholarship, teaching and courses at the institution. The Academic Board is the University's senior academic authority and advises the Vice-Chancellor and the Board of Governors on academic strategy in relation to its research and teaching activities. It is responsible for providing assurance to the Board of Governors on the effectiveness of the University's academic governance arrangements on academic standards, quality, student outcomes and research activity.
- (b) Considering the development of the academic and related activities of the University and the resources needed to support them and for advising the Vice-Chancellor and the Board of Governors thereon.
- (c) Advising on such other matters as the Board of Governors or the Vice-Chancellor may refer to the Academic Board.

Delegation of Authority

The Board has **delegated authority** to:

- 1. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Articles of Government, establish such committees as it considers necessary to enable it to carry out its responsibilities provided that such proposals are first approved by the Vice-Chancellor and Board of Governors.
- 2. Establish such criteria and regulations as may be required for the recruitment, selection, admission, education, conduct, assessment, and withdrawal of the students of the University, and the approval, modification, and review of its courses.
- 3. Approve and modify, and to monitor and review the performance of, academic partnerships and the collaborative provision of education.
- 4. Appoint and remove the internal and external examiners of the University.
- 5. Confer awards and degrees of the University.
- 6. **Chair's action:** In exceptional circumstances, the Board Chair shall have authority to act between meetings after consulting with the appropriate University Executive Team (UET) lead and Academic Board secretary.

Each instance where delegated authority has been exercised shall be reported to the Board of Governors at the following meeting.

The Academic Board has established the following committees which shall exercise the functions and powers stipulated in their constitutions:

- (a) Academic Quality & Standards Committee
- (b) Academic Planning & Collaborations Group
- (c) University Apprenticeships Steering Group
- (d) Research & Enterprise Committee
- (e) Research Ethics Sub-Committee
- (f) Research Degrees Sub-Committee
- (g) School Academic Committee
- (h) School Research and Knowledge Exchange Sub-committee
- (i) Honorary Awards Committee

Duties and responsibilities

Subject at all times to the provisions of the Articles of Government, the Academic Board shall be the principal academic authority of the University and in exercising that role shall have the following primary responsibilities:

1. To formulate, in consultation with the Schools, and recommend for approval to the Board of Governors, the academic strategy of the University, and to oversee its implementation.
2. To maintain the University's academic standards and enhance the quality of its educational provision.
3. To foster and promote research and other scholarly activity.
4. To promote a rigorous spirit of inquiry, scholarship, and debate in all the University's academic activities, and to protect academic freedom.

Reporting

The Academic Board provides a regular report to the Board of Governors on Academic and Research matters.

Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Board, and any proposed changes will be presented to Board of Governors for approval. The Academic Board undertakes to regularly review the effectiveness of its operations.

Meeting frequency

The Board shall normally meet 3 times during the academic year.

Membership

The Board shall consist of up to 31 members.

The Chair of the Board will be the Vice-Chancellor.

Current constitution

The Vice-Chancellor	1
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Category A: Members drawn from Senior Management and Deans of School (16)

The Deputy Vice-Chancellors	2
The Pro Vice-Chancellors	2
Deans of School	8
Academic Registrar	1
Director of Library & Learning Services	1
Director of Student Services	1
Director of Research & Knowledge Exchange	1

Category B: Members drawn from elected academic and officer staff; students and co-opted members. Members of Senior Management are not eligible for appointment in Category B.

Student representatives	2	Two nominees of the Students' Union
Professors	2	Elected
Chair of the Professoriate	1	Ex-officio
Research Staff	1	Elected
Course Directors	3	Elected
Academic Staff	2	Elected
Professional Service Staff	3	Elected

Total membership	31
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Quorum	15
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Regular attendees

University Registrar & Secretary

Board Secretary

Further information can be found in the **Standing Orders** for Academic Board and its committees.