

Academic Council

1. Constitution

- 1.1 The Academic Council is established by the [Articles of Association](#) of the University. Subject to the control and approval of the [Governing Body](#), the Academic Council oversees the teaching and research of the University and is responsible for the academic quality and standards of the University.

2. Scope

- 2.1 The Academic Council provides regular assurance to the Governing Body that academic governance including the standard of academic awards, the student academic experience and student outcomes are adequate and effective. The Academic Council ensures that the OfS conditions of registration related to access and participation, quality and standards and protecting the interests of students are met and provides this assurance to the Governing Body.
- 2.2 The Governing Body receives and tests the assurance received from the Academic Council.
- 2.3 Academic Council has delegated authority to make academic regulations and related policies and procedures which regulate programmes of study and research at the University and matters concerning students.

3. Membership

- 3.1 The membership shall be as follows:

Ex-Officio (16)

- Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer (Chair)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange)
- Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellors and Executive Deans (4)
- Chief Operating Officer
- Director of the Natural Resources Institute
- University Secretary (Secretary)
- Executive Director of Marketing and External Relations
- Director of Greenwich Research and Innovation
- Executive Director and Chief Information Officer
- Executive Director of Student and Academic Services
- Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee
- Pro Vice-Chancellor Education

Members appointed by the Vice-Chancellor (3 or more)

- A Deputy Dean – normally serving for one year in rotation

- An Associate Dean (Students) - normally serving for one year in rotation
- An Associate Dean (Research Knowledge Exchange and Partnerships) - normally serving for one year in rotation
- The Vice-Chancellor may appoint additional staff to the Council because of their particular expertise, for a term to be determined by the Vice-Chancellor.

Academic Staff Members (4)

- 4 members appointed by the Vice-Chancellor from the academic staff (1 from each faculty), appointed for a three year term following a selection process.

Elected Student Members (4)

- President of Greenwich Students' Union
- 3 other elected sabbatical officers from Greenwich Students' Union

4. Attendance at meetings

- 4.1 At the discretion of the Chair, other staff who are not members of the Council may be invited to attend on an ad hoc basis for specific items where their attendance can inform and support the Council.

5. Delegated Authority

The Council is authorised by the Governing Body to approve:

- 5.1 Academic regulations and related policies and procedures governing the programmes of study at the University, the admission, conduct, suspension, exclusion and expulsion of students of the University, and research and knowledge exchange;
- 5.2 Academic awards (excluding honorary awards) to be awarded by the University to students, ensuring the integrity of those awards; also academic prizes or other distinctions including honorary academic titles;
- 5.3 Plans to enhance academic quality (educational or research), monitor quality assurance and improve the student experience. The Council shall monitor the implementation of these plans;
- 5.4 All educational programmes and collaborative provision including educational partnerships and any validations;
- 5.5 The arrangements for the regular review of educational programmes and collaborative provision including any student surveys;
- 5.6 Agreements with other validating and accrediting bodies, including professional institutions;

- 5.7 Any action plan following an external review e.g., by the Office for Students, a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body or UK Research & Innovation;
- 5.8 Research partnerships and interdisciplinary research centres;
- 5.9 The terms of reference and membership of any committee of Academic Council or any ad hoc working group or advisory committee;
- 5.10 A delegation framework identifying where authority to make any of the above decisions is delegated by the Council to Academic Council committees or the Vice-Chancellor; and
- 5.11 The regular review of the effectiveness of Academic Council and its Committees.

6. Other Duties

The other duties of the Committee shall be to:

- 6.1 Provide regular assurance to the Governing Body through at least an annual report relating to the Academic Council's responsibilities under 2.1, which should include any significant actions to mitigate risks and to make significant enhancements to academic quality and standards;
- 6.2 Ensure the University's compliance with OfS requirements related to the Academic Council's remit, including registration conditions relating to access and participation (A conditions), quality and standards (B conditions), protecting the interests of students (C conditions), and harassment and sexual misconduct (condition E6);
- 6.3 Support the development of the University's Strategic Plan and recommend for Governing Body approval any specific academic sub-strategies. In particular, the Council shall keep under review and recommend any changes to the Student Success, Research and Knowledge Exchange and Partnerships sub-strategies. The Strategy Programme Board shall monitor implementation of the academic sub-strategies and the achievement of any related objectives or performance indicators;
- 6.4 Review any academic regulatory documents (e.g. the University's Student Protection Plan, Degree Outcomes Statement and Access and Participation Plan) where approval by the Governing Body is required and recommend them to the Governing Body;
- 6.5 Approve the University's Freedom of Speech Code of Practice prior to its approval by the Governing Body, and keep under review the University's arrangements to ensure freedom of speech and academic freedom;

- 6.6 Review the management of risks and opportunities relating to the University's academic activities and monitor actions taken to minimise those risks or take advantage of opportunities;
- 6.7 Report and make recommendations to the Governing Body on any significant academic and related matters, including any matters referred to the Academic Council by the Governing Body;
- 6.8 Ensure active consideration of equality, diversity, inclusion and sustainability in the conduct of the Committee's business.

7. Standing Orders

- 7.1 Academic Council must adhere to the [Standing Orders for Academic and Executive Committees](#).
- 7.2 Academic Council shall normally meet four times each academic year. Additional meetings may be called by the chair as necessary.

Approved by the Governing Body 16 October 2024
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