

# Senate Academic Assurance Committee

## Terms of Reference:

The role of the Academic Assurance Committee is to assure Senate regarding the maintenance of academic quality and standards in learning and teaching and in research, and the enhancement of the quality of the student experience. To achieve this the Committee will:

1. Receive reports and scrutinise all matters related to academic quality and standards, within the University on behalf of the Senate, including for example:
  - (a) assuring the academic quality of research and innovation;
  - (b) assuring the academic standards and quality of teaching and learning;
  - (c) assuring the academic quality of the student experience;
  - (d) monitoring information on student complaints and appeals that relate to academic standards and quality;
  - (e) providing oversight of assessments of quality and standards by external regulators and professional accrediting bodies;
  - (f) reviewing matters required by statute and regulations related to academic standards and quality.
2. Interrogate reports or information in order to provide Senate with assurance on academic quality and standards for all students including Apprentices, Undergraduate, Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research students, throughout the student journey from application and admission to graduation and destination. This includes provision delivered through collaborative partnerships, for example, sub-contracted or validated provision in the UK or an international partner overseas.
3. Identify any issues and potential actions required and advise or make recommendations to Senate or Committees of Senate accordingly regarding:
  - (a) the revision of policies;
  - (b) processes;
  - (c) provision of information and analysis;
  - (d) action plans to ensure and enhance quality or to assure Senate, set standards or enhance the quality of the provision. This includes the adequacy and effectiveness of relevant University processes.
4. Satisfy Senate that the University is meeting the expectations of the designated bodies quality code (QAA) or to make recommendations or give advice as required.
5. Devise a draft annual report for Senate to consider and adopt for submission to Council with a view to providing assurance on academic standards and quality, and how they contribute to the University's mission and to regulatory requirements. The annual report should provide appropriate information and analysis, in line with requests from Council, and be in a form that permits Council to consider and test that academic governance is adequate and effective.

**Reports to:** Senate.

**Membership:**

<i>Chair (A non-executive academic member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Senate Nominations Committee):</i>		
Professor Graham Gee (School of Law)		2021-24

<i>Members appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Senate Nominations Committee:</i>		
<i>One current, or former, Head of an academic Department</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>	TBC
<i>One current, or former, Faculty Director of Learning &amp; Teaching</i>	Professor Rachel Horn (Civil & Structural Engineering)	2018-21, 2021-22
<i>One current, or former, Faculty Director of Research &amp; Innovation</i>	Professor Terry Burke (Animal & Plant Sciences)	2018-21, 2021-22
<i>One Professional Services staff member who is, or has been, a member of the Senate</i>	Richard Simpson (English Language Teaching Centre)	2019-21, 2021-22

<i>Five members of the academic staff, who shall normally be members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate, one nominated by each of the five Faculties of the University:</i>		
Professor Stephen Beck (Multidisciplinary Engineering Education)		2018-21, 2021-22
Professor Ruth Blakeley (Politics & International Relations)		2021-24
Professor Caitlin Buck (School of Mathematics & Statistics)		2018-21, 2021-22
Dr Siobhán North (Computer Science)		2018-21, 2021-22
Dr Louise Robson (Biomedical Science)		2019-21, 2021-22

<i>Three student representatives, nominated by the President of the Students' Union:</i>		
<i>Undergraduate student representative</i>	Savannah Hanson (Education Officer)	2021-22
<i>Postgraduate Taught student representative</i>	Lissi Abnett (Postgraduate Officer)	2021-22
<i>Postgraduate Research student representative</i>	Vacancy	TBC

<i>In attendance (ex-officio):</i>		
<i>University Secretary</i>	Dr Tony Strike	
<i>Deputy Head of the Academic Programmes Office</i>	Dr Andrea Bath	
<i>Director of Research Services</i>	Deborah Lodge	

<i>Secretary</i>	Dr Edward Smith (University Secretary's Office)	
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