

Regulations of Council

8. Functions of Council

Subject to the Charter and Statutes, the Council's primary functions are to:

- 8.1 develop and approve the mission and strategic vision of the University, long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders;
- 8.2 delegate authority to the President & Vice-Chancellor, as chief executive, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and human resources management of the University and to establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits applicable to such management functions as shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the President & Vice-Chancellor;
- 8.3 ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, and procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest;
- 8.4 ensure processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University against the plans and approved key performance indicators, which should be, where possible and appropriate, benchmarked against other comparable universities;
- 8.5 establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Council itself;
- 8.6 conduct its business with regard to best practice in higher education corporate governance and in accordance with the public interest governance principles drawn up by the Office for Students and the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, such that the University operates openly, honestly, accountably and with integrity;
- 8.7 safeguard the reputation and values of the University;
- 8.8 take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured within the University;
- 8.9 promote equality and diversity throughout the University, including in relation to its own operation;
- 8.10 appoint the President & Vice-Chancellor as chief executive, and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance;
- 8.11 appoint the University Secretary, who shall by virtue of holding that office be the secretary to the Council and Senate;
- 8.12 be the employing authority for all Staff in the University and to be responsible for establishing a human resources strategy;
- 8.13 be the principal financial and business authority of the University, to ensure that financial control and risk management procedures are robust, to approve the annual budget and financial statements, and to have overall responsibility for the University's assets, property and estate, including ensuring value for money;
- 8.14 ensure that systems are in place for meeting all the University's legal obligations, including those relating to health and safety and those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the University's name;
- 8.15 make such provision as it thinks fit for the general welfare of Students, in consultation with the Senate;
- 8.16 act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the charitable objectives of the University; *and*
- 8.17 ensure that the University's Charter and Statutes are followed at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.