

ROLE OF THE SENATE

Introduction

The University Senate is the principal academic committee in the University and plays a key role in both the academic direction and academic governance of the University. It is a key forum for the discussion of academic matters including those arising from the broader environmental context. It works in collaboration with the University Council, the Senior Leadership Team and the University's academic community.

Senate's role is three-fold:

- An advisory role – advising Council, the Vice-Chancellor and the senior leadership team on academic matters and ensuring that the Universities civic engagement activity aligns with the University's academic role. Matters may be referred to it for consideration and in addition, Senate shall maintain oversight of developments in the internal and external environment and their potential impact on academic matters;
- A academic governance role through
 - o determining strategies, regulations, policies and structures to secure and promote academic excellence in teaching and research in line with Statute II of the University;
 - o maintaining oversight of the exercise of academic matters within the University in line with the University's strategic priorities and to ensure the maintenance of academic standards, the quality of its provision and the student experience;
- Decision-making powers in areas where Senate has the final authority such as the conferment of awards or recognition of partner institutions in line with Statute II.

Terms of Reference

Senate shall:

- 1 Carry out its functions as specified in Statute II of the University (attached at Annex 1)
- 2 Advise and make recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor and Council on:
 - a. the strategic development, implementation and monitoring of academic objectives of the University;
 - b. The impact of developments in the internal and external environment on academic matters;
 - c. Academic priorities whilst remaining mindful of resource implications;
 - d. Significant changes in academic organisation;
 - e. Any matters which are referred to it by the Vice-Chancellor or Council;

- 3 Requests reports from, or refer matters to, relevant committees or members of the senior leadership team;
- 4 Consider academic matters raised by Faculty Boards, Committees of Senate or the academic community through a member of Senate;
- 5 Report any significant issues to the Council and provide an annual academic assurance report to the Council.

The Senate may:

- establish committees or working groups to consider, advise or determine matters on its behalf;
- delegate its powers and responsibilities to a committee, Faculty Board or officer of the University.

The Senate will review its own effectiveness on a regular basis.