

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

All Members are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct as set out in the Good Practice Guide for Governors.

1.2 AUTHORITY OF COMMITTEE

The Board of Governors is a decision making body with powers as specified in the Education Reform Act 1988 as amended by the Higher Education Act 1992 (Sections 18 and 19) and is empowered to:

- (i) provide further and higher education;
- (ii) carry out research and to publish the results of the research or any material arising out of or connected with it in such manner as the corporation think fit;
- (iii) supply goods or services in connection with the provision of education;
- (iv) conduct an educational institution;
- (v) acquire and dispose of land and other property, enter into employment and other contracts, borrow (subject to funding council approval) and invest money, accept gifts and fund scholarships and prizes; and
- (vi) to do anything incidental to the conduct of an educational institution providing higher or further education.

The Board has the authority to act within these powers which are intended to be sufficiently broad to enable the Board of Governors to do everything which would normally be required to run the University. The Board does not therefore have the authority to do anything which lies outside this framework.

1.3 DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

- (i) the determination of the educational character and mission of the University and for oversight of its activities;
- (ii) the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the University and the Corporation and for safeguarding their assets;
- (iii) approving annual estimates of income and expenditure;

- (iv) the appointment, assignment, grading, appraisal, suspension, dismissal and determination of the pay and conditions of service of the holders of senior posts; and
- (v) setting a framework for the pay and conditions of service of all other staff.

1.4 MEMBERSHIP (18 members)

(i) Independent Members (11)

11 members who are persons appearing to the appointing authority to have experience of, and to have shown capacity in, industrial, commercial or employment matters or the practice of any profession.

(ii) Co-opted Members (4)

4 co-opted members, nominated by the members of the Board of Governors who are not co-opted members, and one of which being a person who has experience in the provision of education.

(iii) Staff Members (1)

1 member being a teacher at the University nominated by Senate.

(iv) Student Members (1)

1 member being a student of the University nominated by the students thereof.

(v) Vice Chancellor

The Vice Chancellor of the University unless s/he chooses not to be a member.

1.5 QUORUM

9 or more members being present of whom 5 shall be independent members.

If a meeting is quorate but less than half the members present are independent members a majority of the independent members present shall be able to require that a discussion be deferred to the next meeting. No discussion shall be deferred more than once under this provision.

1.6 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR

Members shall, at the first meeting of the Board and in every second year thereafter, elect a Chair and a Deputy Chair from among its number to be Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board. A member of the Board of Governors who is employed at the University or is a student of the University shall not be eligible for appointment as Chair or Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors.

At all meetings where there is an equal division of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

1.7 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Board shall meet at least four times a year on such dates as may be agreed by the Board of Governors (such a meeting shall be referred to as an ordinary meeting). Other additional meetings may be held as required.

1.8 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

(i) Members

Members are expected to attend most scheduled meetings in accordance with the attendance policy.

(ii) By Invitation

It is for the Governing Body to decide whether to invite persons other than Governors, to attend a meeting or part of a meeting as observers or as participant in, or advisors on, particular items of business. The Chair of Governors or of a committee or the Vice Chancellor may invite such staff or external advisors to attend meetings as appropriate.

(iii) Press or Public

The press or members of the public shall not normally be invited to attend meetings of the Board or its Committees. However agenda, papers and minutes of each meeting unless deemed confidential shall be accessible to the staff, students, the press and the general public.

1.9 COMMITTEE REPORTING

(i) Members to report back to their constituent group on matters under consideration unless declared confidential.

(ii) Agendas, reports or papers considered at meetings and minutes to be circulated to members and the University Library for inspection (except where the material relates to named members of staff or students or prospective members of staff or students, or to matters which the Board is satisfied should be dealt with on a confidential basis).

1.10 REVIEW

The terms of reference and membership of the Board shall be annually reviewed by the Board.