

## **B. DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

### **B.1 AUTHORITY DELEGATED TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT**

#### **B.1.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

Council remains collectively and ultimately responsible for the affairs, strategy and stewardship of the University. Nothing in this Ordinance limits Council's ultimate responsibility for oversight, assurance, risk, financial sustainability, culture and strategic direction.

To ensure effective, timely and efficient management, the Council delegates its authority and responsibility to the Vice-Chancellor and President, who provides strategic leadership and direction to the University within the framework of the strategy and values approved by Council, the powers retained by Council (B.1.2), and the academic authorities retained by Senate.

Council will satisfy itself through appropriate assurance mechanisms that delegated authority is exercised effectively, responsibly and in alignment with the University's values, strategy and risk appetite.

Council delegates all of its authority and responsibility to the Vice-Chancellor and President with the exception of:

- i. The authorities retained by Council and its Committees as in B.1.2.
- ii. Those authorities concerning academic quality and standards that Senate retains for itself or delegates to other parties (as set out in the Regulations).

The Vice-Chancellor and President in turn may delegate authority to his/her staff while retaining responsibility for the decisions taken under that authority.

#### **B.1.2 POWERS RETAINED BY COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES**

Council retains the power to approve the following matters. Some of these are delegated to Committees or the Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council.

- iii. **Strategy**
  - a) University Vision and Strategic Plan
  - b) Values Statement
  - c) Performance Indicators
  - d) Underlying Strategies e.g. Finance, Estates, People, Marketing, Development
  - e) Risk Management.
- iv. **Organisation**
  - a) Ordinances
  - b) Changes to Charter and Statutes
  - c) Merger, incorporation and major institutional alliances excluding the incorporation of spin-out companies to commercialise intellectual property created by the University
  - d) Creation, closure and renaming of Schools, Faculties, Academic Departments and Disciplines
  - e) Establishing, terminating, selling any company or joint venture company, excluding spin-out companies.

**v. Appointments and Process to appoint to Council and its Committees**

- a) Chair of Council
- b) Deputy Chair of Council
- c) Chairs of Council committees
- d) Council members
- e) Council committee members.

**vi. Finance**

- a) Appointment of External Auditors
- b) Internal Audit Service
- c) Annual Budget, Financial Statements and Financial Plans
- d) Investment Strategy
- e) Capital or Other Expenditure > £3M including any additions to the agreed budget
- f) Property purchases exceeding £2M
- g) Property leases exceeding £0.5M annual rental per building
- h) Guarantees, pledges and charges exceeding £2M
- i) Expenditure or capital reduction of more than £250k in any financial year for any University trust fund
- j) All borrowing including short-term facilities
- k) Any loan, investment, decrease in share capital in any joint venture or other University company greater than £100k in any financial year.

**vii. Human Resources**

- a) Appointment process and the final appointment to the following posts: Vice-Chancellor and President, Acting Vice-Chancellor and President, University Secretary and Director of Internal Audit. Appraisal of these post-holders.
- b) Appointment process and the final appointment to the following posts: Deputy President and Provost(s), Executive Deans, Vice-Presidents, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The approval of the appointment process has been delegated to the Vice-Chancellor and President, but the Chair of Council will appoint one independent member of Council to the relevant appointment panels.
- c) Total reward and service contracts of the Vice-Chancellor and President and Senior Staff
- d) Remuneration policies for the Vice-Chancellor and President and Senior Staff
- e) Appraisal process for the Vice-Chancellor and President and Senior Staff
- f) Severance of any staff falling into the OfS criteria (see Terms of Reference for Remuneration Committee)
- g) Approved Pension Schemes and any material changes to Schemes
- h) Recognition and de-recognition of Trade Unions
- i) Redundancy processes where a Redundancy Committee has been established.

**viii. Academic Matters delegated to Senate**

- a) Academic regulations and policy (including the regulation setting out Senate's delegations)
- b) Decisions on the academic year

- c) Strategies and improvement plans that underpin the Strategic Plan and which are related to education, research and enterprise
- d) Academic aspects of validation
- e) The terms of reference and composition of Senate Committees
- f) The annual statement of assurance of academic standards to Council.

ix. **Other**

- a) Any matter that would have a material impact on the institution's financial position, liabilities, future strategy or reputation
- b) The University's coat of arms, logo and strapline
- c) Donations that attract a risk score of 175 or over using the agreed Donations Acceptance Risk Assessment
- d) Honorary Awards
- e) The naming of buildings
- f) IP Revenue Sharing Arrangements.

*Key finance authorities delegated to the executive include: management of taxation and insurances, establishment of companies, bank and credit card accounts, appointment of investment managers and the management of investment funds.*

**B.1.3 POWER TO SUSPEND OR DEPART FROM THE REGULATIONS OF SENATE**

In circumstances where urgent action is required in order to ensure that a group of students may progress or graduate and it would not be reasonable and/or equitable to adhere to the existing Regulations, the Vice-Chancellor and President may suspend or depart from the Regulations. In such circumstances, the Vice-Chancellor and President:

- i. must ensure that the University's academic standards continue to be maintained;
- ii. should consult Senate, if reasonably practicable, before suspending or departing from the Regulations; and
- iii. must report as soon as possible to Senators and then Senate and Council that such action has been taken, providing the general details of the students or cohort affected and the rationale for so doing.