

Senate Elections

May 2023



Foundations of Sussex's governance

The University is an exempt charity incorporated by Royal Charter in 1961. The Charter was amended with effect from 1 March 2012.

Statutes provide more detailed information on the powers and responsibilities of Council, Senate and staffing procedures.

Charter and Statutes are approved by Privy Council.

Regulations are internal documents which provide further information about officers of the University and set out processes and procedures used to govern the University.

Schedule of delegation sets out how the powers of Council (Supreme Body) are delegated to committees, Boards and individuals within the University.

Governance Effectiveness Review:



All 3 parts must accept the role of the other so as not to unbalance the stool.

Council is the governing body and

Vice-Chancellor is the chief academic and administrative officer with dual accountabilities – chairs Senate and is a member of Council. VC is the accountable officer for the OfS and certifies to them that the University complies with the OfS Regulatory Framework.

Senate is subject to the general control and approval of Council and is responsible for academic standards.

Council- Senior Governing Body. Council has overarching responsibility for all University activity and its conduct. Council delegates its powers and responsibilities to individuals and bodies within the institution to ensure the effective operation of the University and delivery of its charitable objectives.

Audit and Risk
Committee

Senate's Powers

The powers and functions of Senate, as defined in Statute VI and Regulation 4, include the following:

- Directing and regulating teaching and examination
- Promoting research
- Authorising the award or annulment of degrees
- Regulating admissions and the discipline of students
- Reporting to Council on any academic matter or any matter referred to Senate by Council
- Recommending changes to the academic organisation of the University

Senate also the power to 'discuss and declare an opinion on any matter whatsoever relating to the University'

Organisation of University and Regulation 4.

Statute VI. Point 3



The Role of Senators

to be aware of institutional objectives and issues

to speak freely on policies and proposals presented to Senate

to contribute to making and taking responsibility for Senate's decisions, taking into account of the needs and priorities of the whole University

to attend all meetings of Senate unless absence is due to illness, urgent personal reasons or teaching commitments.

In exceptional circumstances, members may seek the Chair's permission to nomination a substitute to have a delegated voice on their behalf.

to be willing to be appointed as members of Senate committees or sub-groups

Senate access and support

A well functioning Senate has a diversity of perspective and opinion, differences in perspective are therefore highly encouraged

Applications from all eligible staff are welcomed

Serving as a Senator and/or member of Council is an excellent career development tool

Experiences of other HEIs highly valuable to add Senate discussion and practice

New senators are mentored and will now benefit from an extended period of tenure which will support greater skills development

Time is given to Senators will fulfil their role alongside their contractual position

Job sharing/joint applications welcomed from part time staff



to attend School meetings – these are scheduled before Senate to allow information to flow up as required

Conditions of Registration

- A. Access and participation
- B. Quality and standards
- C. Guidance on consumer protection law: student complaints scheme, and student protection plan
- D. Financial viability and sustainability
- E. Management and governance
- F. Transparency of information
- G. Mandatory fee limits

Business at meetings

Business for compliance

Items which report on the institutional compliance, are required to be submitted to external bodies as part of accountable returns and any actions to improve compliance

For example: OfS returns, auditor reports, health and safety reports and funding returns

Strategy and risk

Items which report on progress against the strategy- delivered by colleagues in their day to day jobs; reports asking for decisions to advance the strategy and reports on risks impacting

For example: Student Experience reports, employment strategies, estate development plans

Governance

Items required to make the governance cogs turn and ensure we comply with our governance instruments

For example: elections, sub-committee reports and regulation changes

2. Elections to Senate

Senate: who is on it?

Council, shall be responsible for the academic standards and the direction and regulation of academic matters of the

55 Members:

- × Heads of School:
- ×
- × 2 elected representatives per School:
- × 2 elected representative of Professional Services:
- × Student representatives:
- × Union Observers
- × VC, PVCs and some Heads of Professional Service

Election conduct