

## UNIVERSITY DELEGATION FRAMEWORK: INTRODUCTION

### Governing Body's Power to Delegate

The University's [Articles of Association](#) are the supreme governing instruments of the University and should always be checked for the authoritative position. Under these, the [Governing Body](#) is ultimately responsible for all decisions but "may delegate any of their powers, functions or duties to any person, committee or body" with the exception of the following:

- appointing the Vice-Chancellor and the University Secretary
- the approval of the University's strategic plan
- the approval of the University's financial forecasts and annual budget
- amendments to the Articles.

### Delegation Framework

The Governing Body has approved a framework for delegation comprising three documents with different approval processes. These are:

- **The Governing Body Delegation Framework** covering powers retained by the Governing Body and its committees, which is approved by the Governing Body.
- **The Academic Council Delegation Framework** covering delegations by the Academic Council to its committees and the Vice-Chancellor, which is approved by the Academic Council.
- **The Executive Delegation Framework** covering decisions delegated by the Vice-Chancellor, which is approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

### Governing Body Delegation Framework - powers retained by the Governing Body and its committees

This Framework uses the principle that if a power is not retained by the Governing Body, it falls to the Vice-Chancellor to exercise that power. If the Governing Body wishes to retain a decision or change a delegation in the future, it can do so by approving an amendment to the framework.

Any matter which requires the approval of the Governing Body or a Governing Body committee must first be reviewed by either the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor's Executive or the Academic Council (as appropriate), before it is submitted for approval. Where relevant, the appropriate Deputy Vice-Chancellor should also be involved.

### Academic Council Delegation Framework

The Articles of Association state that the [Academic Council](#) shall "subject to the control and approval of the Governing Body, oversee the teaching and research of the University and be responsible for the academic quality and standards of the University. The Governing body shall receive and test assurance from the Academic Council that academic governance including the standard of academic awards, the student academic experience and student outcomes are adequate and effective". The Academic Council ensures that the OfS conditions

of registration for quality and standards are met and provides this assurance to the Governing Body.

The Academic Council has delegated authority to make academic regulations that regulate the programmes of study and research at the University and other matters concerning students.

The Academic Council has approved its framework for delegations to its Committees and the Vice-Chancellor.

## **Executive Delegation Framework**

The Executive Delegations Framework sets out those key decisions falling to the Vice-Chancellor where the Vice-Chancellor has chosen to delegate the decision further. This scheme of delegation is approved by the Vice-Chancellor and can be varied by them at any time. The Vice-Chancellor's Executive will review it regularly and make recommendations for changes to the Vice-Chancellor.

The officer or body delegated may delegate further (including by way of procedural documents), but they are ultimately accountable for the exercise of their delegated powers.

If a delegated decision would have a material impact on the University's financial position, liabilities, future strategy or reputation and the question is or should be asked as to whether the delegation is now appropriate, then the relevant member of staff or committee should bring the matter to the attention of the Vice-Chancellor or University Secretary who will decide the best way forward.

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