

Council Standing Orders

The role and responsibility of Council is set out in the University's Charter, Statutes and Ordinances.

1. Chair

1.1 The Pro-Chancellor chairs the meetings of Council. A Deputy Pro-Chancellor shall chair the meeting in the absence of the Pro-Chancellor, in order of longest-serving.

2. Membership

2.1 Council members are appointed and reappointed in accordance with the membership composition set out at Statute 9 and the appointment arrangements specified in that Statute and the Nominations Committee's terms of reference. The only addition to this is that Senate-appointed members to Council are initially appointed through an election of Senate members. The University is an exempt charity and as such members are trustees and must discharge their responsibilities as such.

2.2 Members should ensure that the responsibilities of Council are exercised in the best interest of the University, rather than representative of any constituency, and there is a collective responsibility for all decisions.

2.3 Members may be removed from office in accordance with Statute 9.3, which allows for removal from membership for 'good cause'. The definition of 'good cause' is defined in the Statutes, but its meaning is also extended to include any behaviours that do not accord with the Seven Principles of Public Life, the expectations of a trustee, or may compromise the University in any way (for example in relation to any regulatory requirements).

3. Attendance

3.1 Members should endeavour to attend all Council meetings. Where members are unable to attend apologies should be submitted to the Committee Secretary in advance of the meeting. Members' attendance is published in the annual financial statements. Members may be permitted to attend meetings virtually, where it would not otherwise be possible for them to attend the meeting, but physical attendance should be the normal expectation. In the event of virtual attendance, members must provide sufficient notification so that arrangements can be made to allow for this.

3.2 Individuals who are not members of Council may be invited to attend (parts of) Council meetings as business requires.

4. Council Sub-Committees and Senate
- 4.1 Council has sub-committees with defined terms of reference and membership, and including, where appropriate, delegated authority to take action on behalf of Council. These sub-committees will regularly report on their work to Council as well as make recommendations and seek approvals where relevant. In addition, Senate will also regularly report to Council on its work.
- 4.2 The normal expectation is that Council members will serve on at least one sub-committee, and will be in a position to report back to each body on relevant activity of the other, but that the chair would be the principal conduit between bodies.
- 4.3 Council is expected to recognise the responsibilities of Senate for the academic life of the University and welfare of students and act in accordance with the requirements set out the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances to take full account of the respective responsibilities of the two bodies in relation to one another.

is sufficient discussion of items, including

