THE SENATE

CONSTITUTION – UPDATED 27.02.2020

Purpose

The Senate is the academic authority of the University which, subject to the powers of the Council, is responsible for promoting the academic work of the University both in teaching and research.

It oversees the University’s academic management, including the curriculum and all aspects of quality and standards associated with the University as a degree-awarding body.

It has the power to make regulations, including those which (subject to the approval of the Council) delegate any of its powers (marked ‘D’ below).

Senate meetings concentrate on major issues of academic strategy, policy, priority and performance.

Terms of Reference

Setting strategy and policy, agreeing priorities, plans and regulations

1 To approve strategies relating to:
   a) undergraduate and taught postgraduate curriculum (including collaborative provision);
   b) learning and teaching
   c) assessment and examinations;
   d) the quality of the student experience
   e) recognition of prior learning
   f) the introduction of partnerships and collaborative provision leading to an award of the University
   g) research

2 To approve regulations relating to:
   a) teaching (including collaborative provision) and research,
   b) courses of study and conditions for admission to the degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions offered by the University (including collaborative provision)
   c) admission to, and continuation in courses of study or programmes of research
   d) examinations and assessment for the degrees and other distinctions offered by the University
   e) the discipline of the University’s students

3 To approve the award and withdrawal of degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions offered by the University or on its behalf through collaborative provision

4 To make recommendations or to express an opinion to the Council on any matter of interest to the University and its affairs;

Making governance arrangements e.g. appointing to other committees

5 To delegate any powers specifically conferred upon it, subject to the approval of the Council to any person or body constituted for the purpose.
6 To appoint:
   a) members of the Senate to be members of the Council
   b) members of the Senate to be members of Senate committees.
7 To approve proposals for the establishment or dissolution of committees of the Senate
8 To review annually the working of the Senate and its committees

*Monitoring and reviewing actions and institutional performance*

9 To monitor the academic quality and performance of the University and make recommendations as appropriate.

*Matters of public record e.g. ratifying appointments of staff or external examiners*

These powers have been delegated.

*Judicial: deciding individual cases*

These powers have been delegated.

*Degree Awarding Powers*

The award of degrees to individuals (except for honorary degrees) has been delegated.

*Delegated Powers*

D To grant degrees and other academic distinctions to those who have pursued a course of study and passed examinations or other assessments approved by the Senate in either the University or a partner institution approved by the University

To determine the formal arrangements for the conferment of degrees and other qualifications.

D To regulate all University examinations and assessment, and to appoint examiners (internal or external), for the various degrees and other distinctions offered:

   a) by the University
   b) or on its behalf as validated qualifications,
   c) or jointly with other higher education institutions having the power to grant such qualifications

This regulation will be implemented in conjunction with partner institutions for validated and joint qualifications under terms and conditions specified by the University.

D To recognise, and withdraw as necessary, examinations and periods of study at Universities and places of learning approved by the Senate as equivalent to examinations and periods of study in the University.

D To accept courses of study in any other institution which the Senate considers is able to provide proper instruction as equivalent to courses of study in the University, as the Senate may determine.

D To appoint all members of the academic staff in accordance with procedures approved by the Council.
D To expel any student guilty of grave misconduct in accordance with the agreed procedures for such expulsion.

D To revoke any degree or other distinction conferred by the University or jointly or as a validated qualification if the holder has been convicted of a crime or for other good cause which renders them unfit to be a member or graduate of the University or body permitted by the University to act on its behalf.

Membership

1.0 *Ex officio* members

The Vice-Chancellor, Chair, *ex officio*
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor
The Pro-Vice-Chancellors
The Executive Deans of the Faculties
The Director of the Institute of Educational Technology (LTI Director, Research)
The Director of Library Services
The Director of Learner and Discovery Services

2.0 Appointed members

A total of fifty seven representatives of the academic and research staff (with the exception of those in Category 1.0), elected as follows (numbers in brackets refer to the minimum number of regional/national staff):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FASS</td>
<td>13 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBL</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM *</td>
<td>19 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WELS</td>
<td>12 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTI (Academic)</td>
<td>3 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other central units **</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional/National Centres</td>
<td>4 (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>57 (19)</td>
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* Includes KMi (Knowledge Media Institute).
** Currently OUVP (Open University Validation Partnerships), Human Resources and Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

3.0 Seven associate lecturers, one per faculty, appointed by and from the Associate Lecturers Executive.

4.0 Six Open University students appointed by The Open University Students’ Association.

5.0 Fourteen members of the academic-related staff of the University elected from amongst their number by such staff (with the exception of those in Category 1.0 and those who have a professional role in serving the Senate and the Council*) of whom four shall be members of CAU staff, six shall be members of Academic Services and Student Recruitment and Fees

* Namely, the Secretary, the Head of Governance, the Senior Managers (Governance Team) and the Managers (Governance Team).
(SRF) staff (of whom three shall be based in a Regional/National Centre), and four shall be members of staff from other Units.

Co-opted members

6.0 Up to eight members, to include one graduate of the University, not undertaking studies in the University and not being in the regular employ of the University and not being elected through another category of the membership, following nomination by the OU Alumni Association, and (if not already included in the elected membership) one member drawn from the University’s staff in each of Ireland, Scotland and Wales with specific expertise in HE policy matters.

In Attendance

Staff 'in attendance' would include the Secretary, plus the Director of Open Media and Informal Learning and the National Directors, if they are not members.
1.0  *Ex officio* members

a) The Vice-Chancellor, Chair
   Professor Tim Blackman

b) The Deputy Vice-Chancellor
   Professor Josie Fraser

c) The Pro-Vice-Chancellors
   Dr Liz Marr  Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students)
   Professor Kevin Hetherington  Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise and Scholarship)

d) The Executive Deans of the Faculties
   Professor Ian Fribbance  Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
   Professor Devendra Kodwani  Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Law
   Professor Nicholas Braithwaite  Executive Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (interim)
   Professor Fary Cachelin  Executive Dean, Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies

e) The Director of the Institute of Educational Technology (LTI Director, Research)
   Professor Denise Whitelock  Interim Director, Institute of Educational Technology
   Professor Eileen Scanlon  Associate Director Research, Institute of Educational Technology

f) The Director of Library Services
   Mr Gary Elliott-Cirigottis

g) The Director of Learner and Discovery Services
   Dr Nick Barrett
Appointed members

2.0 A total of fifty seven representatives of the academic and research staff (with the exception of those in Category 1.0), elected as follows:

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)
Dr Richard Heffernan Central to 31.08.2020
Professor David Johnson Central to 31.08.2020
Dr Elaine Moohan National to 31.08.2020
Mr Matt Staples Regional to 31.08.2020
Professor John Wolfe Central to 31.08.2020
Dr William Brown Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Jovan Byford Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Sarah Crafter Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Deborah Drake Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Karen Hagan National to 31.08.2022
Dr Alison Penn Regional to 31.08.2022
Professor Nicola Watson Central to 31.08.2022
One vacancy

Faculty of Business and Law (FBL)
Miss Carol Howells Central to 31.08.2020
Dr Caroline Clarke Central to 31.08.2022
Mr Mike Phillips Regional to 31.08.2022
Dr Kristen Reid Central to 31.08.2022
One vacancy

Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
Dr Leonor Barroca Central to 31.08.2020
Dr Stephen Burnley Central to 31.08.2020
Mrs Diane Butler Regional to 31.08.2020
Dr Jon Hall Central to 31.08.2020
Dr Karen Olsson-Francis Central to 31.08.2020
Dr Hayley Ryder Regional to 31.08.2020
Dr Rachael Luck Central to 31.08.2020
Dr John Baxter Regional to 31.08.2022
Dr Robert Brignall Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Helen Fraser Central to 31.08.2022
Professor Simon Green Central to 31.08.2020
Dr James Hague Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Janet Haresnape Regional to 31.08.2022
Dr Toby O’Neil Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Magnus Ramage Central to 31.08.2022
Professor David Rothery Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Mark Slaymaker Regional to 31.08.2022
Two vacancies

Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS)
Mrs Anna Comas-Quinn Central to 31.08.2020
Ms Tyrrell Golding Central to 31.08.2020
Dr Aravinda Guntupalli Central to 31.08.2020
Dr Elodie Vialleton Central to 31.08.2020
Dr Verina Waights Central to 31.08.2020
Professor Jan Draper Central to 31.08.2022
Dr Kristina Hultgren Central to 31.08.2022
Ms Susan Kotschi  Regional to 31.08.2022  
Mr Andy Rixon  Central to 31.08.2022  
Dr Jackie Watts  Regional to 31.08.2022  
Mr Jeremy Wilcock  National to 31.08.2022  
One vacancy  

Institute of Education Technology (WELS)  
Mr Chris Edwards to 31.08.2022  
Professor Eileen Scanlon to 31.08.2022  
One vacancy to 31.08.2022  

Other Central Units  
One vacancy to 31.08.2022  

3.0 Seven associate lecturers, one per faculty, appointed by and from the Associate Lecturers Executive.  
Dr Catherine Halliwell  STEM, AL Executive Chair to 31.08.2021  
Mrs Frances Chetwynd  STEM to 31.08.2021  
Mr Jim Gillen  STEM to 31.08.2021  
Mr Rob Parker  FBL to 31.08.2021  
Dr Sylvie Serpell  FASS to 31.08.2021  
Dr Linda Walker  WELS and Wales to 31.08.2021  
Mr Tim Parry  FBL to 31.08.2022  

4.0 Six Open University students appointed by The Open University Students’ Association.  
Ms Cath Brown  President to 31.07.2020  
Mrs Stephanie Stubbins  Vice President, Education to 31.07.2020  
Mr Rory Powell  to 31.07.2020  
Dr Barbara Tarling  to 31.07.2020  
Ms Alison Kingan  to 31.07.2020  
Ms Cinnomen McGuigan  to 31.07.2020  

5.0 Fourteen members of the academic-related staff of the University elected from amongst their number by such staff (with the exception of those in Category 1.0 and those who have a professional role in serving the Senate and the Council*) of whom four shall be members of CAU staff, six shall be members of Academic Services and Student Recruitment and Fees (SRF) staff (of whom three shall be based in a Regional/National Centre), and four shall be members of staff from other Units.  
Ms Julia Barkans  STEM to 31.08.2019  
Mrs Gemma Maldar  RES to 31.08.2020  
Mrs Tracy Lawson  Academic Services and SRF Central to 31.08.2020  
Ms Elaine Walker  Academic Services and SRF Regional to 31.08.2020  
Mrs Maria Crisu  Marketing to 31.08.2020  
Mrs Selena Killick  Library Services to 31.08.2020  
Dr Caitlin Adams  FASS to 31.08.2022  
Mr Derek Sheills  STEM to 31.08.2022  
Mrs Rukhsana Malik  Academic Services and SRF Central to 31.08.2022  
Mr Toby Scott-Hughes  Academic Services and SRF Central to 31.08.2022  
Mr Billy Khokhar  Academic Services and SRF Regional to 31.08.2022  

* Namely, the Secretary, the Head of Governance, the Senior Managers (Governance Team) and the Managers (Governance Team).
Mrs Kate Signorini  
Academic Services and SRF National  
to 31.08.2022

Two vacancies

**Co-opted members**

6.0 Up to eight members, to include one graduate of the University, not undertaking studies in the University and not being in the regular employ of the University and not being elected through another category of the membership, following nomination by the OU Alumni Association, and (if not already included in the elected membership) one member drawn from the University's staff in each of Ireland, Scotland and Wales with specific expertise in HE policy matters.

Mrs Claire Baines  
Director, Academic Services  
to 31.08.2020

Mrs Louise Casella  
Director, Wales  
to 31.08.2021

Dr Christopher Turner OBE  
Graduate  
to 31.08.2021

Mr John D’Arcy  
Director, Ireland  
to 31.08.2022

Ms Susan Stewart  
Director, Scotland  
to 31.08.2022

**In Attendance**

Staff ‘in attendance’ would include the Secretary, plus the Director of Open Media and Informal Learning and the National Directors, if they are not members.
1.0 Much of the business of the Senate will stem from the committees reporting to it. As well as approving (or not) major strategies in their final form the Senate would be expected to comment on them at an early stage and guide their development.

2.0 Another major role of the Senate is to review the academic performance of the University. That occurs from time to time through policy reviews.

3.0 The Senate also conducts an annual review of its own effectiveness and of the committees reporting to the Senate. This review is important to provide assurance that the structure is working effectively and to give the opportunity to make adjustments. The Senate, and each of its committees, reviews the business conducted against the terms of reference, the attendance and the membership. OUSA and the Associate Lecturers Executive also review whether the arrangements for their representation have worked effectively, particularly the reference groups which will meet before each meeting of the Senate.

4.0 The academic governance structure operates in the context of the University’s overall governance structure, headed by the governing body, the Council. A key committee is the Strategic Planning and Resources Committee (SPRC). That is a joint committee of the Council and the Senate but where a Council decision is required on a strategy of the University, SPRC makes a recommendation to the Council having, where relevant, taken the advice of the Senate either in the form of consultation with the Senate or one of its committees, or through the Senate representation on SPRC.
1. Role of Senate members

The Code of Practice for University Elections and Committee Procedure considered by the Senate in June 2005 sets out the following statement:

“The Senate and its committees shall exercise their responsibilities in a corporate manner, with decisions taken collectively in the interests of the institution as a whole. Members should at all times conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour in public life. They should not act individually or as representatives of a constituency or take decisions on an informal basis outside the constitutional framework. When speaking or voting, they shall not be bound by mandates given to them by others.”

Senate members should be able to contribute to discussions on major issues of academic strategy, policy, priority and performance.

2. Participation

The Code of Practice for University Elections and Committee Procedure sets out the following statement:

“Members should ensure that they have read the relevant papers, and are otherwise adequately briefed, before each meeting. Members are expected to attend regularly, and to participate in meetings of University bodies. Reasonable arrangements should be made to enable remote participation by those working at other University sites, subject to technological limitations and advance notice to the Secretary. It is recognised that circumstances may sometimes prevent attendance or remote participation, and apologies should be sent to the secretary in such cases. The secretary should monitor attendance to support overall effectiveness reviews, and to enable specific problems to be addressed.”

The Secretary will monitor attendance to support overall effectiveness reviews, and to enable specific problems to be addressed. A 75% overall attendance rate should be expected.

Regular attendance by a substantial number of the membership is essential to ensure the legitimacy of decisions. A quorum of 50%+1 of the membership at any meeting has been agreed by the Senate to help to guarantee this legitimacy.