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 (Acting), Chair, ex officio
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 Learning and Teaching Solutions (LTI Director, Translation)

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 (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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>57 (19)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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, the Chief Operating Officer and the National Directors, if they are not members.
1.0 *Ex officio* members

a) The Vice-Chancellor (Acting), Chair
   Professor Mary Kellett

b) The Pro-Vice-Chancellors
   Professor Hazel Rymer Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching Innovation)
   Professor Kevin Hetherington Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Academic Strategy)

c) The Executive Deans of the Faculties
   Mr Ian Fribbance Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
   Professor Mary Kellett Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Law (Interim)
   Professor Josie Fraser Executive Dean, Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
   Professor Mary Kellett Executive Dean, Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies

d) The Director of the Institute of Educational Technology (LTI Director, Research)
   Professor Patrick McAndrew

e) The Director of Library Services
   Ms Rosie Jones

f) The Director of Learning and Teaching Solutions (LTI Director, Translation)
   Mr Chris Rooke
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 Jovan Byford Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Cristina Chimisso Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Deborah Drake Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Anastasia Economou Regional to 31.08.2018
- Dr Helen Kaye Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Daniel McCulloch Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Naoko Yamagata Regional to 31.08.2018
- Dr Richard Heffernan Central to 31.08.2020
- Professor Ole Grell Central to 31.08.2020
- Professor David Johnson Central to 31.08.2020
- Dr Elaine Moohan Regional to 31.08.2020
- Professor John Wolffe Central to 31.08.2020
- To be appointed Regional to 31.08.2020

**Faculty of Business and Law (FBL)**

- Miss Carol Howells Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Kristen Reid Central to 31.08.2018
- Mr Mike Phillips Regional to 31.08.2018
- Dr Devendra Kodwani Central to 31.08.2020
- Dr Sharon Slade Regional to 31.08.2020

**Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**

- Dr John Baxter Regional to 31.08.2018
- Dr David Bowers Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Janet Haresnape Regional to 31.08.2018
- Dr Rachel Hilliam Regional to 31.08.2018
- Professor Andy Lane Central to 31.08.2018
- Professor Hilary MacQueen Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Toby O’Neil Central to 31.08.2018
- Mr Brendan Quinn Regional to 31.08.2018
- Dr Magnus Ramage Central to 31.08.2018
- Professor David Rothery Central to 31.08.2018
- 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
- Professor Claire Turner Central to 31.08.2020
- Dr Ann Walshe Regional to 31.08.2020
- Dr Gareth Williams Regional to 31.08.2020

**Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS)**

- Professor Jan Draper Central to 31.08.2018
- Mrs Annie Eardley Regional to 31.08.2018
- Professor Regine Hampel Central to 31.08.2018
- Mr Mick McCormick Central to 31.08.2018
- Dr Indra Sinka Regional to 31.08.2018
- Dr Jackie Watts Regional to 31.08.2018
Dr Uwe Baumann Central to 31.08.2020
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

Learning and Teaching Innovation (LTI) (Academic)
Dr Anne Adams Central to 31.08.2018
Mr Chris Edwards Central to 31.08.2018
Professor Eileen Scanlon Central to 31.08.2018

Other Central Units
Dr Liz Marr Central to 31.08.2018

Regional/National Centres

Under review

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

Mrs Frances Chetwynd STEM, AL Executive Chair to 31.08.2019
Dr Clare Spencer FASS, Wales to 31.08.2018
Dr Hilary Partridge FASS to 31.08.2019
Mr Tim Parry FBL to 31.08.2019
Dr Fiona Aiken STEM, Ireland to 31.08.2019
Mr David Knowles STEM to 31.08.2019
Dr Walter Pisarski WELS to 31.08.2019

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

Mrs Nicola Simpson President to 31.07.2018
Ms Lorraine Adams Vice President, Education to 31.07.2018
Miss Claire Smith to 31.07.2018
Mr Rory Powell to 31.07.2019
Ms Danielle Smith to 31.07.2019
Dr Barbara Tarling to 31.07.2019

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.

Mr Mike Innes STEM to 31.08.2018
Mr Michael Street STEM to 31.08.2018
Ms Pat Atkins Academic Services and SRF Central to 31.08.2018
Mrs Joanne Smythe Academic Services and SRF Central to 31.08.2018
Mrs Kate Signorini Academic Services and SRF National to 31.08.2018
Mr Billy Khokhar Academic Services and SRF Regional to 31.08.2018

* Namely, the Secretary, the Head of Governance, the Senior Managers (Governance Team) and the Managers (Governance Team).
Miss Barbara Poniatowska  LTI  to 31.08.2018
Mrs Clare Ikin  FASS  to 31.08.2020
Mr Jake Yeo  STEM  to 31.08.2020
Mr Denzil DeSouza  Academic Services and SRF Central  to 31.08.2020
Ms Elaine Walker  Academic Services and SRF Regional  to 31.08.2020
Mr Phil Berry  LTI  to 31.08.2020
Mrs Maria Crisu  Marketing  to 31.08.2020
Mrs Selena Killick  Library Services  to 31.08.2020

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.

Mr Christopher Turner OBE  Graduate  to 31.08.2021
Professor John Domingue  Director, KMi  to 31.07.2017
Mr John D’Arcy  Director, Ireland  to 31.08.2018
Ms Susan Stewart  Director, Scotland  to 31.08.2018
Mrs Louise Casella  Director, Wales  to 31.08.2021
Dr David Knight  Director, Access Careers and Teaching Support  to 31.08.2018
Mr Tony O’Shea-Poon  Director, APG  to 31.08.2018
Mrs Mary Kirby  Director, Academic Services (Interim)  to 31.08.2020

In Attendance

Staff ‘in attendance’ would include the Secretary, plus the Director of Open Media and Informal Learning, the Chief Operating Officer and the National Directors, if they are not members.

Mr Andrew Law  Director of Open Media and Informal Learning
Mr Jonathan Wylie  Chief Operating Officer (Acting)
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.