

Academic Council Terms of Reference

Remit:

In accordance with the Charter (item 13), and Statue XI (3), Academic Council shall have control of the internal academic affairs of the University, both in teaching and in research, and for the regulation and superintendence of the education and discipline of the students of the University, subject to the powers of Senate.

Terms of Reference:

Recommendations

To make recommendations to Senate for the consideration and approval of:

- (i) Academic-related Strategies within Strategy 2030 such as the Education Strategy, and the Research and Innovation Strategy.
- (ii) The institution or abolition of degrees or other qualifications, at subject level and above.
- (iii) Formal links at a corporate/institutional level between the University and other institutions and organisations.
- (iv) Amendments to academic governance.
- (v) The University's Annual Accountability Return for submission to the Department for the Economy (NI), providing assurance regarding the continuous improvement of the student academic experience and of student outcomes, and the reliability of degree standards.

Consideration and/or Approval

To consider, discuss and/or grant approval of:

- (i) Academic matters relating to the University, including any matter referred to it by Senate, or for recommendation to Senate.
- (ii) Strategies, Policies, Objectives, and Priorities to drive effective delivery of the academic-related Strategies within Strategy 2030 such as the Education Strategy, and the Research and Innovation Strategy.
- (iii) Strategies, Policies, Objectives, and Priorities to manage and enhance academic standards and quality, student attainment and the student experience, research culture and quality, and honorary titles.
- (iv) University regulations pertaining to all registered students across all levels of study.
- (v) Rules and regulations for research governance, ethics and integrity.
- (vi) The range of honorary titles and award criteria.
- (vii) The delegation of any of its functions as it may, from time to time determine, to committees appointed by Academic Council.
- (viii) Reports from, actions of, and recommendations made by subcommittees, task and finish groups and other bodies as appropriate.

Delegation

To delegate authority on the following:

To the Education Committee (Quality and Standards)

- (i) Academic quality and standards matters relating to the University, including any matter referred to it by the Academic Council, or for recommendation to the Academic Council/Senate.
- (ii) The development, implementation, co-ordination and evaluation of procedures, and initiatives, with a focus on risks and enhancement, regarding:
 - a. Admissions, including the recognition of prior learning.
 - b. Approval, management, and review of the University's educational provision.
 - c. Taught and research educational arrangements with other institutions and organisations.

- (iii) Actions in response to academic appeals and academic offences matters.
- (iv) Criteria for the appointment of taught external examiners and teaching assistants, and for recognition to teach, supervise and examine at undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research level.
- (v) Concessions to University and programme regulations.

To the Education Committee (Student Experience)

- (i) Education and student learning experience and engagement matters relating to the University, including any matter referred to it by the Academic Council, or for recommendation to the Academic Council/Senate.
- (ii) The development, implementation, co-ordination and evaluation of procedures, and initiatives regarding:
 - a. The Education Strategy, and other related strategies, policies and objectives.
 - b. Tracking, monitoring and supporting student experience and outcomes (e.g. assessment, progression, retention and employment) across all levels and with consideration given to a range of protected characteristics.
 - c. The enhancement of all aspects of student learning, experience and engagement for example student well-being and careers and employability.
 - d. Enabling systems to support the creation of a fully inclusive student community for example the Partnership Project, Student Voice Committees, Personal Tutoring, Student Wellbeing, degree plus and Academic Board.
- (iii) Actions in response to student conduct, and student complaints matters.
- (iv) Rules for specified prizes, scholarships and awards conferred by the Student Scholarships and Awards Group.

To the Honorary Titles Committee

- (i) Honorary title matters relating to the University, including any matter referred to it by the Academic Council, or for recommendation to the Academic Council.
- (ii) The development, implementation, co-ordination and evaluation of procedures, and initiatives, regarding, Honorary Titles, Visiting Titles and Titles for Chairs.
- (iii) Conferment of Honorary Titles and Visiting Titles.
- (iv) Conferment of Titles for Chairs.
- (v) Rescindment of Honorary Titles.

To the Research and Innovation Committee

- (i) Research and innovation matters relating to the University, including any matter referred to it by the Academic Council, or for recommendation to the Academic Council/Senate.
- (ii) The development, implementation, co-ordination and evaluation of procedures and initiatives regarding:
 - a. The Research and Innovation Strategy, and other related strategies, policies, and objectives.
 - b. Research assessment, and research performance monitoring and evaluation.
 - c. Research governance, ethics and integrity.
 - d. Research culture, institutional research environment, and the delivery of high quality and impactful research.
 - e. Research business engagement and knowledge exchange, research internationalisation, and institutional research partnerships and consortia.
 - f. Postdoctoral Researchers, and Early Career Researchers, and pathways for ensuring talent development at all levels of experience (academic and professional services) in priority areas which are related to the Research and Innovation Strategy.
 - g. Strategies and proposals for Postgraduate Researchers which pertain to advancing the delivery of objectives and themes in the Research and Innovation Strategy, including the allocation of institutional funding for PGRs across the University.

To Faculties, Schools and Professional Services:

- (i) Decisions arising from the implementation of Strategies, Policies, Objectives and Priorities, and of Regulations pertaining to all registered students across all levels of study, as specified by the Academic Council.

Membership:		
Composition		Current Members
Category (a) Chair	President and Vice-Chancellor	Professor Sir Ian Greer
Category (b)	Pro-Vice-Chancellors	Professor Richard Miles (Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor) (From February 2025) Professor Judy Williams (Education and Students) Professor Margaret Topping (Global Engagement) Professor Archie Clements (Research and Enterprise)
Category (c)	Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellors	Professor Nola Hewitt-Dundas (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) Professor Roger Woods (Engineering & Physical Sciences) Professor Ian Bruce (Medicine, Health and Life Sciences)
Category (d)	Heads of Schools	Dr Kurt Taroff (Arts, English and Languages) Professor Geoff McMullan (Biological Sciences) Professor Panagiotis Manesiotis (Chemistry and Chemical Engineering) Professor Karen Rafferty (Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) Professor James Davis (History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics) Professor Joan Loughrey (Law) Professor Marty Gregg (Mathematics and Physics) Professor Julianna Early (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering) Professor Alan Smyth (Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences) Professor Gerard Hamill (Natural and Built Environment) Professor Kenda Crozier (Nursing and Midwifery) Professor Gavin Andrews (Pharmacy) Professor Pauline Adair (Psychology) Professor Mayasandra Ravishankar (Queen's Business School) Professor Daniel Muijs (Social Sciences, Education and Social Work)
Category (e)	Directors of Institutes	Professor Barbara Jemphrey (Professional Legal Studies)
Category (f)	University College Principals	Professor Peter Finn (Principal) (St. Mary's University College) Professor Jonathan Heggarty (Principal) (Stranmillis University College)
Category (g)	Registrar	Dr Ryan Feeney (Vice-President (Governance and External Affairs) and Registrar)
Category (h)	Elected Members Elected members of Academic Staff, the number not exceeding one half of the total Council membership	Professor Piotr Blumczynski (Arts, English and Languages) Dr Paul Murphy (Arts, English and Languages) Dr Louise Atkinson (Biological Sciences) Dr Neil Reid (Biological Sciences) Dr Kevin Morgan (Chemistry and Chemical Engineering) Professor Peter Robertson (Chemistry and Chemical Engineering) Ms Angela Allen (Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) Professor John McAllister (Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) Dr Aglaia de Angeli (History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics) Professor Sean O'Connell (History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics) Dr Ronagh McQuigg (Law)

		<p>Dr Clemens Rieder (Law)</p> <p>Dr Dermot Green (Mathematics and Physics)</p> <p>Professor Martin Mathieu (Mathematics and Physics)</p> <p>Dr Zafer Kazanci (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)</p> <p>Dr Eoin Cunningham (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)</p> <p>Dr Sharon Parkinson (Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences)</p> <p>Dr Michael Trimble (Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences)</p> <p>Professor Su Taylor (Natural and Built Environment)</p> <p>Dr Tristan Sturm (Natural and Built Environment)</p> <p>Ms Clare Hughes (Nursing and Midwifery)</p> <p>Mr Niall McKenna (Nursing and Midwifery)</p> <p>Professor Lezley-Anne Hanna (Pharmacy)</p> <p>Dr Paul McCague (Pharmacy)</p> <p>Professor Cherie Armour (Psychology)</p> <p>Dr Mihalis Doumas (Psychology)</p> <p>Dr Heather Dickey (Queen's Business School)</p> <p>Dr Jelena Vlajic (Queen's Business School)</p> <p>Dr Pamela Cowan (Social Sciences, Education and Social Work)</p> <p>Professor Alison MacKenzie (Social Sciences, Education and Social Work)</p>
Category (i)	Up to 6 co-opted members	<p>Ms Maria Lee (Director of Academic Services)</p> <p>Mr Greg McCloskey (Director of Information Services)</p>
Category (j)	Student Members	<p>Mr Kieran Minto (President) (ex-officio)</p> <p>Mr Eli McBriarty (VP Education Officer)</p> <p>Ms Amy Smith (VP Postgraduate Officer)</p> <p>Mr Adam Wilson (Elected Student Member)</p>
In Attendance:	Relevant University Officers	<p>Mr Patrick Anderson (Vice-President and Chief Finance and Resources Officer)</p> <p>Mr Alistair Finlay (Interim Chief People Officer)</p> <p>Dr Wendy McLoone (Interim Director of Research)</p> <p>Mrs Caroline Young (Vice-President - Students and Corporate Services)</p>
Secretary:	Vice-President (Governance and External Affairs) and Registrar	Dr Ryan Feeney
Quorum:	20 members	
Reports to:	Senate	
Receives reports from:	<p>Education Committee (Quality and Standards)</p> <p>Education Committee (Student Experience)</p> <p>Honorary Titles Committee</p> <p>Research and Innovation Committee</p> <p>Honorary Awards Committee</p> <p>Planning, Finance and Resources Committee</p>	

3 September 2024