

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
- The Director of Library Services
- The Director of Learner and Discovery Services

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):

<i>Constituency</i>	<i>Numbers</i>
FASS	13 (4)
FBL	5 (2)
STEM *	19 (6)
WELS	12 (3)
IET	3 (0)
Other central units **	1 (0)
Regional/National Centres	4 (4)
TOTAL	57 (19)

* Includes KMi (Knowledge Media Institute).

** Currently OUVF (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.

THE SENATE

MEMBERSHIP LIST – UPDATED 01.09.2023

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

Professor Ian Pickup Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students)

Professor Kevin Shakesheff Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

- 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

Dr Klaus-Dieter Rossade Executive Dean, Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and
Language Studies

- e) The Director of the Institute of Educational Technology

Professor Denise Whitelock Director, Institute of Educational Technology

- f) The Director of Library Services

Gary Elliott-Cirigottis

- g) The Director of Learner and Discovery Services

Jo Dyer

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 Emma Barker	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr Andrew Griffiths	Regional	to 31.08.2024
Professor David Johnson	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr Donna Loftus	Central	to 31.08.2024
Professor Elaine Moohan	National	to 31.08.2024
Professor John Wolffe	Central	to 31.08.2024
Tony Murphy	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Dr Lystra Hagley-Dickinson	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Dr Jon Pike	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Dr Thomas Martin	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Professor Eleni Andreouli	Central	to 31.08.2026
Dr Richard Marsden	National	to 31.08.2026
Dr William Brown	Central	to 31.08.2026

Faculty of Business and Law (FBL)

Ash Odedra	Regional	to 31.08.2024
Carol Howells	Central	to 31.08.2024
Professor Caroline Clarke	Central	to 31.08.2026
Claire Maguire	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Professor Olga Jurasz	Central	to 31.08.2026

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

Dr Kaustubh Adhikari	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr Leonor Barroca	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr James Bruce	Central	to 31.08.2024
Donald Edwards	Regional	to 31.08.2024
Dr Jon Golding	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr Jotham Gaudoin	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr Claire Kotecki	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr Fiona Moorman	Regional	to 31.08.2024
Dr Hayley Ryder	Regional	to 31.08.2024
Dr Magnus Ramage	Central	to 31.08.2026
Dr James Hague	Central	to 31.08.2026
Dr Helen Fraser	Central	to 31.08.2026
Dr Susanne P Schwenzer	Central	to 31.08.2026
Professor Sally Jordan	Central	to 31.08.2026
Frances Chetwynd	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Jill Shaw	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Dr Kambiz Saber-Sheikh	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Professor Richard Holliman	Central	to 31.08.2026
Professor Monica Grady	Central	to 31.08.2026

Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS)

Dr Carol Azumah Dennis	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr Severine Hubscher-Davidson	Central	to 31.08.2024
Professor Jonathan Rix	Central	to 31.08.2024
Dr Mark Addis	Central	to 31.08.2024
Professor Joan Simons	Central	to 31.08.2024

Dr Elodie Vialleton	Central	to 31.08.2024
Bärbel Brash	National	to 31.08.2026
Judy Chandler	Central	to 31.08.2026
Dr Gillian Ferguson	Central	to 31.08.2026
Steph Doehler	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Paulette Johnson	Regional	to 31.08.2026
Mel Green	Central	to 31.08.2026

Institute of Education Technology (WELS)

Professor Eileen Scanlon		to 31.08.2026
Professor Rebecca Ferguson		to 31.08.2026
Dr Maria Aristeidou		to 31.08.2026

Other Central Units

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

Jennie McAleese	WELS	to 31.08.2024
Dr Sue McKeogh	WELS	to 31.08.2024
Mike Hay	STEM	to 31.08.2024
Rob Parker	FBL	to 31.08.2024
Mary Shek	FBL	to 31.08.2024
Emily Skye	FASS	to 31.08.2024
EUR ING Tony Cox	STEM	to 31.08.2024

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

Margaret Greenaway	President	to 31.07.2024
Laura Marulanda-Carter	Vice President, Education	to 31.07.2024
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

- 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.

Jonathan Nimmo	Academic Services and SRF Central	to 31.08.2024
Elaine Walker	Academic Services and SRF Regional	to 31.08.2024
Jane Ball	Estates	to 31.08.2024
Dr Hossam Kassem	Library Services	to 31.08.2024
Julie Gowen	PVC (Students)	to 31.08.2024
Dr Franziska Florack	RES	to 31.08.2024
Caitlin Harvey	WELS	to 31.08.2024
Dr Rachel Leslie	Academic Services and SRF National	to 31.08.2026
Paris Graham	Academic Services and SRF Central	to 31.08.2026

* Namely, the Secretary, the Head of Governance, the Senior Managers (Governance Team) and the Managers (Governance Team).

Ellen Cocking	Academic Services and SRF	to 31.08.2026
Kit Power	STEM	to 31.08.2026
Paul Farrington	WELS	to 31.08.2026
Rukhsana Malik	Academic Services and SRF Central	to 31.08.2026
Dr Caitlin Adams	FASS	to 31.08.2026

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.

John D'Arcy	Director, Ireland	to 31.08.2026
Susan Stewart	Director, Scotland	to 31.08.2026
Vacancy	Graduate	
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

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.

THE SENATE

THE ROLE OF THE SENATE - UPDATED 27.09.2010

- 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.
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THE SENATE

THE ROLE OF SENATE MEMBERS - UPDATED 26.03.2018

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.
