



Statute No. 5 – Academic Council

This Statute should be read in conjunction with Academic Council Regulations

1. The Academic Council shall be a committee constituted by this Statute for the purposes of section 18(1) of the Act and is the principal academic body of the University. Subject to the authority of the Senate, the functions of the Academic Council are:
 - a. to determine the policies of the University on academic aspects of the University, including teaching and learning, admission of students, credit for prior learning, assessment and academic progress of students, and research, and to make Rules on such matters where it deems this appropriate;
 - b. to determine the degrees, courses and majors to be offered by the University, subject to the authority of the Vice Chancellor as chief executive officer and academic principal of the University;
 - c. to recommend to the Senate on the making, amending or repealing of Regulations concerning the requirements for the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates (other than honorary awards), and the School Regulations; Senate shall make or amend Regulations in these areas only after considering the advice of the Council;
 - d. to conduct periodic reviews of the quality of teaching and research within Schools and review progress on action plans arising from these reviews;
 - e. to award degrees, diplomas and certificates on behalf of the Senate;
 - f. to award University Medals;
 - g. to perform such other functions conferred on Council by Statute, Regulations or resolution of the Senate;
 - h. to advise the Senate and the Vice Chancellor on the University's strategic plan, on any matters either of them refer to it, and on any broad issues of importance to the academic life of the University community;
 - i. to consider the academic implications of the budget prior to Senate approval;
 - j. to report annually to Senate on academic quality and equity outcomes;
 - k. to consider reports and recommendations from the University Community on any matters relevant to the functions of Council.
2. The members of the Academic Council shall be prescribed in the Academic Council Regulations made under this Statute.
3.
 - (1) Elections for the President and members of the Academic Council shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Election Regulations.
 - (2) The President and elected staff members of Council shall hold office for three calendar years. The elected student members shall hold office for one calendar year.
 - (3) The election of staff members to Council shall be as set out in the Academic Council Regulations made under this Statute.

- (4) Any elected member shall cease to hold office when he or she ceases to be eligible for election to that position, or resigns. The following arrangements shall apply for filling casual vacancies:
- President of Council: an election shall be held to fill the balance of the term.
 - Elected staff member: an election shall be held to fill the balance of the member's term, unless that balance is less than six months.
 - Elected student member: the Secretariat of the Guild of Students shall appoint a replacement member from among those students eligible for election to the position.
- (5) An elected member who has served two successive terms is not eligible for re-election until twelve months after the second term expires.
4. The Council shall appoint a Deputy President from among its elected members, to hold office for a calendar year. In the absence of the President of the Academic Council the Deputy President shall act as Chair at any meeting. In the absence of the President and Deputy President the Council shall elect a Chair for the meeting.
5. (1) Each member shall have a deliberative vote at any meeting of the Academic Council and where there is an equality of votes, the Chair shall have the casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.
- (2) A meeting of the Academic Council may be held at any time on the initiative of the Vice-Chancellor or President of the Academic Council. A meeting shall be held within fourteen days after lodgement with the Secretary of a request for a meeting signed by not less than three members of the Academic Council.
- (3) The position of any elected or co-opted member of the Academic Council who has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Council, without leave of the Council, shall become vacant.
6. The Academic Council may delegate any of its powers and responsibilities to the President of the Academic Council, to its committees or to a member of staff of the University.

Related Documents:

Academic Council Regulations

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Note: All enquiries relating to Legislation should be referred to the University Secretary's Office.