

Guide to understanding the Governance Effectiveness Review

Governance, as with much of Higher Education, has its own terminology and acronyms. This document aims to support members of the community to read the Governance Effectiveness Review. The review was undertaken by Halpin, an independent Higher Education specialist consulting firm.

The review assessed the effectiveness of Council, effectiveness of Senate and the effectiveness of the relationship between the two bodies. This summary focuses on these key matters and should not be seen as a substitute for reading the whole review which provides additional context and information which informed their assessments.

Key terms and bodies referenced

Chair: The Chair provides leadership and support to the Council. The Chair is appointed by the Council and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the University. The Chair is not paid for their role. Individuals are vetted and interviewed before being formally appointed by Council. Individuals are recruited on the basis of their skills and experience which support the business of the University.

Member: Individuals who sit on a committee or Board. No matter what category of member individuals are, all members have the same duties to support the business of the committee.

Office for Students: The Higher Education Sector's regulator. All Higher Education Providers are required to comply with a set of conditions prescribed by the Office for Students. Prescribing to these conditions allows us to be a registered provider which means our students can access student loans, we can charge student fees, we can receive additional funding to support our business amongst other things.

Public Interest governance principles: Academic Freedom, Academic Governance, Accountability, Fit and Proper, Freedom of Speech, Governing Body, Risk Management, Student engagement and Value for Money

Regulations: Regulations are internal documents which provide further information about officers of the University and set out processes and procedures used to govern the University.

Schedule of delegation: Schedule of delegation sets out how the powers of Council (Supreme Body) are delegated to committees, Boards and individuals within the University.

Secretary: The Committee Secretary is not just a note-

trust between ex-officio and elected members were low. Halpin make recommendations to reform and relaunch Senate as an academic space.

Relationship between Council and Senate

Halpin outlined that the relationship between Council and Senate is not where it needs to be. Institutional culture and atmosphere both need to improve, and Council and Senate need to ensure they are both fulfilling their constitutional role to enable them to improve their relationship together.