



## Governance Framework and Delegated Authority

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<b>Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:governance@hull.ac.uk">governance@hull.ac.uk</a>
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# Governance Framework and Delegated Authority

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# Governance Framework and Delegated Authority

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Governance Framework is produced to help communicate the high-level governance of University of Hull.
- 1.2 The framework lists known responsibilities and accountabilities, firstly at an institutional level and then at a Faculty/School or Directorate level. The key elements of the approach that has been adopted are:
  - 1.3 To outline briefly the key responsibilities of the main University committees
    - To set out the high-level approach to academic governance
    - To note from where the specific authority derives (Statutes, Ordinances, role descriptions and other regulations)
- 1.4 In designing and reviewing the University's governance, it is important to recognise its various roles:
  - As a leading teaching and research University, with a global profile
  - That particular aspects of the University's work and activities will be regulated by other bodies (including but not limited to, Office for Students, Charity Commission, Health and Safety Executive etc.)
  - As an institution with a unique public profile in the context of the region
- 1.5 As an enterprise with commercial activities and interests which are integral to the achievement of its objectives
- 1.6 The framework is subject to review on an annual basis by the Governance & Nominations Committee, recommending changes to Council where required.

## **2 University Constitution & Council**

### **A Constitutional Framework**

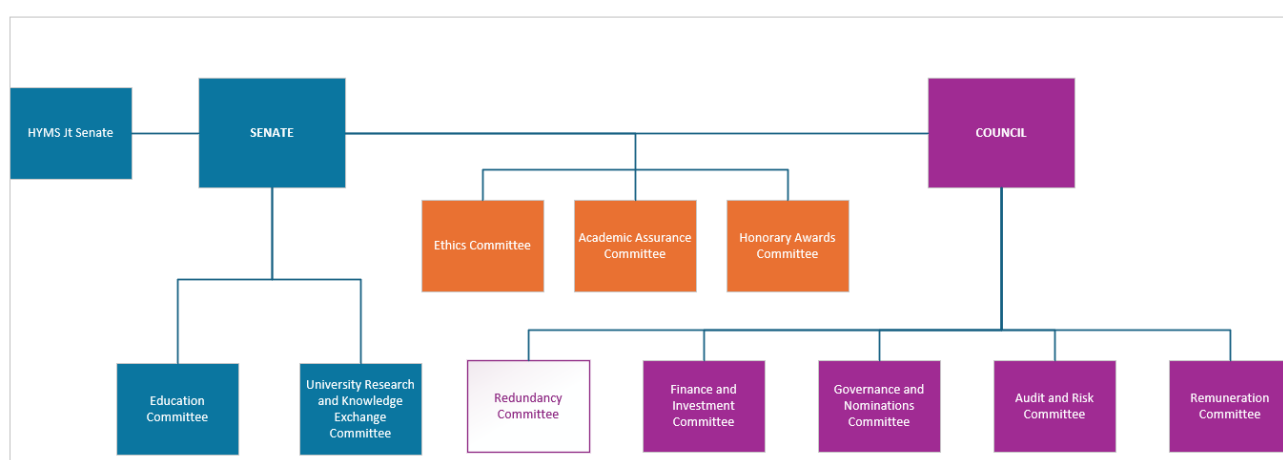
- 2.1 The University's governance arrangements are set out in the [Charter, Statutes, Ordinances](#) and other regulations of the University. This Governance Framework provides an outline of the key instruments and principles of governance as they apply to Council and the executive management of the University.
- 2.2 The Charter was first granted in 1954. Prior to this, the University College of Hull was incorporated in 1927. The Charter sets out the purpose and powers of University of Hull. Embodied within it are fundamental principles such as the University's power to teach, examine, carry out research and award degrees. Any changes to the Charter require approval from the Privy Council on behalf of His Majesty the King.
- 2.3 The Statutes amplify the Charter and set out the fundamental structure of the University and, amongst other things, sets out the roles of the Officers of the University (Chancellor; Chair of Council; and Vice Chancellor) and key bodies (including Council and Senate). Changes to the Statutes require approval from the Privy Council on behalf of His Majesty the King.
- 2.4 The Ordinances are set by Council and give practical details concerning the way the University is governed within the framework established by the Charter and Statutes.
- 2.5 The Schedule of Delegated Authority sets out where authority has been delegated from Council or Senate to other bodies, Officers or senior staff of the University.
- 2.6 University Regulations and University Policies provide the next layer of granular direction on how business must be conducted and set out the expectations on individuals and groups. Together, these provide detail on the framework that supports the University to operate in line with the requirements of its constitution; its Strategy and Plan; and the various legal or regulatory requirements that apply.

### **B Council: The Governing Body**

- 2.7 [Council](#) is the supreme authority of the University, which means that it is ultimately accountable for the conduct and activity of the University and its representatives. This role is articulated through the Charter and Statutes:
  - “There shall be a Council of the University which subject to the Statutes of the University shall be the governing body of the University and shall have the custody and use of the Common Seal, the management and administration of the whole revenue and property of the University and the conduct of all the affairs of the University and all such other powers and duties as may be conferred upon it by Statute or Ordinance.” (Charter Article 4).
- 2.8 Council has delegated a number of academic matters to Senate, which is the senior forum to shape academic strategy and ensure that University achieves its academic objectives (see Education Governance Section).
- 2.9 The Council can delegate some its powers and duties to Committees and other bodies set up by Council; joint Committees established with Senate; the Vice-Chancellor; or

other Officers of University of Hull. Where these delegations are made, the Council retains accountability and must exercise due diligence to ensure the competence of the individual or body to whom the delegation is made and maintain appropriate oversight of how the individual or body is exercising its authority. Council has a number of reserved powers, specified in the Charter, that it cannot delegate, such as appointment of the Vice-Chancellor or approval of the annual financial accounts (See Section 11).

- 2.10 Council has established four major Committees: Audit and Risk, Governance and Nominations, Finance and Investment and Remuneration. Each Committee has the authority to create further Sub-Committees as is appropriate for it to discharge its business. A diagram showing all the major and Sub-Committees of Council and Senate is included below (Fig. 1). For further information on the role of Senate see the section on Education Governance below.



*Fig. 1 University of Hull Committee Structure*

- 2.11 The full terms of reference for all the major Committees and Sub-Committees of Council and Senate are [published](#) internally.
- 2.12 Student representation is an important aspect of the University's governance and Hull University Students' Union has seats on Council, Senate, Governance and Nominations Committee, Finance & Investment Committee, Honorary Awards Committee, Remuneration Committee and all of Senate's sub committees.

### **3 Education Governance**

#### **A Overview**

- 3.1 As referenced above (2.7), the Council is the supreme authority in respect of all aspects of the University, although it places reliance on Senate to govern the academic matters of the University. In turn, Senate has established Sub-Committees to support it in discharging its responsibilities, such as the Education Committee and Academic Assurance Committee and University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee.

#### **B Academic Freedom**

- 3.2 The principle of Academic Freedom is critical to considering the relationship between Council and Senate in matters of academic governance. The Council should not position itself, or Senate, to impinge on the right of the academic staff to pursue legitimate lines of intellectual inquiry or develop appropriate mechanisms for the delivery of education to the University's students. However, Council does need to discharge its responsibility for these aspects of the University. Therefore, the Senate and its Committees report to Council on a regular basis to ensure that oversight can be maintained but are afforded a high degree of autonomy in respect of academic matters. Council also approves the University's overarching Ethics Framework.

#### **C Senate**

- 3.3 As noted above, Senate is established by the University's Charter, which gives it:
- “...delegated authority from the Council to oversee the academic work of the University, the enhancement of academic quality and assurance of academic standards, and the regulation of student discipline...” (Charter Article 8).
- 3.4 The Charter recognises that these responsibilities are subject to the powers of the Council and that the activities that allow these responsibilities to be discharged are prescribed through the Ordinances (specifically Ordinance 11).
- 3.5 The Chair of the Senate is Vice-Chancellor of the University, who is also the Chief Academic Officer of the University, and its Chief Executive Officer.
- 3.6 Senate has established two major Committees and two joint Committees of Council and Senate to support it in the discharge of its responsibilities. The two major Committees of Senate are the Education Committee and the University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee. The full terms of reference are [published](#).
- 3.7 The details of other Committees and groups, (including the Honorary Awards Committee and the University Ethics Committee which are joint Committees of Senate and Council), are [published](#).

#### **D Academic Assurance**

- 3.8 Academic Assurance Committee is responsible for receiving assurance that academic governance is robust and effective and for providing assurance to Senate and Council

on academic standards and the integrity of academic qualifications.

- 3.9 Its Terms of Reference are to satisfy itself that satisfactory arrangements are in place to enable the Senate and Council to discharge its duties relating to academic assurance and the Office for Students' Conditions of Registration relating to quality and standards (Conditions B1 – B5) and provide an annual opinion to Senate and Council on the same.
- 3.10 The Committee carries out this function by receiving a number of reports from professional support areas and other committees, reviewing and producing an annual report.

#### **4 University Executive Management**

##### **A Vice-Chancellor**

- 4.1 “There shall be a Vice-Chancellor of the University who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the University” who, “...is responsible to Council for maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University.” (Charter Article 13 and Ordinance 4).
- 4.2 The formal and wide-ranging responsibilities that rest within the remit of the Vice-Chancellor include:
- Overall leadership and management of the University;
  - Overall financial and academic mission of the University;
  - Promoting and advocating the University globally, nationally, and locally;
  - Upholding excellent standards of accountability across the University, and excellent standards of corporate governance;
  - As the Accountable Officer, being personally accountable to the governing body and to government, including through the Office for Students, for the University's affairs.

##### **B University Leadership Team (ULT)**

- 4.3 ULT is managerially responsible to Council for developing and implementing University strategy and providing leadership of the day-to-day operation of the University, ensuring that the University responds in a timely way to risk and takes advantage of new opportunities.
- 4.4 The terms of reference for ULT are set by the Vice-Chancellor, under whose authority the Committee meets.
- 4.5 The membership of ULT is:
- Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
  - Deputy Vice-Chancellor
  - Chief Finance Officer
  - Chief Operating Officer
  - University Secretary, Registrar and Chief Compliance Officer
  - Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)
  - Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)
  - Executive Deans of each Faculty

ULT has several groups reporting to it, as follows:

Apprenticeship Governance Board
CEG Partnership Board
CIB
CIC
EDI Governance Board
Establishment Control Board
Estates Strategy Group
Ferens Fine Art Committee
HYMS Strategic Planning Group
Information Governance Committee
International Strategy Board
Library Resources Funding Committee
People and Organisational Development – Policy Working Group
Strategic Portfolio Board
Sustainability Board
TRAC Steering Group
UJCC
University Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee

*Fig. 2 ULT groups*

4.6 ULT's advice to the Vice-Chancellor encompasses, but is not limited to the following:

- Developing and implementing vision, strategy and key performance indicators
- Monitoring and reviewing operating and financial performance
- Overseeing the annual planning process
- Monitoring and taking responsibility for the management of key institutional risks and their mitigation
- Prioritisation and allocation of resources
- Monitoring the external environment, including market drivers, across the University's academic areas
- Proposing the University budget and financial forecasts to Council



- 4.7 The business of the University is structured into portfolios. Responsibility and accountability for each portfolio is assigned to a member of ULT. However, the University is led and managed as a single whole and members of ULT have both a portfolio and a corporate responsibility.

C The Deputy Vice-Chancellor

- 4.8 The Vice-Chancellor appoints a Deputy Vice-Chancellor after consideration of a Report from a Senior Appointments Committee. The Vice-Chancellor may decide to undertake a process involving external advertising and recruitment.
- 4.9 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor is classed as a senior PVC and leads on all core academic activity and contributes to the development of, and shares responsibility for, University wide strategic initiatives and policy.
- 4.10 As a key member of the University Leadership Team, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor directly manages the Executive Deans of our faculties and works closely with other senior Academic and Professional Service colleagues, the University Council, the Senate, other University committees and the Students' Union, deputising for the Vice-Chancellor as required and personally leading a number of senior committees, strategic agendas and work streams.

D The Chief Operating Officer

- 4.11 The Chief Operating Officer is responsible and accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for the operational good order, efficiency and effectiveness of the University's Professional services and the implementation of the University's strategy which includes: the leadership, integration and cost effectiveness of services which support and implement the University's academic and student strategies and enable the University to fulfil its ambition as set out in its Strategic Plan.

E The Chief Finance Officer

- 4.12 The Chief Finance Officer is responsible and accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for the overall financial management of the University of Hull including:

- maintaining financial reporting, budgeting and forecasting systems and processes that provide effective financial operation, control and management information
- developing and implementing consistent financial policies, guidelines and procurement processes which comply with statutory requirements and secure value for money
- ensuring compliance with the financial requirements and reporting of statutory bodies such as the OfS, Research councils and other funders
- managing investments and banking arrangements
- managing the University's pension interests together with the Chief Operating Officer

- 4.13 In addition, the Chief Finance Officer works with ULT colleagues to:

- provide financial and commercial oversight of the University's estates capital and maintenance programme, including investment appraisal, financial monitoring and commercial oversight of pre and post contract award
- provide financial oversight for the portfolio of research grants and contracts
- oversee the University's subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures

#### F The University Secretary, Registrar and Chief Compliance Officer (USRCCO)

- 4.14 The University Secretary, Registrar and Chief Compliance Officer is accountable to the Vice-Chancellor and responsible to the Chair of Council. The USRCCO is responsible for advising the governing body and its sub-committees on the proper exercise of their powers and on the application of the requirements of the OfS and other legislation affecting its work. The role acts as Secretary to the Council.
- 4.15 The role provides strategic leadership to Academic Services; the University Library; Apprenticeships Funding and Compliance; Governance; Health and Safety and Information Compliance.

#### G The Pro Vice-Chancellors

- 4.16 One or more Pro Vice-Chancellors shall from time to time be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor after consideration of a Report from a Senior Appointments Committee.
- 4.17 The Pro Vice-Chancellors work closely with the Deans and Professional Service Directors to support the attainment of each area's vision and performance objectives and coordinate their contribution to the University strategy. The Pro Vice-Chancellors have responsibilities with regard to their specific portfolios but also share in institutional management and lead and participate in pan-University projects.
- 4.18 The Vice-Chancellor may undertake a process involving external advertising and recruitment. (Ordinance 5)

#### H Executive Deans

- 4.19 There are three Executive Dean roles:
- Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering
  - Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Social Sciences and Education
  - Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences
- 4.20 The Executive Deans shall be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor after consideration of a report from a Senior Appointments Committee (Ordinance 6)
- 4.21 The Executive Deans provide academic and strategic leadership and vision for their Faculty. They are the senior executive of their Faculty and are accountable to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for its effective, efficient and transparent leadership, management and administration.
- 4.22 Executive Deans have overall accountability for their Faculty's contribution to the delivery and promotion of the University's vision, mission, strategic plans, objectives

and key performance indicators.

## **5 Finance, Seal and Business Continuity**

### **A Budgetary Responsibility**

- 5.1 The Council, with recommendation from the Finance and Investment Committee, sets the annual budget, in accordance with approved strategy and taking into account the financial condition of the University.
- 5.2 Within the framework of the overall budget set by Council, budgetary delegation has been agreed as per the Financial Regulations.
- 5.3 Each University budget holder can delegate financial responsibility and accountability within the budget, but the overall responsibility and accountability of the Faculty or Professional Services budget remains with the University budget holder.
- 5.4 The extent of the financial delegation will be a matter for each University budget holder to determine within the authorisation limits specified within the Financial Regulations.
- 5.5 Where Pro Vice-Chancellors put forward specific projects / initiatives that might involve Faculty or Professional Services resources, the impact on the Faculty or the Professional Services budget will be assessed by the Faculty, the Chief Operating Officer and the University Leadership Team before being given final approval.

### **B University Seal**

- 5.6 “Any contract, which if made between private persons would be by law required to be in writing and if made according to English law to be under Seal, may be made on behalf of the University in writing under its Common Seal and such contract may be in the same manner varied or discharged.” (Ordinance 28)
- 5.7 Requests for the application of the Seal to execute the purchase, sale or lease of land or property must be made to the USRCCO, following the [approved process](#).

### **C Major Incidents and Business Continuity**

- 5.8 The University has an Incident Management Plan which sets out processes, definitions and Incident Management Team membership for a major incident. Responsibility for convening the Major Incident Team is delegated from the Vice-Chancellor to the USRCCO. The Vice-Chancellor may also set up Task & Finish Groups to respond to specific situations and/or address business continuity matters.

## **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 The University framework for risk management is governed by the [Risk Management Policy](#) and the related [Risk Management Procedure](#).
- 6.2 There are local risk registers managed by local managers, and an Institutional Risk

Register, available online ([Risk Management](#)).

- 6.3 The Risk Management framework is managed by the University Secretary, Registrar and Chief Compliance Officer.

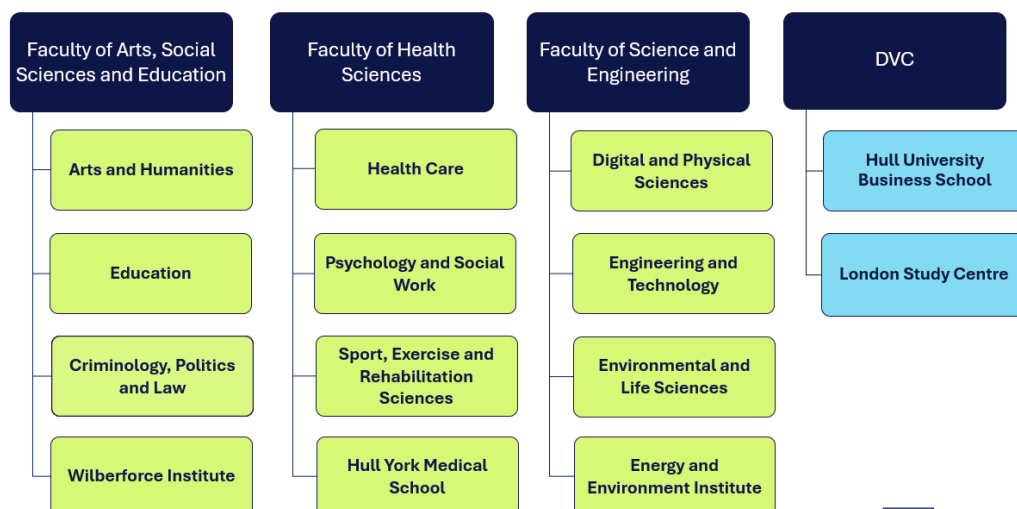
## 7 Statutory Returns

- 7.1 The main statutory returns of the University are managed through the Strategy and Insight team. They produce an annual plan of reports and returns which is received by the Audit and Risk Committee.
- 7.2 An annual Statutory Reporting Audit Assurance report is then produced for the Audit and Risk Committee, to inform their opinion of the data reporting capabilities and processes of the University. This opinion feeds into the ARC annual report to Council, for assurance purposes.

## 8 Faculties & Schools

- 8.1 The list of faculties is set out in Ordinance 14. Each Faculty comprises a group of Schools and may also contain other academic units or institutes (see Fig. 3).

### Faculty Structure



26 March 2025 - Senate approved



Fig. 3: Faculty structure

### B The Role of Faculties

- 8.2 There are three Faculties, comprising groups of Schools. The role of Faculties is:
- To increase accountability
  - To enable more effective provision of services to academic schools
  - To support the University's strategy
- 8.3 In addition to the three Faculties, Hull University Business School is a stand-alone

school outside the faculty structure, reporting directly to the DVC in the management structure.

C Faculty Constitution

- 8.4 “The University shall have a Model Faculty Constitution, approved by Council. Amendments to the Model Faculty Constitution shall be approved by Council on the recommendation of Senate.” (Ordinance 14)
- 8.5 “Each Faculty shall have a Faculty Constitution approved by Senate. Amendments to Faculty Constitutions shall be considered in like manner.” (Ordinance 14). HUBS also has a constitution, approved in the same manner.
- 8.6 Ordinance 14 sets out the provisions of the Faculty Constitution.

D Schools and other academic units within Faculties

- 8.7 Schools and other academic units may be established, dissolved or otherwise re-organised.
- 8.8 Council has the power to “establish, abolish, combine or subdivide Faculties in consultation with Senate;” (Charter 5 – 15)
- 8.9 Senate has the power to “establish, abolish, combine or subdivide any department, school, institute or centre within a Faculty;”

E Head of School

- 8.10 The Head of School will be accountable to the Executive Dean for the management and leadership of the School. The Head of School will line manage any heads of department or section within the School. In addition to fulfilling these managerial responsibilities the Head of School is expected to make a substantial contribution to the setting of strategy and direction within the relevant Faculty.
- 8.11 A Head of School may be appointed by the Executive Dean, either from among the senior Academic Staff and following consultation within the relevant School or through open advertisement and recruitment.

## 9 Professional Services

- 9.1 The term “professional services” can be defined as “the non-academic departments and staff that support the institution's core functions. This includes administrative, technical, and operational roles such as finance, human resources, IT, estates, marketing, and student support services, enabling the effective delivery of teaching, research, and student experience.”
- 9.2 The Chief Operating Officer, Chief Finance Officer and USRCCO are accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for all professional services.
- 9.3 The professional services comprise several Departments as well as professional services colleagues working in Faculties and Schools. Larger Departments may be divided into sub-divisions. The structure of the professional services is set out in Fig. 4.

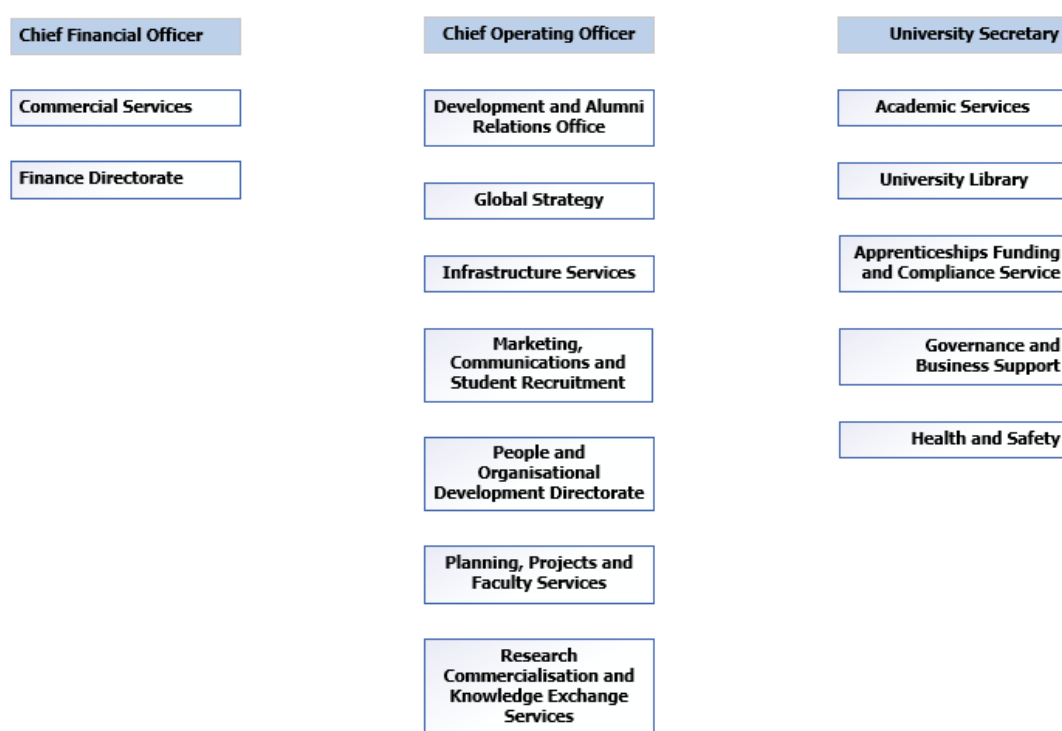


Fig. 4 Professional Services Structure

## 10 Governance Processes

### A Standing Orders

- 10.1 Formal committees are run in accordance with the Standing Orders of the University, which are reviewed annually.

### B Group Definitions

- 10.2 In UK Higher Education (HE), institutions typically use a variety of committees and groups to manage and oversee different aspects of governance, operations, and academic work. Each type of body has a specific role and scope. Below is an overview of the key distinctions between the various types.

### 10.3 Committee

A committee is a formal group typically responsible for decision-making or oversight in a particular area of university governance or management. Committees often operate with a well-defined remit and meet regularly. They are usually composed of senior staff, academic and PSS staff and sometimes student representatives. Examples in Hull would include Education Committee, Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee, Finance and Investment Committee or Audit and Risk Committee.

Role: Formal decision-making or advisory.

Example areas: Academic quality and standards, finance, governance, research.

### 10.4 Sub-Committee

A sub-committee is a smaller group created by a main committee to focus on more specific tasks or areas. It reports back to the parent committee and typically has a narrower focus. Sub-committees often handle more detailed work that feeds into the broader remit of the main committee.

Role: Support the work of a parent committee through detailed focus on specific issues.

Example areas: Assessment review, equality and diversity.

### 10.5 Board

A board generally has a broader, more strategic role compared to committees. In HE, boards often focus on institutional governance, strategy, and high-level oversight. Council is the main example. Boards are usually composed of senior management, external experts, and other key stakeholders.

Role: Strategic oversight and governance.

Example areas: Overall institutional governance, academic policy.

### 10.6 Working Group

A working group is usually an ad hoc or temporary group formed to address a particular issue or project. They tend to be less formal than committees and focus on problem-solving, research, or the development of specific proposals. Working groups should have a defined timeline and dissolve after completing their objectives.

Role: Problem-solving, research, or project-based tasks.

Example areas: Curriculum review, policy development.

### 10.7 Panel

A panel is often a group formed to make decisions or evaluations, such as in recruitment or assessment processes. Panels are usually convened for specific purposes, like selecting candidates for a position or evaluating research funding applications. At Hull, panels might also be used in appeals or disciplinary contexts.

Role: Decision-making or evaluation for specific cases.

Example areas: Recruitment panels, appeals panels.

### 10.8 Task Force

A task force is similar to a working group but tends to focus on urgent or complex issues that require swift, high-priority attention. It may include experts from different areas and operates temporarily until the issue is resolved or recommendations are made.

Role: Address urgent or complex issues.

Example areas: Crisis management, urgent reviews.

#### 10.9 Executive Teams

Executive teams play a critical role in institutional management and decision-making. At University level, these meetings typically involve senior leaders of the institution, such as the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and other senior officers responsible for the university's operations. Executive team meetings focus on operational leadership, financial oversight, institutional strategy, and responses to emerging challenges.

Role: High-level decision-making on university-wide issues, operational oversight, and strategic planning.

Example areas: Institutional strategy, staffing, student recruitment



## 10.10 Summary

Type	E.g.	Role	Scope	Formality*	Permanence
<b>Committee</b>	FIC, ARC	Decision-making or advisory	Specific areas	Formal	Permanent
<b>Sub-Committee</b>	Research Degrees Committee	Detailed work under a main committee	Narrow focus	Formal	Permanent
<b>Board</b>	Council	Strategic oversight	Broad, governance	Highly formal	Permanent
<b>Working Group</b>		Problem-solving or project-based	Specific issue or project	Less formal	Temporary
<b>Panel</b>		Evaluation or decision-making	Specific cases (e.g., new programmes, appeals)	Formal	Temporary
<b>Task Force</b>		Addressing urgent issues	High-priority, complex issues	Less formal	Temporary
<b>Executive Team Meetings</b>	ULT	Senior management decision-making and strategic planning	Institution-wide	Highly formal	Permanent

\*A **formal committee** in this context can be defined as a structured group with a clearly defined remit, operating under institutional governance frameworks. Formal committees are characterised by:

- Regularly scheduled meetings.
- Requirement for agenda preparation, paper submission, and formal minutes.
- Designated membership, including senior staff or stakeholders.
- Established reporting lines to higher governance bodies.
- Decision-making authority or advisory responsibilities on strategic or operational issues

## **11 Delegation of Authority**

- 11.1 Council is the overall governing body of the University and carries unambiguous, collective responsibility for overseeing the institution's activities, and for determining its academic mission and strategic direction.
- 11.2 Council takes all final decisions on matters of fundamental concern to the institution. The necessary powers to take such decisions are reserved to Council and consequently they will not be delegated to any other committee or individual. Powers not so reserved may be delegated as Council deems appropriate. However, having delegated authority to other bodies or individuals to act on its behalf Council, as the University's governing body, nevertheless remains ultimately accountable and must accept corporate responsibility for the actions taken.
- 11.3 The Schedule of Delegated Authority is listed in Appendix A.

## **12 Version control**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Date approved</b>	<b>Relevant sections</b>
0.1	Governance Manager		Initial version
0.2	Governance Manager		Amended following feedback incl. from GNC.

### **13 Appendix A – Delegated Authority**

- 13.1 This Schedule is focused on decision-making processes for key operational and technical matters. It is not concerned with routine decisions taken by local managers as a basic part of their day-to-day duties.
- 13.2 This Schedule confirms the location of specific powers for certain key decisions to be made in the name of the University of Hull. It is not intended to be a full and complete description of the roles, remits, responsibilities and powers of all University bodies and individuals. Typically, such authority will be set out within the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances; a specific Committee's terms of reference; or rest with individual senior officers.
- 13.3 Where an unreserved power has been delegated to an individual it should be assumed that, unless specified to the contrary in this Schedule, a nominated deputy or alternate may exercise the same power in the absence or non-availability of the designated post-holder. For the avoidance of doubt, a Pro-Vice-Chancellor is authorised to exercise all of the unreserved powers listed under the Vice-Chancellor.
- 13.4 In exercising their delegated powers under this Schedule decision-makers (a decision-maker may either be an individual or a committee) **MUST**:
- act in the best interests of the University, its staff and students, and not under the direction of a third party
  - act in accordance with the University's strategic objectives; its rules, regulations and procedures; and within any budgetary or legal constraints
  - act within the scope of their powers – no decision-maker holds unfettered authority to make decisions on matters outside the scope of this Schedule
  - act reasonably, impartially and in good faith when reaching a decision
  - decline to handle matters in which they have an actual or perceived (whether fairly or not) conflict of interest
  - exercise procedural fairness by consulting appropriately with other officers, individuals or groups who have a legitimate interest in the matter at hand, and keeping them informed of developments
  - make their final decision having given fair weight to all available evidence, feedback and advice
  - inform all parties of the outcome, and be prepared to give reasons
  - report to Council, Senate or the relevant Committee, as appropriate, on all significant decisions taken.
- 13.5 With the exception of any specific powers included on the list below, this Schedule is generally not concerned with the location of authority for the approval of financial decisions such as the authorisation of purchase orders, invoices and expenses claims; or for decisions regarding the deployment of resources available within approved area plans. Authorisation levels for such transactions are set out in the University's Financial and Procurement regulations.
- 13.6 Within the Schedule below, the following definitions apply:
- 13.7 **Major**  
For the purposes of this Schedule, the term "*major*" refers to decisions or changes that

are likely to have a substantial impact on the University's strategic direction, financial position, regulatory compliance, institutional reputation, or operational capacity. This may include (but is not limited to) decisions involving:

- Financial commitments exceeding an agreed threshold;
- Substantive amendments to statutory documents, policies, or strategic frameworks;
- High-profile external partnerships or ventures.

### 13.8 **Significant**

The term "*significant*" refers to matters that, while not classed as major, are material in nature and could meaningfully affect performance, delivery, risk exposure, or public perception. This may include:

- Notable changes to service delivery, staff deployment, or resourcing;
- Issues that may generate reputational concern or stakeholder scrutiny;
- Compliance breaches or incidents requiring reporting to external regulators.

Decision Category	Responsible Authority	Conditions for Escalation
<b>Academic Governance and Quality Assurance</b>		
Academic Quality and Standards	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for fundamental changes
Academic Regulations	Senate	Reserved to Senate
Academic Strategy	Senate	Reserved to Senate
Approve new programmes	Senate - > Education Committee	
Approve new-thesis based research degrees	University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee ->Research Degrees Committee	
Code of Practice, Policies and Structural arrangements for the management of REF	University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee	
Closure or Suspension of Programmes	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Council if it affects strategic priorities
Collaborative Programmes	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Council for major collaborations
Degree Awards	Senate -> Programme Boards of Examiners / Research Degrees Committee	Escalates to Senate for exceptions
Education Strategy	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for approval
Establish, abolish, combine or subdivide faculties	Council - >Senate	Escalates to Council for structural changes
Examination & Assessment Policies	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for major changes
External Examiners	Senate -> University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (for research degrees)	Escalates to Senate for major concerns
External Examiners Taught Programmes and modules	Senate-> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for major concerns
Faculty Structure	Council -> Senate	Escalates to Council for structural changes
Knowledge Exchange Policies	University Research and Knowledge Exchange Policies	
Periodic Reviews of Academic Programmes	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for critical findings
Postgraduate Research Training Scheme	Research Degrees Committee	
Programme Accreditation Arrangements	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Council if linked to regulatory compliance

Programme Approval	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for major changes
Programme Regulations for research degree provision	Research Degrees Committee	
Register of End of Point Assessment Organisations	Apprenticeship Governance Board	
Research Policies, Codes of Practice and guidance	Senate -> University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee	Escalates to Senate for major amendments
Research Strategy	Senate -> University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee	Escalates to Senate for major strategic changes
Student Admissions Policies	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for fundamental changes
Student Employability Strategy	Education Committee	
University Information Governance Policy Framework	Information Governance Committee	
University Research Governance	Senate -> University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee	Escalates to Senate for major governance changes
University's Engagement with TEF	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for major concerns
<b>Financial and Investment Oversight</b>		
Alumni Fundraising and Campaigns	Executive Director, Development & Alumni Relations	Escalates to VC for high-profile campaigns
Ferens Fine Art Trust Fund	Ferens Fine Art Committee	
Financial Forecasts	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for approval
Financial Investments and Borrowings	Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for projects exceeding budget
Financial Oversight	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for strategic changes
Major Donations and Philanthropic Contributions	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council if conditions exceed standard governance thresholds
Major IT and Infrastructure Projects	Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for projects exceeding budget
Management of University Estates	Director of Estates Development and Operations	Escalates to CFO for major projects
Sell, buy, exchange, lease and accept leases of real and personal estate on behalf of the University	Council	Reserved to Council

Remuneration Policies	Remuneration Committee	Escalates to Council for strategic changes
University Art Collection	Ferens Fine Art Committee -> Director of Fine Art	
University Borrowing	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for major borrowing decisions
University Budget	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for final approval
University Endowment and Trust Fund Policies	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for strategic changes
University Investment Policy	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for strategic changes
<b>Governance and Delegation</b>		
Approve bonus arrangements for Senior Staff	Remuneration Committee	
Approve pension arrangements to Senior Staff	Remuneration Committee	
Approve strategic investments	University Leadership Team	
Award research qualifications	Research Degrees Committee	
Award research training credits and qualifications	Research Degrees Committee	
Determine University fees	Council -> Senate-> Strategic Portfolio Board	Reserved to Council
Financial and operational controls and risk assessment	Council -> Audit and Risk Committee	Escalated to Council for major changes
Internal control and risk management	Audit and Risk Committee	
Invest University funds	Council	Reserved to Council
Make research policy	Senate	Reserved to Senate
Oversee financial investments	Finance and Investment Committee	
Recommend Council members	Governance and Nominations Committee	Escalate to Council for final approval
Regulate student discipline	Senate -> Vice-Chancellor	Escalate to Council for approval
Regulate teaching and examinations	Senate	
Review University work and strategic direction	Council	Reserved to Council

Select a Seal, Arms and Mace for the University and have sole custody and use of the Seal	Council	Reserved to Council
Senior Staff Appointments (Professors, Directors)	Vice-Chancellor -> Selection Panel	Escalates to Council for VC-level
Senior Staff Appointments (VC, Secretary)	Council	Reserved to Council
Set senior staff salaries	Remuneration Committee	
Student discipline and progression	University Secretary, Registrar and Chief Compliance Officer	
<b>Governance &amp; Strategic Oversight</b>		
Appointment of Chancellor and Pro-Chancellors	Council	Reserved to Council
Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of Council	Council	Reserved to Council
Appointment of Council Members	Council -> Governance and Nominations Committee	Escalates to Council for final approval
Appointment of Vice-Chancellor	Council	Reserved to Council
Appointment of Auditors	Council	Reserved to Council
Award Degrees (other than Honorary Degrees), Diplomas and Certificates	Senate ->Programme Boards of Examiners (UG&PGT)/Research Degrees Committee (PGR)	
Award Degrees and other qualifications jointly with other higher education institutions	Senate ->Programme Boards of Examiners (excluding HYMS)	
Confer the title of Emeritus Professors	Senate	Reserved to Senate
Governance and Nominations	Council -> Governance and Nominations Committee	Escalates to Council for strategic appointments
Governance Framework and Delegated Authority	Council	Reserved to Council
Honorary Degrees	Senate -> Honorary Awards Committee -> Council	Reserved to Senate & Council
Review and Amendment of Ordinances and Regulations	Council -> Senate (Academic)	Escalates to Council for final approval
Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations	Council ->Senate	Reserved to Council
University Branding	Executive Director, Marketing and Student Recruitment Services	Escalates to VC for major branding changes
University Charter Amendments	Council	Reserved to Council



University Ethics Policies	University Ethics Committee	Escalates to Council & Senate for policy changes
University Governance	Council	Reserved to Council
University Mission and Strategic Objectives	Council	Reserved to Council
University Social Responsibility Initiatives	ULT -> Social Justice and Inclusion Board	Escalates to Council for significant commitments
University Strategy	Council	Reserved to Council
University Sustainability Policies	ULT -> Social Justice and Inclusion Board	Escalates to Council for major strategic changes
Widening Participation Strategies	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Council for major funding decisions
<b>Operational and Commercial Decisions</b>		
Act as Trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University	Council	Reserved to Council
Capital Projects	Finance and Investment Committee -> Chief Finance Officer	Escalates to Council for projects exceeding budget
Commercial Agreements and Partnerships	Vice-Chancellor -> ULT	Escalates to Council for strategic partnerships
Commercial Ventures and Business Partnerships	Vice-Chancellor -> ULT	Escalates to Council if financial exposure is significant
Enter into, vary, carry out and cancel contracts on behalf of the University	Council	Reserved to Council
Major Construction and Campus Development Projects	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for projects exceeding budget
Major External Branding Agreements	Vice-Chancellor -> Executive Director, Marketing and Student Recruitment Services	Escalates to Council if reputational risks are high
New Academic Partners	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for approval
Operational Strategies	ULT	Escalates to Council for strategic alignment
Research Contracts	Vice-Chancellor -> PVC (Research and Enterprise))	Escalates to Council for major research collaborations
University Intellectual Property & Patents	Senate -> University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee	Escalates to Council if IP is of strategic importance

University Marketing Strategies	ULT -> Executive Director, Marketing and Student Recruitment Services	Escalates to Council for strategic changes
University Subsidiary Companies and Spin-Out Ventures	Council -> Finance and Investment Committee	Escalates to Council for major commercial risks
<b>Risk and Compliance Management</b>		
Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policies	Council -> Audit and Risk Committee	Escalates to Council for major legal issues
Audit and Internal Control Oversight	Audit and Risk Committee	Escalates to Council for compliance concerns
Health and Safety Policies	ULT -> University Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee	Escalates to Council for major risks
IT Security and Cyber Risk Policies	ULT -> Information Governance Committee	Escalates to Council for major data breaches
Legal Proceedings	Vice-Chancellor -> University Secretary, Registrar and Chief Compliance Officer	Escalates to Council for significant cases
People and Organisation Policies	ULT -> POD Policy Working Group	Escalates to Council for new and significant changes to existing policies
Risk Management	Council -> Audit and Risk Committee	Escalates to Council for major risks
University Environmental and Sustainability Compliance	ULT -> Social Justice and Inclusion Board	Escalates to Council for significant breaches
University Health and Safety Compliance	ULT -> University Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee	Escalates to Council for significant risks
University's Data Protection Compliance	ULT -> Information Governance Committee	Escalates to Audit Committee for compliance concerns
University Data Strategy	Information Governance Committee	
Whistleblowing and Public Interest Disclosure Policies	Council -> Audit and Risk Committee	Escalates to Council for significant cases
<b>Student Experience &amp; Support</b>		
Academic Appeals for research degree students	Research Degrees Committee	
Expel and student found or proved to have been guilty of grave misconduct	Council -> Senate	
Regulations for Student Conduct and Discipline	Senate -> Vice-Chancellor -> PVC (Education)	Escalates to Senate for systemic issues
Student Appeals and Complaints Processes	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for major changes

Student Complaints and Appeals Policies	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for major amendments
Student Discipline (General)	Senate -> Vice-Chancellor -> PVC (Education)	Escalates to Senate for severe cases
Student Employability Strategies	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for major changes
Student Expulsions	Vice-Chancellor -> PVC (Education)	Escalates to Council in exceptional cases
Student Fee Status (Exceptional Cases)	Executive Director, Marketing and Student Recruitment Services	Escalates to VC for highly contentious cases
Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Policies	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for major policy changes
Student Recruitment Strategies	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for strategic realignment
Student Support and Wellbeing Policies	Senate -> Education Committee	Escalates to Senate for strategic changes
University Fellowships, Studentships, Scholarships, Exhibitions and Prizes	Senate	Reserved to Senate