

Role Description for Members of the Senate

The Senate is responsible for regulating and directing the academic work of the University in both teaching and research and as such is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor as head of the institution.

Its membership is drawn from within the University and consists of academic members of the Senior Management Group (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellors and Academic Coordinators), the heads of each academic department (or named alternates), elected academic staff, two of the College Provosts and student representatives (including the Presidents of the Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association).

All members exercise their responsibilities in the interests of the University as a whole rather than as representatives of any constituency. They bring to the Senate's deliberations a wide range of academic knowledge and expertise, and apply balanced judgement to their deliberations.

The principal contributions expected are:

- to consider issues based on first-hand knowledge and experience of academic practice;
- to safeguard academic quality and standards across the whole University;
- to advise on academic strategy;
- to view issues and assess risks from all aspects.

Student members also bring first-hand knowledge and experience of the learning experience at the University and as such ensure that student interests and concerns are considered at the highest level of academic governance. [Note: In accordance with the statutes, student members are not involved in the consideration of any business regarding the appointment, promotion or personal affairs of any individual staff member or regarding the admission, academic assessment or personal affairs of any individual student.]

The qualities required of Senate members are:

- commitment to the University and specifically to maintaining high academic quality and standards;
- general understanding of the University's internal processes as regards teaching and research;
- capacity to debate academic issues with objectivity, openness and transparency;
- willingness to accept decisions made in the broader interest of the University.