

Role of the University Council



Richard Messer University Secretary and Chief Strategy Officer



Council is the governing body of the University and has two main functions

- To make the final decision on matters of greatest significance to the University
- · To ensure that the University follows good governance in its decision making



In terms of decision making, Council:

- Approves and monitors the University Strategy and associated Key Performance Indicators
- Appoints the Vice-Chancellor, the Chancellor and all members of the University Executive Board
- Ratifies proposals for capital projects of £10m or more
- Approves any major new partnership
- Ratifies the annual budget and five year financial forecasts



In terms of good governance, Council:

- Ensures that it hears the voice of stakeholders, be they colleagues, students or external
- Assures itself that academic standards are being met
- Checks that those in senior roles (including members of Council itself) are fit and proper persons
- Ensures that the University has an explicit set of values and that these values play a meaningful role in the life of the University
- Provides assurance to the Office for Students that the University is meeting its regulatory requirements



How Council works

- All Universities are required to have a governing body, and it must have a majority of members from outside the University (these we call "lay members")
- Our Council has 27 members in total, of whom 15 are lay
- Lay members are appointed by a competitive process, are on Council for three years that can be renewed up to nine, and are not remunerated
- The 12 internal members include four elected by staff (one from Senate, one from the academic staff, one from the Heads of School and Deans, and one from Professional Services); two from RUSU; and 6 by the office they hold
- Council meets four or five times a year
- It has five sub-committees to whom much of its work is delegated



Council – new webpages

