

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

Statement of Primary Responsibilities of the Council

“In addition to its responsibilities given by the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances, the Council is responsible for:

- (i) approving the mission of the University and ensuring that it meets the interests of groups who can affect or who are affected by the achievement of the mission;
- (ii) stimulating, challenging, evaluating and endorsing strategies to deliver the University’s objectives on an ongoing and financially viable basis;
- (iii) ensuring that there are in place appropriate arrangements for the management of the University, particularly through the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor and the members of the senior management team;
- (iv) ensuring that there are appropriate systems of audit control and accountability;
- (v) approving the principal policies of the University (particularly in the areas of finance, estates and human resources) on the recommendations of its sub-committees, and ensuring that there is an ethical policy framework consistent with the University’s Charter and Statutes and mission;
- (vi) making such provision as it thinks fit for the general welfare of students, in consultation with the Senate;
- (vii) ensuring that there is full and appropriate consultation on major issues with internal and external groups with an interest in the University – especially the students, staff, alumni, employers, local, regional and national bodies – and active communication and consultation with Court and Senate;
- (viii) monitoring the University’s performance and effectiveness against its objectives through the use of key performance indicators (KPIs) and benchmarking. The Council also regularly reviews its own effectiveness in facilitating the institutional performance.

The Council recognizes the key role of the Senate as the University’s primary academic authority, responsible for academic strategy, teaching and research. The academic plans which support the achievement of the University’s objectives are the Senate’s business, but must also conform to the overall University strategy. The associated academic considerations may also have financial, physical and personnel elements which are the responsibility of Council. If the academic decisions of Senate carry resource implications of any sort, the approval of Council will also be required.

This statement of primary responsibilities does not displace or take precedence over Charter and Statutes which should be regarded as the primary source for constitutional matters.”