

Court

The Role of Court

The University Court is a stakeholder group which encourages people in the local region to take and active interest in and promote the University locally, and to comment on its affairs. Members of Court are invited to a formal annual meeting which is part of a broader annual celebration of the University and its achievements, and which allows Court members to meet and network with each other, staff of the University and its friends.

We ask Court members to take an active interest in the life of the University and to actively promote it and its interests in the local and wider region. We hope those active in business, the public sector or in the charities sector will help in providing opportunities for students or in developing links with business and the community. The University will ensure members are kept informed regarding the University's activities and strategic priorities, through the annual meeting and through other media. It will work with members with business and other connections to realise potential mutual benefits involving students and academic staff.

The annual meeting is chaired by the Chancellor of the University or his/her nominee and provides an opportunity for Court members to network and to meet with the members of the University community and other stakeholders. The meeting includes reports from the Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Finance on the workings and sustainability of the University, followed by the opportunity for Court members to ask questions.

Membership

The membership of Court comprises the Chancellor, senior members of the University and the Students' Union, as well as current and previous External members of Council. In addition, members of the community are appointed to Court by Council on an appointed basis. This category of membership includes:

- Deputy Lieutenants of Essex
- High Sheriff and Deputy High Sheriffs
- Members of Parliament
- Principals / Head teachers
- Individual members
- Those with whom the University has business links
- Officers of the Students' Union
- Alumni of the University
- Other ambassadors or stakeholders

Further Information

Further information can be found on the University's website at:
<https://www.essex.ac.uk/governance/court>

An extract from the [University's Charter and Ordinances](#) is given overleaf for information. Information about many aspects of the University can be found on the website at: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/>

A 'Friends of the University' termly newsletter will be sent to all members of Court; only those members who opt to agree for their personal data to be shared with the University's marketing and events teams for the purpose of facilitating better engagement of Court members, will be included in the 'Friends of the University' subscription list.

You can update your preferences at any time; please contact the Governance Office, email governance@essex.ac.uk. You will receive confirmation that your record has been amended.

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Updated: December 2018

Extract from the Charter and Ordinances

The Charter, paragraph 10

The Court

There shall be a Court of the University comprising persons who have been appointed by the Council and which shall have the composition and functions prescribed in the Ordinances.

Ordinance 20

The Court

- 1 The Court shall consist of the following persons, namely:

Ex Officio Members:

The Chancellor
The Pro-Chancellors
The Treasurer
The External Members of the Council
The Vice-Chancellor
The Pro-Vice-Chancellors
The Deans
University Librarian and Director of Library Services
The Emeritus Professors
The Principal Officers of the Students' Union

Appointed Members:

Persons who have been External Members of the Council;
Such other persons appointed by the Council on the recommendation of Nominations Committee.

- 2 Ex officio Members of the Court shall remain members only so long as they continue to hold the office by virtue of which they became members.
- 3 Persons appointed by the Council shall hold office for such periods as may be determined by the Council.
- 4 Former members may be re-appointed.
- 5 Any member of the Court may resign by writing addressed to the Registrar and Secretary.

Ordinance 21

Meetings of the Court

- 1 Members of Court shall be invited to a meeting, normally at least once a year within fifteen months of the preceding meeting.
- 2 The Chancellor shall act as Chair of Court.
- 3 The Court will receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor on the workings and sustainability of the University since the last meeting.

Charter and Ordinances effective from 28 October 2015