



Ordinance 12 Powers of Council

Statement of Primary Responsibilities

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Statement of Primary Responsibilities

In accordance with the Charter, the Council shall exercise all the powers of the University and has the specific powers as set out in the Council's Statement of Primary Responsibilities below:

A Powers of appointment and employment

1. To appoint the Vice-Chancellor in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 5 and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring their performance.
2. Jointly with the Senate to appoint the Chancellor on the recommendation of a Joint Committee of the Senate and the Council.
3. To appoint the Pro-Chancellors, the Treasurer and Senior Independent Director, and the external members of the Council.
4. To appoint the Registrar and Secretary as Secretary to the Council; to ensure that there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.
5. To be the employing authority for all Staff in the University and to be responsible for establishing a human resources strategy.

B Financial and legal powers

6. To be the principal financial and business authority of the University, to ensure that proper books of account are kept, to approve the annual budget and financial statements, and to have overall responsibility for the University's assets, property and estate.
7. To be the University's legal authority and, as such, to ensure that systems are in place for meeting all the University's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the University's name.
8. To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University.

C Planning, monitoring and control

9. To approve the mission and strategic vision of the University, long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders.

10. To delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor, as chief executive, under policies, procedures and limits approved by the Council from time to time, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and personnel management of the University; and to establish and keep under regular review such policies, procedures and limits.
11. To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, and procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest.
12. To ensure processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University against the plans and approved key performance indicators, which should be, where possible and appropriate, benchmarked against other comparable institutions.
13. To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
14. To safeguard the autonomy, good name and values of the University of Essex.
15. To ensure compliance with the provisions of the Charter, Statutes and Ordinances at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.
16. To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Council itself.
17. To promote a culture which supports equality, diversity, and inclusion across the University.
18. To maintain and protect the principles of academic freedom as set out in the University's Charter and freedom of speech within the law under relevant legislation.
19. To ensure that all students and staff have opportunities to engage with the governance of the University should they choose.
20. To ensure compliance with the initial and ongoing conditions of registration determined by the regulator or higher education in England.

D Delegation by the Council

21. In accordance with the Charter, and subject to sub-paragraph 21 below, the Council may delegate its powers under the Charter, the Statutes and Ordinances to:
 - i. an appropriately qualified member of the Council; or
 - ii. an appropriately qualified committee that contains one or more members of the Council; or
 - iii. an appropriately qualified member of the University's staff.

22. The Council may not delegate its powers:
- i. to appoint and dismiss the Vice-Chancellor and to approve the Vice-Chancellor's terms and conditions on appointment;
 - ii. to approve the annual budget;
 - iii. to amend the Charter under the provisions of Article 18 of the Charter;
 - iv. to make, amend or remove University Statutes under the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter;
 - v. to make, amend or remove University Ordinances under the provisions of Article 20 of the Charter;
 - vi. to adopt the University's Annual Accounts;
 - vii. to appoint the University's Auditors.

E Student welfare

23. To make such provision as it thinks fit for the general welfare of students, in consultation with the Senate.