The Role of Court

The University Court is a stakeholder group which enables people in the local region to take an active interest in and promote the University locally, and to comment on its affairs. Members of Court are invited to an annual meeting which is part of a broader annual celebration of the University and its achievements, and 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 her nominee and provides an opportunity for Court members to network and to meet with 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, Ms Shami Chakrabarti CBE, 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 individual basis. This category of membership includes:

- Deputy Lieutenants of Essex
- High Sheriff and Deputy High Sheriffs
- Members of Parliament
- Principals/Headteachers
- Individual members
- Those with whom the University has business links
- Previous officers of the Students’ Union
- Alumni of the University
- Other ambassadors and stakeholders

Further information

Further information can be found on the University’s website at www.essex.ac.uk/about/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 web-site at www.essex.ac.uk

Dr Sonia Virdee
Deputy Secretary
February 2015
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.