



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

STATEMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Based on the University's Articles of Government, and in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs Higher Education Code of Governance (September 2020), the primary responsibilities of the Board of Governors are as follows:

Strategy

1. To approve the mission, strategic vision and the educational character of the University, long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of its stakeholders (staff, students, and scenario-dependent, its partners and/or other organisations).
2. To ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University against the plans and approved key performance indicators.

Vice Chancellor

3. To appoint the Vice Chancellor as chief executive, and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring their performance.
4. To delegate authority to the Vice Chancellor, as chief executive, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and human resource management of the University.
5. To establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits within such management functions as shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the Vice Chancellor.

Clerk to the Board of Governors

6. To appoint a Clerk to the Board of Governors and to ensure that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the University, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability. The present Clerk to the Board has organisational managerial responsibilities as University Registrar & Secretary.

Governance and Stewardship

7. To safeguard the good name and values of the University of Lincoln.

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control, accountability and sustainability, including the ability to comply with all conditions of registration with the Office for Students, financial and operational controls and risk assessment, procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest.
11. To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Board of Governors itself. As a minimum, an externally supported effectiveness review will take place every three years.
12. To ensure that the University's constitution is followed at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.

Legal and Stakeholder Responsibilities

13. 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.
14. To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University.
15. To be the employing authority for all staff in the University; to be responsible for establishing a human resources strategy.
16. To ensure that the University has adequate health and safety arrangements in place.
17. To receive assurance that adequate provision has been made for the general welfare of students.
18. To ensure there are arrangements in place for the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and for identification of and addressing under-representation.
19. To maintain, promote and protect the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech within the law.
20. To receive assurance from the Vice Chancellor (be this via the Vice Chancellor's Report to the Board of Governors and interim briefings to Governors) that the governance and committee structures and processes of the University provide for appropriate and meaningful engagement with its stakeholders (staff, students, and scenario-dependent, its external partners and/or other organisations) about key matters, which include:
 - i. Ensuring that a collegiate, collaborative and cooperative approach to liaison with students, staff and other stakeholders is maintained and interactions continue to be guided by the values, ethics and culture of the University;

- ii. Ensuring that the social, cultural, economic and environmental impact of the University, including its successes and achievements are shared and discussed;
- iii. Ensuring that there is consultation with internal/external stakeholders on key decision-making processes (i.e. the appointment of the Vice Chancellor, Chancellor, or the development of a new strategic plan);
- iv. Ensuring that the University remains accessible and relevant to its local communities, is open to, and engages with local communities in identifying the University's role in delivering public/community benefit and economic, civic duties, cultural and social growth;
- v. Ensuring that any material changes, adverse or other, in policy or circumstance, that effects relevant stakeholders are communicated.

21. To be advised by the Vice Chancellor of any major issues which arise concerning its relationship with stakeholders.

Limits of Delegation

22. The Board of Governors shall not delegate the following responsibilities:

- i. the determination of the educational character and mission of the University;
- ii. the approval of the annual estimates of income and expenditure;
- iii. ensuring the solvency of the University and the Corporation and the safeguarding of their assets;
- iv. the appointment or dismissal of the Vice-Chancellor and of the Secretary, or;
- v. the varying or revoking of the Articles of Government.