

Senate – The Role of Members

(approved by June 2019 Senate)

Members of Senate enable Senate to discharge its responsibilities through:

- being willing and able to attend Senate's meetings;
- ensuring that they prepare themselves properly for meetings by reading the Senate papers in advance, giving them due thought and consulting others where appropriate
- using their shared knowledge, skills and ideas in constructive debate of challenging issues;
- using their combined deliberations and judgement to achieve an objective appraisal of a problem, and a rational solution to it;
- playing an active and participative role in Senate meetings;
- challenging and questioning things that they hear which they disagree with – for example, either as part of a formal agenda item or the views expressed by another member;
- acting as a channel of communication by transmitting timely information and ideas to other relevant bodies and individuals. Good practice for some Senate members might be to have a standing agenda item on their respective School Board to feedback issues discussed at Senate and provide a mechanism to feed up issues from the School into Senate's agenda;
- promoting mutual understanding, team-work and cooperation among colleagues, by bringing together staff from different areas in pursuit of common objectives;
- improving the commitment and enthusiasm of their fellow members by encouraging them to contribute their ideas and take part in debate;
- using their membership of Senate to learn through experience and to achieve a more integrated view of the challenges facing the University, and possible solutions and how this impacts/relates to individual School/Faculty agendas;
- understanding Senate's remit and know the limits of its business and powers;
- ensuring that they observe any markings of confidentiality that are applied to Senate documents and do not disclose beyond Senate any confidential business or other information that is considered by Senate;
- ensuring they act impartially in the best interests of the University and are not influenced by any personal business or social relationship. If members have any personal or family interest in any matter being discussed by Senate, they should declare this conflict of interest at the start of the meeting and take no part in the Senate's discussion or decision-making on that subject.