

## **Terms of Reference for the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (Teaching, Learning and Students)**

The role of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (Teaching, Learning and Students) is to assure Senate regarding the maintenance of academic quality and standards in teaching and learning, and the enhancement of the student experience.

The Committee discharges its responsibilities by:

- 1) scrutinising policy and supporting information related to the quality and standards of teaching and learning, and the education-orientated aspects of the student experience, in order to provide Senate with assurance on quality and standards, and thereby enable Senate to endorse such assurance onwards to the Board of Governors; including reviewing and updating matters required by statute and regulations related to teaching, learning and students. Such assurance should provide appropriate information and analysis, in line with requests from the Board, and be in a form that permits the Board to consider and test that academic governance is adequate and effective;
- 2) assurance of progress in the delivery of The University's 'Our future' strategy for teaching and learning by annual receipt and discussion of the:
  - a) annual progress report against the University's Teaching and Learning KPIs – associated with preparation of the annual Stocktake Report (the sub-committee may provide comment and input to the draft);
  - b) annual report that proceeds to the Board of Governors;
  - c) annual reports from relevant groups within the Teaching, Learning and Students portfolio, where these involve consideration of externally reported data and associated targets, such as the Access and Participation Strategy Group and Employability, Graduate Outcomes Steering Group and the National Student Survey.
- 3) identify any issues and potential actions required, and advise or make recommendations to Senate accordingly regarding the revision of policies, processes, and the provision of data and analysis;
- 4) exercise delegated authority on behalf of Senate for:
  - a) the approval of revisions to existing General Regulations of the University relating to Teaching, Learning and Students;
  - b) the approval of revisions to existing Teaching, Learning and Students policies for which Senate is the approving body;
- 5) ensure that the University's quality assurance and academic standards framework meets the expectations of relevant external national and international quality assurance bodies, and Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies where appropriate;
- 6) function as a key stakeholder for consultation and engagement in the development of new TLS policies and procedures by Teaching and Learning Strategy Group;
- 7) support the University's core goal of Social Responsibility (including EDI) by seeking to embed Social Responsibility into the committee's activity, and into the maintenance of academic quality and standards in teaching and learning, and the enhancement of the student experience.

**Membership:**

*ex-officio: (9)*

Vice-President (TLS) (Chair)

Associate Vice-President (Teaching, Learning and Students) (vice-Chair)

Associate Vice-President (Flexible and Blended Learning)

Faculty Vice-Deans for TLS (x3)

University of Manchester Students' Union Faculty Officers (x3)

*Nominated: (1)*

A Head of School nominated by the Heads of School

*elected: (6)*

Six elected members of Senate (two from each Faculty)

**In attendance:**

The Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer (not expected to attend all meetings)

Director for the Student Experience, or their nominee (potentially as a member)

Other PS staff from TLS as required

The Committee shall align its meetings with the business meetings of Senate (currently four per academic year), and will submit a report to each meeting of Senate.

Secretariat to be provided by the Governance Office.