University of Wolverhampton Board of Governors -

Statement of Primary Responsibilities

UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON
KNOWLEDGE ▪ INNOVATION ▪ ENTERPRISE

Statement of Primary Responsibilities

At the University of Wolverhampton we endeavour to provide any student who is admitted on to a programme of study the best possible student experience, not only on their course but also outside it, so that by the time they leave us our students are prepared in the best possible way to gain employment or go onto further study so they can go to fulfil their dreams.

This Statement is based on the Model Statement contained in the Higher Education (HE) Code of Governance published by the Chairs of University Committees (CUC) in September 2020, adapted to reflect the powers and responsibilities that the Board of Governors of the University of Wolverhampton derives from its Instrument and Articles of Government. Accordingly, this Statement should be read alongside the Instrument and Articles of Government.

The Board of Governors, under the Instrument and Articles of Government, is the governing body of the University.

Consistent with the University's constitution, the primary responsibilities of the Board of Governors are as follows:

Principal Responsibilities

The Board of Governors is unambiguously and collectively responsible for overseeing the University's activities, determining its future direction and fostering an environment in which the University's mission is achieved and the potential of all learners is maximised. It does this through this statement of primary responsibilities:

1. To approve the mission and strategic vision and values of the institution, long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders especially staff, students and alumni.

2. To ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University against the strategy and plans and approved key performance indicators, which should be, where possible and appropriate, benchmarked against other comparable institutions.

3. To delegate authority to the Vice Chancellor, as Chief Executive, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and human resource management of the University, and 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.

4. To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls, risk assessment, value for money

arrangements and procedures for handling internal grievances and managing conflicts of interest.

5. To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Board of Governors itself and monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of Academic Board.

6. To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in HE corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

7. To safeguard the good name and values of the institution.

8. To appoint the Vice Chancellor as the University's Chief Executive and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring their performance.

9. To appoint a Clerk to the Board and to ensure that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the institution, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.

10. To be the employing authority for all staff in the University and to be accountable for establishing an appropriate human resources strategy.

11. 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 accountability for the University's assets, property and estate.

12. To be the University's legal authority and, as such, to ensure systems are in place for meeting all the institution's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the institution's name. This includes accountability for health, safety and security and for equality, diversity and inclusion.

13. To receive assurance that adequate provision has been made for the general welfare of students.

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 ensure that the University's constitution is always followed, and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.

16. To promote a culture which supports inclusivity and diversity across the University.

19. To maintain and protect the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech legislation.

20. To ensure that all students and staff have opportunities to engage with the governance and management of the University, and that this allows for a range of perspectives to have influence.

21. In accordance with the Office for Students' (OfS) Condition E3, the University Board must: (i) accept responsibility for the interactions between the University and the OfS and its designated bodies; (ii) ensure the University's compliance with all of its conditions of registration and with the OfS's accounts direction; and (iii) nominate to the OfS a senior officer as the 'accountable officer' who has the responsibilities set out by the OfS for an accountable officer from time to time

22. To ensure the financial health and solvency of the University.

Approved by the Board of Governors of the University of Wolverhampton – August 2023