

**University Regulation: Membership and powers of the Academic Board**

1. Introduction

1.1 Academic Board is the senior Academic committee of the University of Wolverhampton, with a range of responsibilities. The principal responsibilities are drawn from the Instrument of Government and the Articles of Government most recently confirmed by the Board of Governors in November 2022 (Article 4).

*“4.4 There shall be an Academic Board of the University which shall, subject to the control and approval of the Board of Governors, oversee the teaching and research of the University and be responsible for the academic quality and standards of the University and the admission and regulation of students.*

*4.4.1 The Board of Governors shall receive and test assurance from the Academic Board that academic governance including the standard of the University awards, the student academic experience and student outcomes are adequate and effective. The Academic Board shall provide to the Board of Governors such academic assurance as it may require from time to time.*

*4.4.2 The membership and powers of the Academic Board shall be prescribed in Regulations.”*

1.2 This Regulation sets out the membership and powers of the Academic Board, including appointments and elections of members, and sub-committees.

1. Powers

2.1 The Powers of the Academic Board are set out in the Board Regulations (approved by Board in November 2022). Section 5 of the Board Regulations notes these Powers.

2.2 The Academic Board reports formally to the Board of Governors; it may also refer items to the University Executive Board as appropriate.

2.3 As set out in the Scheme of Delegation, the Board of Governors has the authority to approve the composition of the Academic Board membership (including changing numbers and categories); however, the Chair of the Academic Board can make changes to the membership itself.

1. Membership

3.1 The Board of Governors have agreed (via Chair’s action) that in 2024/25 the membership of Academic Board will be no more than 35. Membership will include:

*Ex-officio*

Vice Chancellor (Chair)

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Leadership and Student Outcomes (Vice Chair)

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange

Deans of Faculty

Associate Deans of Faculty

President of the Students’ Union

Two students appointed by the Students’ Union

Dean of Students and Education

*Roles co-opted by Chair*

Associate Dean for Inclusivity

Associate Director – Student Life

Director of Registry Services

Chair of the Professoriate

Director of the Doctoral College

Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange

Representative, Institute of Health

Head of Engineering

Associate Professor of Equity in Learning and Teaching

Academic Coach

*Elected/Co-opted members*

Eligible teaching staff – two to represent each Faculty

Four eligible teaching staff to represent teaching staff as a whole

One eligible member of Professional Services staff to represent Professional Services staff as a whole

Other co-opted members as appropriate within the remit of the Academic Board

*In attendance*

Associate Director, Regional Development

Secretary to Academic Board

University Secretary

Up to one Independent Member of the Board of Governors, invited by the Chair of the Board of Governors

Staff as necessary to conduct the business of the Academic Board

1. Eligibility

4.1 Those entitled to stand as candidates and to vote in the election of members of the teaching staff to membership of the Academic Board shall be all those members of the teaching staff in the relevant constituency who have an active contract of employment with the University at the date the call for nominations is issued.

4.2 Those entitled to stand as candidates and to vote in the election of members of the Professional Services staff to membership of the Academic Board shall be all those members of the Professional Services staff who have an active contract of employment with the University at the date the call for nominations is issued.

4.3 The Chair may co-opt particular roles onto the Academic Board to ensure appropriate representation of teaching and research issues, as well as appropriate diversity of membership.

4.4 If insufficient numbers of eligible teaching or Professional Services staff stand for election in the relevant categories, the Chair of the Academic Board may nominate staff to be co-opted onto Academic Board.

4.5 The Chair can co-opt members through Chair’s powers, without reference to any other body.

4.6 Both elected and co-opted members will have the same voting rights as ex-officio members.

1. Appointment

5.1 Ex-officio members are members by benefit of their role, except for the student members appointed by the Students’ Union through a process described below.

5.2 A number of members will be elected as terms of office expire. If the number of candidates coming forward exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled by election, there will be a ballot to determine membership. The election will be held under the direction of the Clerk to the Board and the rules for election may be amended from time to time by the Board of Governors. Elections will normally take place in the summer term and newly elected members will take up membership of the Academic Board prior to the first meeting of the new academic year.

5.3 Elections of members representing teaching staff will be held only with eligible members of teaching staff. Elections of members representing Professional Services staff will be held only with eligible members of Professional Services staff. Teaching staff can stand for both a Faculty representative role and a cross-Faculty role but can only be elected to one role.

5.4 If there are insufficient nominations to any elected post, the Chair of the Academic Board may nominate an eligible candidate for co-option onto Academic Board. If the Chair appoints a members to any elected post in this way, the appointment will be announced to the relevant constituencies before that member takes up their membership. If the Chair wishes to nominate more than one member for any elected post, then there may be a ballot to determine membership.

5.5 Ex-officio student representatives appointed by the Students’ Union will be appointed annually in accordance with arrangements determined by the Students’ Union. The arrangements for appointment will be transparent to the Academic Board.

1. Terms of office

6.1 The term of office for ex-officio members will be the duration of their employment in the relevant role, or the period of office for the Students’ Union President.

6.2 The term of office for elected and co-opted staff will be two years, renewable for a maximum of two terms or four years. If a staff member ends their employment with the University their term of office will end on their last working day (or earlier by agreement with the Chair).

6.3 The term of office for students nominated by the Students’ Union will be one year, renewable to a maximum of two terms or two years. If the student leaves the University their term of office will end on their final day (or earlier by agreement with the Chair).