

UNIVERSITY BOARD - STATEMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The following table indicates the primary responsibilities of the University Board of the University of Cumbria, together with a statement of the mechanism through which they are discharged. The Statement of Primary Responsibilities is intended for guidance only. It does not replace the responsibilities of the University Board as set out in its Articles of Association.

	Responsibility	Mechanism
1.	To approve the mission and vision of the University, long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders, particularly in relation to public funds.	Through at least five-yearly approval and review of the University's Corporate Strategy and through the annual review of the University's Annual Operating Plan and through returns as required by the Office for Students and other monitoring and funding agencies.
2.	To establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits within the academic, corporate, financial, estate and personnel management functions as shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the Vice Chancellor, as chief executive.	Through the Vice Chancellor's job description, and through regular review of the powers delegated by the University Board to its sub-committees and an agreed Scheme of Delegation.
3.	To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, and procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest.	Through the role of the Audit and Risk Committee which is specifically charged with keeping under review the effectiveness of internal control systems, appointment of internal and external auditors, and the annual updating and review of the register of risks and through the existence of the register of interests for University Board and members of the Vice Chancellor's Executive and senior leaders within the University.
4.	To ensure processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University against the plans and approved key performance indicators, which should be, where possible and appropriate, benchmarked against other comparable institutions.	Through the review, and approval where appropriate, of the Annual Operating Plan and associated Performance and Risk frameworks, through the consideration of regular reports on key strategic areas, including against a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
5.	To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University Board itself and its committees.	Through reviews of the effectiveness of the University Board and its committees, in line with 'The Code of Higher Education Governance' published by the Committee of University Chairs.

	Responsibility	Mechanism
6.	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selflessness • Integrity • Objectivity • Accountability • Openness • Honesty • Leadership 	<p>By observing the University's Articles of Association and Code of Conduct.</p> <p>By following the Committee of University Chairs' Code of Higher Education Governance, and other relevant Codes of Corporate Governance.</p>
7.	To safeguard the good name and values of the University.	Through approval of strategic plans, monitoring performance and effectiveness against plans, and annual monitoring and review of the risk management process.
8.	To appoint the Vice Chancellor as chief executive (and where necessary, to remove), and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance.	Through the provisions of Sections 9.4.6, 9.5.1 and 15.1-15.5 in the Articles of Association.
9.	To appoint (and, where necessary, to remove) a Secretary to the University 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.	Through the provisions of Sections 9.4.6 and 16.1 of the Articles of Association.
10.	To be the employing authority for all staff in the University and to be responsible for establishing a human resources strategy.	Through the provisions of Section 9.2.6, 9.2.7, 9.2.8, 18.1 and 19 of the Articles of Association and through the University Board's People, Performance and Culture Committee and Remuneration Committee.
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 responsibility for the University's assets, property and estate.	Through the provisions of Sections 9.2.3, 9.2.5, 9.4.2, 9.4.3 and 24 of the Articles of Association and through the University Board's Finance and Resources Committee.
12.	To ensure that systems are in place for meeting all the	Through the appointment of legal advisers to the University, and through

	Responsibility	Mechanism
	University's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the University's name. This includes accountability for health, safety, and for equality, diversity and inclusion.	the responsibilities of the Secretary and other senior members of the executive, underpinned where necessary by legal advice.
13.	To ensure that the Office for Students' Ongoing Conditions of Registration, and any Specific Conditions of Registration from time to time, are complied with.	Through the role of the Audit and Risk Committee which is specifically charged with oversight of the Office for Students' Conditions of Registration, with input from other committees as relevant, in particular the Academic Strategy and Governance Committee with respect to the academic and academic related Conditions of Registration.
14.	To make such provision as it thinks fit for the general welfare of students, in consultation with the Academic Board.	Through the provisions of Sections 20 and 21 of the Articles of Association and through the Academic Board and its sub-committees.
15.	To secure, and promote the importance of, freedom of speech within the law for staff, students and visiting speakers, and secure academic freedom within the law for academic staff	Through the Freedom of Speech Code of Practice, approved by Audit and Risk Committee, and reporting on its implementation.
16.	To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University.	Through the provisions of the Articles of Association.
17.	To ensure that the University's constitution is followed at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.	Through the responsibility and advice of the University Secretary, underpinned as necessary by legal advice.

For the session 2026-2027 the University's Officers and key individuals are:

Chair of University Board	Martin Williams
Vice Chair of University Board	Peter Yates
Chair of Finance and Resources Committee	Ian Looker
Chair of Audit and Risk Committee	Emerita Professor Shirley Atkinson OBE
Chair of Academic Strategy and Governance Committee	Emerita Professor Helen James OBE
Chair of People, Performance and Culture Committee	Peter Yates
Chair of Nominations Committee	Martin Williams
Chair of Remuneration Committee	Jill Johnston
Secretary to the University Board	Dr Jean Brown

Senior Executive	Vice Chancellor, Professor Julie Mennell Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Brian Webster-Henderson Chief Transformation Officer, Tracey Slaven Finance Director, Andrew Heron Chief People Officer, Helen Ashley
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REGISTER OF INTERESTS

A Register of Interests of members of the University Board is held by the Secretary to the University Board.

Adopted by the University Board: 1 August 2007.

Last revised September 2026