



Terms of Reference:	
Committee Name:	Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee
Reporting:	Reports to Council
Endorsed	
Academic Governance, Committee	14 November 2025
Governance and Nominations Committee	27 November 2025 (via e-circulation)
Approved:	
Council	09 December 2025

Purpose
<p>The primary purpose of the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee is, via the early review and discussion of papers prepared for Council, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide independent oversight, scrutiny and assurance of the maintenance and continuous enhancement of academic quality and standards in relation to the University’s educational provision, including student outcomes and student experience. • Provide assurance to Council that academic governance is working effectively to maintain academic standards for education and high-quality student experience. • To fulfil the responsibility of section 2.5 of the CUC Higher Education Code of Governance and support Council in ‘actively seeking and receiving assurance’ that ‘academic governance is robust and effective’. <p>Not all items within scope will be considered on an annual basis and the Committee will only consider reports scheduled to be considered by Council. The Schedule of Business of the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee will therefore align with the longer-term forward plan for Council which is reviewed and developed over a 2-3 year time horizon. In addition, papers scheduled for Part II of the Council agenda will not generally be prior reviewed by the Committee.</p>
Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the effectiveness of arrangements in place for ensuring the continuous improvement of the student experience, student outcomes and the reliability of the standard of the University’s awards and the management of related risks; • To monitor and receive assurance on behalf of Council of the University’s compliance with the Office for Students Conditions of Registration relating to Access and Participation (A Conditions); Quality, Reliable Standards and Positive Student Outcomes (B Conditions) and

Student Protections (C Conditions)) and the requirements of other professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (including OfSTED, CMA, ESFA);

- To receive assurance on student outcomes, including in relation to:
 - Continuation (the proportion of students who remain registered within a given time period following their initial registration)
 - Completion (the proportion of students who successfully achieve their target award within a given time period following their initial registration)
 - Progression (the proportion of students who successfully progress to professional or managerial employment, further study or other positive outcomes within a given time period following their graduation)
 - The proportion of degree classifications awarded over time
- To receive assurance on quality assurance matters relating to admissions, recruitment and retention, such as enrolment and entry requirements, academic progression and outcomes, including for all validated provision (eg Exeter Foundation Year and Pathway programmes);
- To receive assurance on the University's access and participation plan in advance of oversight by Council, including: monitoring institutional targets and performance in respect of student attainment, progression and destination)
- To review and scrutinise all relevant papers and reports related to academic governance, education, student experience and academic quality and standards for endorsement prior to onward consideration by Council, including, but not limited to, the following areas:
 - Academic Partnerships (including validation and articulation agreements provision)
 - Academic Quality and Standards of education
 - Academic Regulations and Policies
 - Access and Participation Plan
 - Annual Report of Senate
 - Degree Apprenticeship Provision
 - Degree Outcomes Statement
 - Degree Classifications Report
 - Graduate Outcomes and Employability
 - Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Accreditation reports on participation and associated risks
 - Prevent Annual Monitoring Return
 - Student Experience, including Student Mental Health and Wellbeing;
 - Student Casework, including: academic misconduct, academic appeals, complaints, sexual misconduct and the Annual Statement from the OIA;
 - Student Experience
 - Student Survey (NSS/ PTES / PRES) summary reports and continuous improvement plans
 - Teaching Excellence Framework summary reports and continuous improvement plans
 - Wellbeing Annual Report
- To review and endorse to Council the Annual Academic Assurance Plan outlining key items of business in relation to academic matters scheduled for Senate and Council;
- To consider any significant strategic changes to the educational portfolio of the University, including: curriculum for change and portfolio rebalancing;

- To consider and review any major strategic elements relating to the enhancement of the student experience and student services, including: Student Mental Health and Wellbeing;
- To receive a summary report as an appendix following each meeting of the Senate, which provides an executive summary of the key questions raised and issues discussed in relation to key items of academic business.

Membership

Independent Council Members

Rebecca Boomer-Clark (**Chair**) (Independent Member of Council)

Sally Cabrini (Pro-Chancellor and Senior Independent Governor)

Officers of the University

Professor Tim Quine (Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience Committee), until stepping down from current role in December 2025

Professor Liz Jones (Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience) from 1st October 2025

Senate Council Representatives

Dr Sarah Hodge (Senate Council Representative)

Student Representatives

Seb Racisz (President of the Guild of Students)

Izzy Brinkley (Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union President Exeter)

Standing Attendee:

Clare Wydell (Divisional Director of Education and Academic Services)

Additional attendees may be invited to attend for specific agenda items by exception at the request of UEB leads and in prior consultation and agreement with the Chair.

Sub-Groups

- Subject to endorsement by the Governance and Nominations Committee and approval by Council, the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee may establish a sub-group for such purpose as considered appropriate. The remit granted to such sub-group shall be specifically provided for in its Terms of Reference and endorsed by Governance and Nominations Committee and approved by Council.

Meetings

- The Group will meet usually five times a year and prior to formal business meetings of Council.
- Additional meetings may be held in order to meet business requirements at the request of the Chair.

Reporting

- An report on the work and effectiveness of the Committee will be provided to Council annually for information.
- All Council papers and reports related to academic governance, education, student experience and academic quality and standards progressing to Council will be endorsed or otherwise commented on by the Committee prior to their consideration by Council.

- Papers progressing to Council within Part II, will not typically be reviewed by the Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee.
- Where reporting timeframes permit, relevant papers and reports will progress via Senate prior to consideration by Council or be received subsequently for information.

Delegated Authority

- The Academic Governance, Education and Student Experience Committee provides an assurance, oversight and advisory function and has no decision-making authority. The Group endorses or otherwise provides commentary on items for decision making to Council.

Effectiveness

- The effectiveness of the Committee will be reviewed annually by both the Committee and the Governance and Nominations Committee against its Terms of Reference and any appropriate changes will be determined by the Governance and Nominations Committee and recommended to for Council approval.