

University of Strathclyde Court Statement of Primary Responsibilities

General

Under the terms of the University Charter, Court is the Governing Body of the University and is responsible for overseeing the management and administration of the whole of the revenue and property of the University. Court exercises general control over the University and all its affairs, purposes and functions, taking all final decisions on matters of fundamental concern to the University. Court is responsible for safeguarding the University's good name and values.

Court's Primary Responsibilities are detailed as follows:

Staff and Students

1. To be the employing authority for all staff within the University and to make such provision as it thinks fit for their general welfare;
2. To appoint the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, including the terms and conditions of such appointment, and to put in place suitable arrangements for the monitoring of his/her performance – both the appointment and monitoring of performance of the Principal shall include consultation with all members of Court;
3. To appoint the University Secretary and to ensure that he or she has separate lines of accountability for the provision of services to the Court, for the administration of the University and for the fulfilment of managerial responsibilities within the institution;
4. To ensure, through Senate, the quality of educational provision within the University;
5. To make such provision as it thinks fit, following consultation with the Senate, for the general welfare of its students;

Financial responsibilities

6. To ensure the solvency of the University and to safeguard its assets;
7. To act as trustee for any property, legacy endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University;
8. To approve the University's annual financial statements;
9. To ensure that proper books of accounts are kept in accordance with all relevant regulations and codes of conduct;
10. To ensure the proper use of public funds awarded to the University and to ensure that the terms of the Financial Memorandum with the Funding Council are observed;
11. To approve the main annual budgets within the University;
12. To ensure appropriate arrangements for the economic, efficient and effective management of the University's resources and expenditure;

Strategic responsibilities

13. To approve the mission statement of the University and all its strategic plans including its aims for the teaching and research of the institution and identifying the financial, physical and staff requirements required to achieve these, and for ensuring that these meet the interests of stakeholders;
14. To approve a financial strategy for the University, as well as long-term business plans;
15. To approve an estates strategy for the management, development and maintenance of the University land and buildings in support of institutional objectives;
16. To approve a human resource strategy and to ensure that appropriate development and reward arrangements are in place for the employees and that these are appropriate to the needs of the University;
17. To provide leadership in equality and diversity across all protected characteristics, assuming responsibility for the University's strategy and policy on equality and diversity.

Controls

18. To ensure that systems are in place for meeting all the University's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the University's name;
19. To ensure compliance with the University's Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations, as well as all relevant legislation where applicable;
20. To be responsible for the form, custody and use of the University's Common Seal;
21. To make clear and to review regularly the executive authority and other powers delegated to the Convener of Court, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, to other senior officers and to all bodies of the University including the Senate and committees of Court;
22. To ensure that systems are in place for the assessment and management of risk, to regularly review such matters and to conduct an annual assessment;
23. To establish and monitor effective systems of internal control and accountability throughout the University;
24. To ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for external and internal audit;
25. To ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the proper management of health and safety in respect of students, staff and other persons on University premises or affected by University operations;

Monitoring performance and effectiveness

26. To monitor the University's performance against its strategic plan and key performance indicators, and to benchmark the University's performance against other comparable institutions;
27. To monitor and review the performance and effectiveness of the Court itself and other University committees;
28. To ensure, through the appointment of lay members in accordance with the University Statutes, a balance of skills and expertise amongst the membership of Court, such as is required to meet its primary responsibilities;
29. To ensure that the proceedings of Court are conducted in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance and with the Nine Principles of Public Life in Scotland (which incorporate the original seven "Nolan Principles" drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life);
30. To ensure that procedures are in place within the University for dealing with complaints, internal grievances, conflicts of interest and public interest disclosure.

Approved by the University Court 1 October 2025.