

RAVENSBOURNE UNIVERSITY LONDON
ARTICLES OF GOVERNMENT

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 In these Articles words and expressions shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the University's Instrument of Government.

2. CONDUCT OF THE UNIVERSITY

2.1 The University shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Education Acts 1944 to 1993, any subsequent Education Acts, any relevant regulations, orders or directions made by the Secretary of State, or by the Privy Council, and subject thereto, in accordance with the provisions of the Instrument, these Articles and any rules or bye-laws made under these Articles.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS, VICE CHANCELLOR AND ACADEMIC BOARD

The Board of Governors

3.1 The Board of Governors shall be the supreme governing body of the University and shall be responsible for the exercise of the University's powers. The functions of the Board of Governors shall include, without limitation:

- a) the determination of the educational character and mission of the University and for the oversight of its activities;
- b) the appointment or dismissal of the Vice Chancellor;
- c) the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the Corporation and for safeguarding their assets;
- d) approving annual estimates of income and expenditure;
- e) keeping accounts and records, and appointing auditors, in accordance with the provisions of the Act;
- f) the determination of the tuition and other fees payable to the Corporation (subject to any terms and conditions attached to grants, loans or other payments paid or made by funding bodies, and to the provisions of the Education Acts, and any relevant regulations, orders or directions made by the Secretary of State);
- g) the approval of policies and procedures relating to the appointment, grading, assignment of duties to, appraisal of, suspension, dismissal and determination of the pay and conditions of service of the holders of such senior posts as the Board may determine;
- h) the approval of a framework for employing all other staff and regulating their employment;
- i) ensuring that there are in place policies and procedures for the government and conduct of the institution, including, for all other staff, staff performance, discipline, dismissal and grievance, and for dealing with student discipline, complaints and academic appeals; and
- j) the appointment or dismissal of the Clerk to the Board who shall act as secretary to the Board of Governors.

The Vice Chancellor

3.2 Subject to the responsibilities of the Board of Governors, the Vice Chancellor shall be the Chief Executive of the University. The Vice Chancellor shall have functions delegated to him or her from time to time by the Board of Governors and these responsibilities shall include:

- a) making proposals to the Board of Governors about the educational character and mission of the University, and for implementing the decisions of the Board of Governors;
- b) the organisation, direction and management of the University and leadership of the staff;
- c) the assignment and appraisal of the holders of senior posts other than the Clerk to the Board of Governors;
- d) the appointment, assignment, grading, appraisal, suspension, dismissal and determination- within the framework set by the Board of Governors- of the pay and conditions of service of staff other than holders of senior posts;
- e) the determination, after consultation with the Academic Board, of the University's academic activities, and for the determination of its other activities;

- f) preparing annual estimates of income and expenditure, for consideration by the Board of Governors, and for the management of budget and resources, within the estimates approved by the Board of Governors; and
- g) the maintenance of student discipline and, within the rules and procedures provided for within these Articles, for the suspension or expulsion of students on disciplinary grounds and for implementing decisions to expel students for academic reasons.

The Academic Board

- 3.3 There shall be an Academic Board, whose membership and procedures for meetings shall be set out in policies and procedures. The Director shall be the Chair of the Academic Board. The Academic Board may establish such committees as it considers necessary to enable it to carry out its responsibilities, subject to the approval of the Vice Chancellor and the Board of Governors.
- 3.4 Subject to the provisions of these Articles, to the overall responsibility of the Board of Governors, and to the responsibilities of the Vice Chancellor, the Academic Board shall be responsible for:
 - a) general issues relating to the research, scholarship, teaching and courses at the University including
 - criteria for the admission of students;
 - the appointment and removal of internal and external examiners;
 - policies and procedures for assessment and examination of the academic performance of students;
 - the content of the curriculum;
 - academic standards and the validation and review of courses
 - the procedures for the award of qualifications and honorary academic titles; and
 - the procedures for the expulsion of students for academic reasons.
 - b) considering the development of the academic activities of the University and the resources needed to support them and for advising the Vice Chancellor and the Board of Governors thereon; and
 - c) advising on such other matters as the Board of Governors or the Vice Chancellor may refer to the Academic Board.

4. DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS AND COMMITTEES

- 4.1 Subject to the following provisions of this Article, the Board of Governors may establish committees for any purpose or function, other than those assigned elsewhere in these Articles to the Vice Chancellor or to the Academic Board, and may delegate powers to such committees or to the Chair of the Board of Governors or to the Vice Chancellor. Such Committees may include persons who are not members of the Board of Governors.
- 4.2 The Board of Governors may establish such other committees it deems appropriate.
- 4.3 The Board of Governors may delegate its functions as it sees fit, but shall not, however, delegate the following:
 - the determination of the educational character and mission of the College;
 - the approval of the annual estimates of income and expenditure;
 - ensuring the solvency of the institution and the Corporation and the safeguarding of their assets;
 - the appointment or dismissal of the Vice Chancellor;
 - the approval of the scheme of delegation setting out the delegations made by the Board of Governors; or
 - the varying or revoking of these Articles.

5. TENURE OF OFFICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5.1 Membership of the independent members of the Board shall be limited to three 3-year terms of office, except where subsequently undertaking a new and more senior role (for example as Chair).

6. PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS

6.1 The Board of Governors shall make policies and procedures for the conduct of meetings of the Board and its Committees.

6.2 The Board of Governors shall make policies and procedures for the appointment of officers who shall include a Chair and Deputy Chair, and for the appointment of members.

6.3 The quorum for meetings of the Board of Governors shall be nine members of whom five shall be independent members. If a meeting is quorate, but less than half the members present are independent members, a majority of the independent members present shall be able to require that a decision be deferred to the next meeting. No decision shall be deferred more than once under this provision.

6.4 Members of the Board of Governors shall not be bound in their speaking and voting by mandates given to them by other bodies or persons, except where the Board of Governors has approved the use of proxy for other members of the Board of Governors. All members shall be required to sign a statement of independence before the Board shall confirm them in their membership of the Board.

7. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

7.1 The Board of Governors shall have regard to the need to ensure that academic staff of the University have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy or losing their jobs or any privileges they may have at the University.

8. STUDENTS

8.1 A students' union shall conduct and manage its own affairs and funds in accordance with a constitution approved by the Board of Governors. No amendment to or rescission of that constitution, in part or in whole, shall be valid unless and until approved by the Board of Governors.

8.2 After consultation with representatives of the students, the Board of Governors shall make rules specifying procedures according to which students may raise matters of proper concern with the appropriate body or office holder within the University.

9. RULES AND BYE LAWS

9.1 The Board of Governors shall have power to make rules and bye laws concerning such matters with regard to the governance and conduct of the University as it shall think fit. Such rules and bye laws shall be subject to the provisions of these Articles.

10. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES

10.1 These Articles may be amended or replaced by order of the Corporation with the approval of the Privy Council if such approval is legally required.