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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Academic Board is the academic authority of Escape Studios for all academic matters. This includes oversight of academic management, maintenance and enhancement of academic quality and standards, provision of appropriate learning opportunities for all students and the encouragement of a thriving community of scholarship, professionalism and research, appropriate to Escape Studios' mission. The Academic Board shall take suitable measures and action to secure and promote these.
- 1.2 The Academic Board ensures that Escape Studios' mission is reflected in its programmes and in the distinctive character of Escape Studios' academic life.
- 1.3 The Academic Board has power to make regulations and policies. It may delegate any of its powers or responsibilities to working groups or its reporting committees (subject to the approval of the Governing Body).
- 1.4 Academic Board meetings will discuss key issues of strategy, policy, priority and performance in relation to academic matters. It will receive, consider and make decisions based on reports from its committees.

### 2. Academic Board Responsibilities

The Academic Board is responsible for the following:

#### 2.1 Assuring Quality and Standards, Qualifications, Regulations and Policies, and Academic Conduct

##### 2.1.1 Quality and Standards

Assuring the quality of all academic aspects of Escape Studios including the learning experience of all its students, and promoting enhancement and continuous improvement.

Ensuring that academic standards are upheld according to applicable external and internal regulatory frameworks, and in particular the Office for Students Regulatory Framework, and the Quality Code including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

Having oversight of all Escape Studios' assessments to ensure they satisfy both the external requirements and validating partners' regulations, recommending External Examiners to validating partners.

### 2.1.2 Regulations and policies

Approving and overseeing regulations and policies relating to academic matters including learning and teaching, scholarship and research, discipline, programmes, and services to support student learning in order to ensure regulator expectations are met within the context of Escape Studios mission, and, where appropriate, recommending policies to the Governing Body and the Executive.

Ensuring that all academic regulations, policies and procedures are drafted and implemented with due consideration to the equality and diversity of stakeholders.

### 2.1.3 Academic Conduct

Overseeing and monitoring academic conduct in accordance with the Academic Malpractice Policy.

## 2.2 Approval of Programmes and Partners

2.2.1 Overseeing the development of Escape Studios academic programme offering and ensuring that it promotes Escape Studios' mission.

2.2.2 Recommending to the Governing Body the introduction or withdrawal of academic programmes as part of Escape Studios strategy or for reasons relating to academic matters.

2.2.3 Considering and internally approving academic programmes of Escape Studios which lead to degrees, diplomas or other awards of Escape Studios prior to validation by higher education or awarding bodies having the power to do so.

2.2.4 Approving the conditions qualifying for admission to Escape Studios' degrees and awards prior to their validation by Escape Studios' validating partner.

2.2.5 Approving modifications to existing Escape Studios' programmes and modules prior to validation by Escape Studios' validating partner.

2.2.6 Ensuring compliance with all external requirements and reference points, including those of validating partners.

2.2.7 Monitoring due diligence in respect of the academic aspects of prospective new partnerships and providing reports to the Governing Body on the academic aspects of major new prospective partnerships.

## 2.3 Academic Community

2.3.1 Promoting the development of a self-critical, cohesive, autonomous and ethical academic community within Escape Studios, appropriate to Escape Studios' mission.

2.3.2 Recommending support for academic staff in pursuing scholarship, research and development (including qualifications).

2.3.3 Advising on and approving the academic titles framework.

- 2.3.4 Overseeing the implementation and monitoring of peer observation of teaching, monitoring the resulting action plans and evaluating the effectiveness of the peer observation process.

## 2.4 Monitoring, review and enhancement of academic matters

- 2.4.1 Reviewing and upholding the performance of academic aspects of Escape Studios and its schools.
- 2.4.2 Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of academic provision, including programmes, policies and regulations.
- 2.4.3 Monitoring and evaluating the recruitment, selection and admission of students, and the correlation of the data with student outcomes.
- 2.4.4 Monitoring and evaluating student outcomes and any disparities for those in underrepresented groups.
- 2.4.5 Advising on and reviewing the Academic Risk Register and relevant Key Performance Indicators, benchmarking these against comparable institutions where appropriate.
- 2.4.6 Identifying and commending good practice.
- 2.4.7 Making recommendations and/ or requiring actions for performance improvement and enhancement to the Executive Team, Schools, management teams, and other appropriate teams.

## 2.5 Academic strategy

- 2.5.1 Approving the academic strategy.
- 2.5.2 Advising the Governing Body and the Executive on academic matters in the development and review of Escape Studios strategy and the development of implementation plans.

## 2.6 Advising the Governing Body

- 2.6.1 Considering and advising the Governing Body on:
- how the expectations of the Quality Code are being met, with recommendations for improvement where needed;
  - any academic matter referred to the Academic Board by the Governing Body and/or the Executive;
  - the status of relevant entries on the academic risk register;
  - issues related to academic standards, quality, and student experience, making recommendations, as appropriate;
  - implementation of the Access and Participation Plan;
  - proposed new subject areas and the academic aspects of proposed collaborative and validation arrangements.
- 2.6.2 Providing assurances and reports to the Governing Body confirming compliance with external requirements that relate to academic matters (e.g. the Office for Students, requirements of validation partners, regulatory and professional bodies) with recommendations for improvement where needed.

## 3 Review of academic governance structures

- 3.1 The Academic Board will, on an annual basis, evaluate and agree proposals for the enhancement of:

- the effectiveness of the Academic Board;
- the working of the Academic Board committees (including the establishment or removal of committees and changing committees' constitutions and responsibilities);
- working relationships with the Governing Body, the Executive, management teams and other key stakeholders.

## 4 Membership, Frequency of Meetings and Quorum

4.1 The membership shall be as follows:

- Principal (Chair)
- Dean of Academic Affairs (Member and Secretary)
- Deans of each School
- Director of Registry and Student Services
- Director of Regulation and Compliance
- Director of Community Engagement
- Dean/ Director of Industry Engagement
- Access and Participation Manager
- Head of Academic Support and Assessment
- Three academic members of staff to represent the Schools
- Four students (one from each key area of Escape Studios, undergraduate and postgraduate)

4.2 The terms of office shall be as follows:

- For student members, a maximum of 3 three years or the duration of the student members' registration as a student (whichever is shorter)
- For staff members, three years.

4.3 Additional staff may attend by invitation for specific meetings.

4.4 Meetings will take place quarterly.

4.5 A meeting will be deemed to be quorate if (a) a third of current Board members are present *and* (b) at least one member is present from each of the following categories: student members, staff members, ex-officio members. Where a meeting is deemed to lack quoracy, the meeting will proceed and decisions will be ratified at the next quorate meeting.