

Terms of reference of the Audit Committee		
Membership	Chair	The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board of Governors.
	Convenor and Minutes Secretary	Clerk to the Governors
	Vice-chair	The Committee will elect a Vice-Chair from amongst its number.
	In attendance	Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Registry and CFO. The head of internal audit and a representative of the external auditors shall normally attend meetings where business relevant to them is to be discussed. At least once a year the Committee should meet with the external and internal auditors without any officers present.
	Members	Between 3 and 5 Board members appointed by the Board of Governors. Members should not have significant interests in or executive responsibility for the management of the University. The Chair of Governors should not be a member of the Committee. At least one member should have recent relevant experience in finance, accounting or auditing. The Board of Governors may, if the Committee considers it necessary or desirable, appoint co-opted members with relevant expertise.
Type of minutes		Full
Destination of minutes		The Board of Governors and members
Quorum		2 members
Frequency of meetings		Minimum 3 per year. The external auditors or head of internal audit may request a meeting if they consider it necessary.
Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers		
<p>The Audit Committee is authorised by the Board of Governors to:</p> <p>A. Investigate any activity within its terms of reference; seek any information it requires from any employee, and all employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Committee; obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of non-members with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary, normally in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor and/or Chair of Governors.</p> <p>B. Commission professional advice, to a maximum of £5,000 on each occasion. The use of this power must be reported to the next Board of Governors' meeting (<i>Delegated Power</i>).</p> <p>C. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advising the Board of Governors on the appointment of the external auditors, the audit fee, the provision of any non-audit services by the external auditors, and any questions of resignation or dismissal of the external auditors. Discussing with the external auditors, before the audit begins, the nature and scope of the audit Discussing with the external auditors problems and reservations arising from the final audit, including a review of the management letter, incorporating management responses, and any other matters the external auditors may wish to discuss (in the absence of management where necessary). Considering and advising the Board of Governors on the appointment and terms of engagement of the internal audit service (and the head of internal audit if 		

- applicable), the audit fee, the provision of any non-audit services by the internal auditors, and any questions of resignation or dismissal of the internal auditors.
- e) Reviewing the internal auditors' audit risk assessment, strategy and programme; consider major findings of internal audit investigations and management's response; and promoting co-ordination between the internal and external auditors. Ensuring that the resources made available for internal audit are sufficient to meet the institution's needs (or making a recommendation to the Board of Governors as appropriate)
 - f) Keeping under review the effectiveness of the risk management, culture, control and governance arrangements, and in particular reviewing the external auditors' management letter, the internal auditors' annual report, and management responses
 - g) Satisfy itself that effective arrangements are in place to ensure appropriate and accurate data returns are made to external stakeholders and regulatory bodies
 - h) Monitoring the implementation of agreed audit-based recommendations, from whatever source
 - i) Ensuring that all significant losses have been properly investigated and that the internal and external auditors, and where appropriate the regulator, have been informed
 - j) Overseeing the institution's policies on counter fraud and irregularities, anti-bribery and corruption and whistleblowing, including being notified of any action taken under these policies
 - k) Satisfying itself that suitable arrangements are in place to ensure the sustainability of the institution and to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This may include consideration of arrangements that: support the culture and behaviour that is prevalent within the institution; ensure the effective management of conflicts of interest; and enable the appointment of 'fit and proper persons' to the Board of Governors and senior executive positions.
 - l) Receiving any relevant reports from the National Audit Office (NAO) and its equivalents in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the regulator and other organisations
 - m) Monitoring annually the performance and effectiveness of the external and internal auditors, including any matters affecting their objectivity, and making recommendations to the Board of Governors concerning their reappointment, where appropriate.
 - n) Considering elements of the annual financial statements in the presence of the external auditors, including the auditors' formal opinion, the statement of members' responsibilities and the statement of internal control, in accordance with the regulator's accounts directions.
 - o) Considering any relevant issue raised in the external auditors' management letter, confirming with the internal and external auditors that the effectiveness of the internal control system has been reviewed, and commenting on this in its annual report to the Board of Governors.
 - p) Preparing an annual report addressed to the Vice-Chancellor and Board of Governors covering the institution's financial year and any significant issues up to the date of preparing the report, summarising activity for the year, giving the Committee's opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the institution's arrangements for the following: risk management, control and governance; sustainability and economy, efficiency and effectiveness (value for money). Basing the opinion in the Committee's annual report on the information presented to the Committee and normally submitting the report to the Board of Governors before the members' responsibility statement in the annual financial statements is signed.
 - q) Recommending the annual financial statements to the Board of Governors for approval.
 - r) Ensuring, in the event of the merger or dissolution of the institution, that the necessary actions are completed, including arranging for a final set of financial statements to be completed and signed.

Terms of reference of the Governance and Nominations Committee		
Membership	Chair	The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board of Governors
	Convenor and Minutes Secretary	Clerk to the Governors
	Vice-chair	In the event of the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall elect a member from amongst its number to take the Chair.
	Members	5 members appointed by the Board of Governors, one of whom will be the Chair of the Board and one of whom will be the Vice-Chancellor.
Type of minutes		Full
Destination of minutes		The Board of Governors, members
Quorum		3 members
Frequency of meetings		Minimum 2 per year
Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers		
a)	Keeping under review the membership of the Board and its committees to ensure it has the necessary balance of skills and experience to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities. In doing so the Committee will have regard to the skills and diversity matrix, along with an appropriate balance between continuity and rotation of membership.	
b)	Considering the reappointment of eligible independent members at the end of their term of office and making recommendations to the Board.	
c)	Recruitment of new independent members, having regard to the skills and diverse profile of the Board of Governors, with recommendations to the Board of Governors for the appointment of the same;	
d)	General oversight of the election processes for the appointment of staff and student members, in line with the Governor Recruitment and Appointment Procedure and ensuring that such elected members are eligible to be appointed under the Standing Orders of the Board of Governors, with recommendations to the Board of Governors for the appointment of the same;	
e)	Making recommendations to the Board of Governors on all Governor appointments and on policy matters concerning Board of Governors' membership, with particular reference to Governor membership issues in the Instrument & Articles of Government and the determination by the Board of the composition of the Board of Governors;	
f)	Approving, under delegated power from the Board's Governors, documents relating to the recruitment and appointment of Governors e.g. Governor recruitment and appointment procedures, Governor role description and person specification;	
g)	Reviewing and making recommendations to Board of Governors on governance arrangements;	
h)	To agree and review in-house Governor development, training arrangements for Governors and any targets for Governor attendance at external Governor development or training events, and to review Governor induction arrangements;	

- i) To advise the Board of Governors on the format and timing of reviews of its effectiveness, including any triennial governance effectiveness review involving the inclusion of independent input, and oversee actions arising from such reviews.

Terms of reference of the Remuneration Committee		
Officers	Chair	The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board of Governors.
	Committee Clerk	Clerk to the Board of Governors - <i>but see also section f) below concerning conflicts of interest.</i>
	Vice-Chair	In the event of the absence of the Chair, the Committee shall elect a member from amongst its number to take the Chair, provided that they shall not be the Chair of the Board.
	Members	The Chair of the Board together with at least three other independent members appointed by the Board of Governors, and one external co-opted Committee member who has expertise in remuneration matters at a senior level
	Membership & office-holder exclusions &/or variations	1) Student and Staff Governors, including the Vice Chancellor, may not be members of the Remuneration Committee. 2) The Chair of the Board of Governors may not serve as the Chair of the Remuneration Committee.
Type of minutes		Full
Destination of minutes		Confidential. Circulated to all members of the Board of Governors, excluding student & staff members other than the Vice-Chancellor.
Quorum		3 members.
Frequency of meetings		Minimum once per year
Staff in attendance at meetings		1) The Vice Chancellor will attend meetings of the Committee at the invitation of the Committee to present reports and provide advice - <i>but see also section f) below concerning conflicts of interest.</i> 2) The Head of Human Resources will attend meetings of the Committee to present reports and provide advice.
Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers		
a) To determine and review the salaries, terms and conditions and non-salary benefits and, where appropriate, severance payments, on behalf of the Board of Governors, of designated senior post holders (who are the Vice-Chancellor and Clerk to the Board of Governors and any such other posts designated as senior postholders by the Board of Governors).		
b) When undertaking the review of designated senior post-holder salaries, to follow the criteria and procedure agreed by the Board of Governors, which will include a review of comparative information on salaries and other benefits and conditions of service in the higher education sector, and to consider the impact on equality of any decisions made.		
c) In considering any severance arrangements for designated senior post-holders, the Remuneration Committee must represent the public interest, avoid any inappropriate use of public funds and, where appropriate, take account of any guidance issued by the University's funding or other regulatory body.		

- d) To consider requests made by senior post-holders or prospective senior post-holders under the University's senior post-holder discretionary policy on salary supplements in lieu of pension contributions, noting that where any such supplement is offered or granted it must be on a cost neutral basis as defined in the policy.
- e) When reporting on its decisions to the Board of Governors, the Remuneration Committee should ensure that its reports provide sufficient detail of the broad criteria and policies against which their decisions have been made.
- f) In line with the Board of Governors' standing orders, including its policy on conflicts of interest, the Vice Chancellor and Clerk will not remain in attendance at any part of a Remuneration Committee meeting at which their own pay or conditions are under discussion or at which the pay and conditions of any related party are under discussion. The Vice Chancellor and Clerk may, however, remain in attendance where the pay and conditions of senior post-holders as a class are under discussion. In the absence of the Clerk, minutes will be taken by a member of the Committee.
- g) To undertake a review of the Board of Governors' procedure for determining senior post-holder salaries at least every three years and to make recommendations on any revisions required.
- h) To undertake reviews of HR policies and procedures as they apply to senior postholders, at least every three years, approving any revisions required.
- i) To undertake a review of the University's senior post-holder discretionary policy on salary supplements in lieu of pension contributions, at least every three years, approving any revisions required.
- j) To make an Annual Report to the Board of Governors on how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities during the year past and to include in this report such information as is required by the Office for Students, any other relevant regulatory body and best practice guidance as set out in the CUC Remuneration Code.

Note

It should be noted that, under the Articles of Government, the Board of Governors is not permitted to delegate the following: Article 4.3.4 - the appointment of the Vice Chancellor, the Clerk and of the holder of any other designated senior post; Articles 4.4.1 & 4.4.2 - the consideration of the case for dismissal, and the power to determine an appeal in connection with the dismissal of the Vice Chancellor, the Clerk or the holder of a senior post, other than to a committee of members of the Board of Governors.

Approved by the Board on 26 November 2025