

UK Board

Terms of reference from 1 January 2024

The Terms of reference are extracted from the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Universities UK (adopted by Special Resolution passed on 2 July 1999 and amended by Special resolutions passed on 3 December 1999, 27 October 2000, 1 December 2006, and 4 December 2020).

Purpose

The objects of the Company, Universities UK, “are to promote, encourage and develop the university sector of higher education in the United Kingdom and thereby advance education for the public benefit”.

Subject to the Articles, the UK Board members are responsible for the management of the Company’s business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the Company.

Key responsibilities

- To promote and provide facilities for discussion and consultation between representatives of university institutions in the UK on any matters affecting or relevant to the university sector of higher education in the UK.
- To formulate policies on any matters affecting or relevant to the university sector of higher education in the UK.
- To represent the university sector of higher education in the UK and to conduct dealings and to liaise with the Government, any local, national, or other institution, authorities, agencies, bodies, or persons wheresoever in the world situated.
- To provide information, advice, and assistance to universities within the UK, or any of their representatives, on any aspect of educational affairs, including administrative and financial matters relating to or connected with education.
- To take any steps to protect the interest, reputation or good standing of the universities or the university sector of higher education in the UK or the integrity of any degree, diploma, or other awards issued by universities in the UK.

- To establish and delegate such matters as are deemed appropriate to the Board Advisory Committee.
- To establish and prescribe the terms of reference of the Governance and Nominations Committee and the Membership Committee.
- Subject the provisions in the Articles, to establish standing or other committees, advisory groups and working parties.

Structure

The UK Board consists of up to 21 persons:

- (a) The President
- (b) The three elected Vice-Presidents representing England and Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- (c) The Treasurer
- (d) Up to four Policy Leads
- (e) Up to six elected UK Board members
- (f) Up to six Board appointed members

Frequency of meetings

The UK Board of the Company may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit, provided that at least one such meeting shall be held in each of the three academic terms in each year.

There are currently five meetings of the UUK Board per year: September; November; January; April; and June.

Quorum

The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the UK Board may be fixed by the majority vote of all the UK Board members but this must never be less than eight UK Board members.