

THE ROLE OF A COUNCIL MEMBER AT SUSSEX

The University is extremely proud both of the diversity and calibre of its Council. Its membership is drawn from a variety of backgrounds to ensure a breadth of experience is brought to both debate and discussion. Council comprises staff and students as well as independent members. All members of Council are expected:

- € to observe the highest standards of honesty, integrity and objectivity and expect the same in their relationships with fellow Council members and the Executive;
- € to act in good faith and be accountable in accordance with the Charter, Statutes and Regulations of the University (and the law as it applies to Higher Education, including Charity Law);
- € to be open and transparent in the best common interests of the University as a whole (and the public interest), leading by example, demonstrating respect and dignity for others;
- € to be knowledgeable and understanding of how the University works (including an awareness of risk and the broader operating environment) ... taking the opportunity to be a part of the broader University community wherever possible
- € to engage actively in discussion and debate (contribute positively, listen carefully, challenge sensitively), speaking up without fear of censure;

- € to work collegially with fellow Council members and the Executive, respecting confidentiality and accepting collective, corporate decision-making;
- € to accept individual responsibility: to review performance and behaviours, both personally and as part of a group;
- € to prepare fully in advance of meetings and to attend meetings regularly.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF COUNCIL

The University's statutory documents pertaining to the powers and functions of Council (Statute V and Regulation 5) are available on the University's website: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/govdocuments>. They can broadly be summarised along the following lines:

- € to ensure that the responsibilities of Council are exercised in the best interests of the University;
- € to undertake the proper stewardship of funds from all sources and to ensure that these are applied towards the University's primary charitable purpose of teaching and research;
- € to agree goals for the University and the strategy to achieve them;
- € to ensure that the process for determining those goals and strategy was both thorough and inclusive;
- € to monitor the performance of the organisation against its goals and agreed KPIs which Council signs off as robust, appropriate and measurable;

- € to hold the management to account
- € to assess and sanction risk and risk appetite.

THE PERSON

Our Council members will demonstrate the following qualities and attributes:

- € varied experience (be that executive and/or non-executive) at a senior-level within a complex organisation;
- € strong commercial and/or political acumen ... aware of the world/environment in which the University operates;
- € obvious enthusiasm for the University's work and values;
- € passionate about diversity as a force for good;
- € powerful advocate, with tact and discretion ... able to influence the University both internally and externally.