



Introduction

The Academic Council is established under the Universities' Act 1997, according to which it shall, subject to the financial constraints determined by the Governing Authority and to review by that authority, control the academic affairs of the University, including the curriculum of, and instruction and education provided by, the University.

In accordance with Section 29 of the Universities' Act 1997 and with Statute 25, the Academic Council may delegate any function ascribed to it by Statute to the Registrar, to an officer or to a committee established in accordance with the Act. Academic Council or its relevant committees shall review the function, operation and decisions of such committees or officers on a regular basis. This power of delegation is also articulated in Section 4.3 of the Academic Council Standing Orders.

The below sets out the decisions which are reserved to the Academic Council. Such decisions will only be taken by the Executive Committee of the Academic Council in exceptional and unexpected circumstances.

The Academic Council reserves authority to:	
<i>Academic Structures</i>	
Be consulted by the Governing Authority on the establishment of a Recognised College or Recognised Institute of the University.	Statute 11, Ch. 1 (3)
Be consulted by the Governing Authority on amendments to the University's register of Colleges and Schools in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The establishment of a new College, Joint College or a new School• The abolition of an existing College, Joint College or School• The merging of two or more existing Colleges, Joint Colleges or Schools	Statute 25, Ch. 14 (5) & (6)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The retitling of an existing College, Joint College or School • The altering or assignment of the College affiliation of a School 	
Recommend to the Governing Authority to change the title of a School, establish or abolish a School or merge two or more existing Schools.	Statute 25, Ch. 17 (5)
<i>Quality Procedures</i>	
Be consulted by the Governing Authority and advise the Governing Authority on the establishment of procedures aimed at improving the quality of education and related services provided by the University.	Pt. III, Ch. VIII, S.35 (1) of the Universities' Act, 1997 Statute 25, Ch. 6 (2) (k)
Be consulted by the Governing Authority on the review of the effectiveness of the above-listed quality procedures and on the implementation of the findings arising out of the application of those procedures.	Pt. III, Ch. VIII, S.25 (4) of the Universities' Act, 1997
Be satisfied that, where a Recognised College or Institute engages in education, training or other activities which do not lead to degrees or qualifications of the University, the quality of any such activities is appropriate to a Recognised College or Institute.	Statute 11, Ch. 1 (12)
Establish procedures for Recognised Colleges for the validation and accreditation of academic programmes and for quality assurance and quality enhancement which are in keeping with those approved by Governing Authority.	Statute 11, Ch. 1 (13)
<i>Faculty</i>	
Recommend to the Governing Authority procedures for the award of Tenure.	Statute 25, Ch. 19 (8)
Approve, and approve revisions to, the University's Statement on Academic Freedom.	n/a
Be consulted by the Governing Authority on processes and procedures for promotion, including the University's Faculty Promotions Policy.	Statute 25, Ch. 19 (12)

Governance	
University Statutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be consulted with by the Governing Authority when making statutes relating to the academic affairs of the University including the curriculum of, and instruction and education provided by the University. • Propose to the Governing Authority the form and content of statutes to be made relating to the academic affairs of the university, including the conduct of examinations, the determination of examination results, the procedures for appeals by students relating to the results of such examinations and the evaluation of academic progress. 	Statute 25, Ch. 5 (8) Statute 25, Ch. 6 (2)(c)
Establish sub-committees of the Academic Council.	Pt. III, Ch. V, S.29 of the Universities' Act, 1997
Establish Governing Boards of the Academic Council.	Statute 25, Ch. 14 (9)
Make recommendations to the Governing Authority on procedures which relate to membership of the Academic Council.	Statute 25, Ch. 6 (6)
Conduct a self-assessment of the effectiveness of the Academic Council.	6.1 of the Academic Council Standing Orders
Consider any matters specifically delegated by the Governing Authority to the Academic Council.	Statute 25, Ch. 6 (2) (m)
Approve derogations from the Academic Council Standing Orders sought by the Academic Council Executive Committee.	n/a
Approve amendments to the Terms of Reference and Composition of the Academic Council Executive Committee.	n/a
Receive minutes from the Committees' of Academic Council.	3.7.7 of the Academic Council Standing Orders
Appoint the Chair of the Academic Council Executive Committee.	2.4.3 of the Academic Council Standing Orders

<i>Policies and Regulations</i>	
<i>Note: Editorial and minor amendments may be approved by the ACEC in the below cases once approval in principle has been granted by the Academic Council.</i>	
Initial approval of all new academic policies.	n/a
Approval of substantive reviews of policies.	n/a
Approval to conduct, and approval of, significant reviews of the Academic Regulations.	n/a