

University Council Ordinance

Version 2 – Commenced 31 August 2022

1) Preamble

1.1 Among other things, the *University of Tasmania Act 1992* (Act) prescribes:

- a) the powers and functions of the University Council (Council) as the governing authority of the University
- b) the positions of Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and members of the Council
- c) the purpose of Academic Senate, the constitution, functions, powers and proceedings of which are prescribed by the *Academic Senate Ordinance*.

1.2 Pursuant to section 10 of the Act, Council may determine the powers and functions it will reserve for itself and those it may delegate to other officers and forums, including the Vice-Chancellor and other University staff, to enable the efficient and effective operation of the University in pursuit of its strategic and operational objectives.

1.3 Delegation of Council powers and functions under this or any other instrument, does not prevent the performance or exercise of a function or power by Council.

2) Commencement and review

2.1 This ordinance takes effect on 25 September 2020 and will be reviewed periodically.

3) Purpose

3.1 This ordinance provides for Council to prescribe:

- a) the reserve powers and functions of Council
- b) the role of the Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor/s
- c) the powers and functions delegated to the Vice-Chancellor
- d) the establishment and operation of Council committees.

4) Reserved powers and functions of Council

4.1 Council has reserved powers and functions which include:

- a) approving the mission and strategic direction of the University and the strategic plan and ensuring their relevance and currency over time
- b) conferring and revoking degrees
- c) approving the annual budget and oversight of University finances
- d) approving the risk management framework, setting risk appetite and monitoring key risks
- e) establishing a controlled entity
- f) electing the Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor/s
- g) appointing and removing the Vice-Chancellor
- h) establishing and maintaining governance-level policies
- i) overseeing University management and academic and general performance
- j) developing and fostering links between the University and the wider community
- k) setting a positive University culture and ensuring the University operates ethically and in line with its values

- l) monitoring and managing Council, Council committee and Council member performance
- m) Council succession planning.

4.2 The University Secretary will be appointed by Council on recommendation of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.

5) The Chancellor

5.1 The Chancellor chairs the Council, confers degrees and has other functions as set by Council from time to time.

5.2 The Chancellor may authorise a Deputy Chancellor/s to perform the functions of the Chancellor from time to time.

5.3 Where it is not possible to obtain the authority of the Chancellor, the Council may nominate a Deputy Chancellor/s to perform the functions of the Chancellor as required.

5.4 The Chancellor is responsible for assessing the performance of the Vice-Chancellor and reporting on the Vice-Chancellor's performance to the Council

6) The Vice-Chancellor

6.1 The Vice-Chancellor is a professor of the University and may use the title:

- a) Vice-Chancellor
- b) Vice-Chancellor and President
- c) President

6.2 As the chief academic and executive officer of the University, the Vice-Chancellor is accountable for:

- a) promoting the interests and furthering the development of the University
- b) developing, reviewing and implementing the University's strategic planning
- c) managing the operation of the University, including managing the delivery of research, teaching and learning, to achieve strategic and operational objectives
- d) implementing the risk management framework, monitoring risk triggers, managing key risks and sustaining a strong risk culture
- e) ensuring legislative and regulatory compliance
- f) leading the external relations of the University
- g) fostering a constructive organisational culture and monitoring University staff performance
- h) establishing operational policies and administering the University's governance instruments, including but not limited to ordinances, by-laws and policies.

6.3 The Chancellor may appoint an acting Vice-Chancellor for any periods during which the office of Vice-Chancellor is vacant, or for which the Vice-Chancellor will be on leave and/or unavailable to act.

6.4 Other than the audit committee (required by the Act), the Vice-Chancellor is ex officio member of every committee, board or advisory body that is created by Council.

7) Council committees

- 7.1 Pursuant to section 9 of the Act, Council must establish an audit committee (which includes the power to broaden this committee to an 'audit and risk committee') and may establish other committees to perform or exercise any of its functions or powers.
- 7.2 With the exception of the audit committee, Council may disestablish a committee at any time.
- 7.3 Council will establish terms of reference for each Council committee, including membership and terms, and mode of operation, consistent with the Act.
- 7.4 The audit committee is chaired by a member of Council other than the Chancellor.
- 7.5 The Chancellor is a member of every Council committee including the audit committee.
- 7.6 Council committee chairs and members, who are appointed by Council, hold office until:
- a) their term expires
 - b) they resign in writing to the Chancellor
 - c) they are replaced by the Chancellor on the grounds that they have, in the Chancellor's opinion, become unable or unwilling to serve the committee.

8) Meetings of Council

- 8.1 The Council will determine the procedure for calling and conducting its meetings.

Made by University Council on 28 August 2020.

[Version history](#)