

3. General principles

- 3.1 The purpose of this document is to provide clarification of key decision-making authorities together with a framework to inform decision-making in other areas, and cannot be exhaustive. This being the case, the expectation is that the final and delegated authorities specified in this document must exercise common sense and judgement in implementing the details of the decision-making process – for example, in deciding the precise consultation and approval route for a particular strategy or policy.
- 3.2 Unless the Charter, Statutes or Regulations require Council to work with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Senate or other parties with regard to key decisions or processes, it should be assumed that Council reserves the right of authorisation in areas where it has ultimate authority.
- 3.3 A Committee Chair shall have the power, following consultation with the University's Secretary or his/her nominee as secretary to that Committee, to deal with any matter of urgency that may arise between normally scheduled meetings, where it is deemed that delay would seriously impede the business of the University. This may include consulting with members by correspondence, or calling a special meeting of the committee, or by taking Chair's action. Any such actions shall be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in question.
- 3.4 Although this document has been prepared with careful reference to the University's Charter, Statutes and Regulations, it should be noted that the latter constitute the overriding authority, should there be any contradiction.
- 3.5 Where Council or any other primary authority has chosen to delegate the approval and execution of a decision or process, they must retain the ultimate accountability and corporate responsibility for that decision or process. They may choose to define financial or other limits for a particular delegated authority. They may also choose to review and rescind such delegated authority at any time, unless it is specifically stipulated in statute or regulations.
- 3.6 This scheme seeks to outline the current scope of delegated responsibilities, until determined otherwise, and will be subject to regular review by Council on at least an annual basis.

