

## **Board of Governors**

### **Statement of Primary Responsibilities**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The University of Northampton is a higher education corporation which derives its authority and degree awarding powers from Orders in Council dated 24 and 25 August 2005 pursuant to the Education Reform Act 1988 as amended, and its operation is governed by an Instrument and Articles of Government approved by the Privy Council in 1989 and amended in 1993, 2003, 2005, and with the current version approved in May 2013.
  
- 1.2. The Instrument and Articles of Government regulate the University's governance, administration and procedures and define how the University functions. It constitutes part of the legal and regulatory framework that ensures that the University's decisions and operations are efficient, transparent and accountable to its users and to the community. As a constituent element of the Constitution, and in line with the Higher Education Code of Governance published by the CUC, the University is required to have in place this formal Statement of Primary Responsibilities, encapsulating the general principles within which the Board and Governors, both individually and collectively, exercise their powers and responsibilities.

#### **2. Powers and Duties of the Board of Governors**

- 2.1. The exercise of the following rights, duties and responsibilities shall at all times be subject to the general law, the Instrument and Articles of Government of the University and any formal policies approved thereunder. In accordance with the Instrument and Articles of Government the Board of Governors is:
  - 1) To approve the mission and strategic vision of the University, long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders.

- 2) To ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University against the plans and approved key performance indicators, which should be – where possible and appropriate – benchmarked against other comparable institutions.
- 3) To appoint the Vice Chancellor as chief executive, and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance.
- 4) To delegate authority to the Vice Chancellor, as chief executive, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and human resource management of the University. And to establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits within such management functions as shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the Vice Chancellor.
- 5) To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls, audit systems and risk assessment, and procedures for procurement and for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest.
- 6) To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Board of Governors itself and University governance.
- 7) To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in HE corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
- 8) To safeguard the good name and values of the University.
- 9) To appoint a Clerk to the Board of Governors and to ensure that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the University, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.
- 10) To be the principal financial and business authority of the University, to ensure that proper books of account are kept, to approve the annual budget and financial statements, and to have overall responsibility for the University's assets, property and estate.
- 11) To be the University's legal authority and, as such, to ensure that systems are in place for meeting all the University's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the University's name.

- 12) To receive assurance that adequate provision has been made for the general welfare of students.
- 13) To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University.
- 14) To ensure that the University's constitution is followed at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.

#### **Version Control**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
R1.0		1 <sup>st</sup> issue
R1.1	June 2013	2 <sup>nd</sup> issue
<b>R1.2</b>	Feb 2015	3 <sup>rd</sup> issue, changed following publication of CUC Code