

REGULATION 29

ROLE OF SENATE IN MAJOR CHANGE PROJECTS

Senate's Role

1. Senate's role in connection with major change projects is to seek assurance that academic quality and standards will be protected and enhanced where possible but not to run, govern or make decisions in respect of the project. Senate should focus on the intended outcomes of the project and any effects on academic quality and standards rather than the process of change for which it should rely on the Executive. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will decide whether the project is major with significant potential risks to academic quality and standards which will impact many of the Schools and, where this is the case, will present it to Senate. However, Senators can also request that Senate discusses whether this regulation should cover a particular project.

Initial Decision

2. Senate will want to be informed of the scope of the project, including the key potential risks to academic quality and standards, the consultation processes and overall governance arrangements for the project. Senate might wish to comment on the project including commenting to Council.

During the Project

3. The responsible officer will report on progress to Senate including risks to and impact on academic quality and standards. If there are significant risks to academic quality and standards then Senate will want to hear how academic quality and standards will be protected. The reporting frequency will be determined by Senate and built into the Senate calendar.
4. AGC and/or Senate can require an internal audit to be carried out during the project which will report and provide assurance to AGC and Senate.
5. If there are programme specific quality issues, the Programme Committees (perhaps having been raised at the Student-Staff Liaison Committees which report into Programme Committees) will deal with this or escalate them to the Board of Studies.
6. If there are School level issues which come through Programme Committees or Student Experience Committees, the Board of Studies will deal with these or escalate them to Senate. The Chair of the Board of Studies has a responsibility to quickly escalate such issues if the meeting cycle is not appropriate and the risks are significant.
7. If issues are escalated to Senate, Senate will seek assurance from the responsible officer on the way in which academic quality and standards will be protected.
8. Senate may escalate matters to Council at any time.

Following the Project

9. Senate will receive a report on the learnings from the Project restricted to matters concerning academic quality and standards.

Approved as a Regulation 18.06.14

Approved by Chair's Action (Senate) 24.08.16

Revised 13.07.22