A.3 SENATORS ROLE PROFILE

i. Senators have a responsibility to ensure that Senate conducts itself and they conduct themselves in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour in public life.

ii. Senators are expected to play an appropriate part in ensuring that the necessary business of Senate is carried out efficiently and effectively.

iii. Senators fall into three main categories (a) ex-officio staff members (b) those elected from the academic staff and (c) students appointed by the Students’ Union Trustee Board or ex-officio. In this context:

- Senators bring considerable experience to Senate and are encouraged to use that to support Senate’s prime role in enhancing academic quality and assuring academic standards.
- Senators will often address issues from their own knowledge, background or standpoint but they should always seek to act in the interest of the University as a whole.
- Although, Senators have no obligation to report back to their colleagues or to take up issues raised by their colleagues, they are encouraged to discuss academic issues raised at Senate with their colleagues.
- The elected Senators are critically important in raising the institution’s ambition to do better academically. They serve as both a sounding board but also a check on the Executive. The role can be uncomfortable – they have at times to be critical of the Executive to which they report on a daily basis – and it is important that their role is supported and appreciated by the Executive when this happens.
- The role of Student Senators in bringing the student voice to Senate is very important. This role profile will apply to Student Senators but it is recognised that while they will abide with a Senate decision, the Students’ Union may continue to campaign for a change in that decision.

iv. Senators must accept and abide by collective decisions once made. They may indicate where they disagree with a decision and this will be noted in the Minutes.

v. Senators should recognise the proper separation between governance and management. Senate is a Committee primarily concerned with governance and will not normally deal with operational or detailed resources issues.

vi. Senators must maintain appropriate confidentiality when papers or minutes are marked “Closed” or “Restricted”.

vii. Senators should make every effort to attend and participate in such information-sharing events, training, procedures and appraisals as are deemed necessary by Senate and/or the Chair of Senate.

viii. Senators must make every effort to attend all meetings of Senate and also any Senate Committees of which they are members.