

## THE ROLE OF A COUNCIL MEMBER AT SUSSEX

The University is extremely proud both of the diversity and calibre of its Council. Its membership is drawn from a variety of backgrounds to ensure a breadth of experience is brought to both debate and discussion. Council comprises staff and students as well as independent members. All members of Council are expected:

- to observe the highest standards of honesty, integrity and objectivity and expect the same in their relationships with fellow Council members and the Executive;
- to act in good faith and be accountable in accordance with the Charter, Statutes and Regulations of the University (and the law as it applies to Higher Education, including Charity Law);
- to be open and transparent in the best common interests of the University as a whole (and the public interest), leading by example, demonstrating respect and dignity for others;
- to be knowledgeable and understanding of how the University works (including an awareness of risk and the broader operating environment) – taking the opportunity to be a part of the broader University community wherever possible
- to engage actively in discussion and debate (contribute positively, listen carefully, challenge sensitively), speaking up without fear of censure;

- to work collegially with fellow Council members and the Executive, respecting confidentiality and accepting collective, corporate decision-making;
- to accept individual responsibility: to review performance and behaviours, both personally and as part of a group;
- to prepare fully in advance of meetings and to attend meetings regularly.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF COUNCIL

The University's statutory documents pertaining to the powers and functions of Council (Statute V and Regulation 5) are available on the University's website: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/govdocuments>. They can broadly be summarised along the following lines:

- to ensure that the responsibilities of Council are exercised in the best interests of the University;
- to undertake the proper stewardship of funds from all sources and to ensure that these are applied towards the University's primary charitable purpose of teaching and research;
- to agree goals for the University and the strategy to achieve them;
- to ensure that the process for determining those goals and strategy was both thorough and inclusive;
- to monitor the performance of the organisation against its goals and agreed KPIs which Council signs off as robust, appropriate and measurable;

- to hold the management to account
- to assess and sanction risk and risk appetite.

## THE PERSON

Our Council members will demonstrate the following qualities and attributes:

- varied experience (be that executive and/or non-executive) at a senior-level within a complex organisation;
- strong commercial and/or political acumen – aware of the world/environment in which the University operates;
- obvious enthusiasm for the University's work and values;
- passionate about diversity as a force for good;
- powerful advocate, with tact and discretion – able to influence the University both internally and externally.