Academic Council (constitution)

1. The Academic Council is the Executive Committee of the Academic Board and, subject to Clause 8, determines all matters which by statute, regulation, or custom are the Board's responsibility, with the exception of:

(a) the amendment of Statute No. 19 (Academic Board);
(b) the determination of the membership of the Council and committees of the Board or Council, except as provided in Clause 4;
(c) the creation or suppression of faculties, and the suppression of schools;
(d) the transfer of resourcing responsibility for a school from one faculty to another;
(e) any policy recommendations of the committees of the Board or Council as are classified as 'major' by the Chair of the Board or by the originating committee;
(f) any matter which is declared a 'special matter' under the provisions of Clause 9(5);
(g) recommendations to the Senate for the conferring of the title of Emeritus Professor.

2. The Academic Council may refer any matter to the Board for decision, and may advise the Academic Board on any of the matters listed in sub-sections (a) to (e) inclusive of Clause 1.

3. The membership of the Academic Council comprises:

(a) the Chair of the Academic Board as Chair;
(b) the Deputy Chair of the Academic Board;
(c) the Associate Chair of the Academic Board;
(d) the Vice-Chancellor;
(e) the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
(f) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research);
(g) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education);
(h) the Executive Director (Academic Services) and Registrar;
(i) the Executive Director (Finance and Resources);
(j) the immediate past Chair of the Academic Board;
(k) the deans of the faculties;
(l) a Vice Dean from the Faculties of Science;
(ml) the Dean of the School of Indigenous Studies;
(nm) the University Librarian;
(on) the Dean of the Graduate Research School;
(po) the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education);
(gp) the President of the Guild of Undergraduates;
(rp) the President of the Postgraduate Students' Association;
(sr) eight members elected by and from the members of the Academic Board, each for a term of two years; and
(ts) up to two members co-opted by the foregoing, each for a period of up to two years.

4.(1) The Academic Council may fill a casual vacancy in its own membership or that of an Academic Council committee for the balance of the term of the former member if it has no more than one year to run.

(2) If the balance of the term is greater than one year, casual vacancies are filled by Board election.
5. The procedure governing election to the Academic Council is the same as that determined by the Academic Board for all its Council committees.

6.(1) In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair of the Academic Board takes the chair.
(2) In the absence of both the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Academic Board from a meeting, the Associate Chair of the Academic Board takes the chair.
(3) In the absence of the Chair, Deputy Chair and Associate Chair of the Academic Board from a meeting, Academic Council elects a chair from among those present.

7. The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council is 15.

8.(1) The Council is permitted to make decisions without reference to the Academic Board, only if these decisions are supported by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
(2) If a proposed decision is supported by a simple majority but not by a two-thirds majority, it must be submitted to the Academic Board for consideration.

9.(1) The full agenda and minutes of the Academic Council are distributed to all members of the Academic Board at the same time as they are sent out to the Council.
(2) The Academic Council must not make a decision or recommendation on any matter which has not been listed in its circulated agenda.
(3) A member of the Academic Board is entitled to make a submission to the Academic Council, in writing, or at the relevant meeting, or both, on any matter listed in its agenda.
(4) Within seven days of the circulation date which appears on the relevant minutes of the Academic Council, a member of the Academic Board may request the Chair of the Board to recommit to the next meeting of the Council any matter dealt with in those minutes, provided that the member gives reasons for such a request and is prepared either to submit a paper on the issue for the Council’s consideration, and/or to attend the Council’s meeting to discuss it.
(5) If ten members of the Academic Board so require, a special meeting of the Board must be convened to consider whether any matter dealt with in the minutes of the Academic Council should be declared a 'special matter' and so be determined by the Board itself.
(6) If a matter is the subject of a special meeting of the Board called in accordance with (5), only the Board has authority to take action on it unless, at the special meeting, the Board declares it not to be a 'special matter', in which case action will proceed on it as proposed in the Council’s minutes.
(7) Any matter declared by the Academic Board to be a 'special matter' must be finalised by the Board itself without further reference to the Academic Council.
(8) If four or more members of the Academic Council so request, an item on a Council agenda must be referred to the Academic Board for consideration.

10. Establishment by the Academic Council of standing committees, and their terms of reference, delegations and membership, are subject to the approval of the Academic Board.

11. The Academic Council normally meets once in each month except January when it does not meet.