

## SENATE CHARTER

1. Pursuant to the *University of Western Australia Act 1911* the Senate is the governing authority of the University, has statutory responsibility for the “*entire control and management of the affairs and concerns of the University*” and must act in all matters “*in such manner as appears to it best calculated to promote the interests of the University*”.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Senate is responsible to the public for the stewardship of the University as an institution of excellence and integrity, and for the custodianship of its future prosperity.
3. The Senate has the following primary responsibilities:

### **Strategic Oversight**

- a) approving the mission and strategic direction of the University;
- b) ensuring that values, visions and goals are turned into effective management systems;
- c) monitoring the implementation of the University’s mission statement and strategic plan; and
- d) protecting freedom of speech and academic freedom.

### **Ensuring Effective Overall Management**

- e) appointing the Vice-Chancellor as the Chief Executive Officer of the University, and monitoring the Vice-Chancellor’s performance;
- f) appointing other senior officers of the University as considered appropriate;
- g) overseeing and reviewing overall management performance; and
- h) overseeing and monitoring the academic governance and activities of the University.

### **Ensuring Responsible Financial and Risk Management**

- i) approving the annual budget and business plan;
  - j) approving and monitoring systems of control and accountability, including general overview of any controlled entities (entities satisfying the test of control in s.50AA of the *Corporations Act*);
  - k) overseeing and monitoring the assessment and management of risk across the University, including commercial undertakings;
  - l) establishing policy and procedural principles, consistent with legal requirements and community expectations, including remuneration policies for the Vice-Chancellor and senior officers; and
  - m) ensuring compliance with legal and government policy requirements
4. Senate is also the ultimate legislative authority of the University, with power to enact regulations and by-laws and to recommend changes to the Statutes and the University Act to facilitate the educational and research mission of the University.
  5. To fulfil its responsibilities effectively the Senate:
    - a) harnesses the individual and collective experience and wisdom of its members;
    - b) may delegate its powers and functions under *The University of Western Australia Act 1911*;<sup>2</sup>
    - c) delegates operational responsibility for the management of the University to the Vice-Chancellor;
    - d) establishes committees which contribute to the effective governance of the University;
    - e) works cooperatively with the Vice-Chancellor, executive management, and Senate committees in the best interests of the University; and
    - f) approves a list of *Matters Retained for Senate* decision.

### **Review**

This Charter has been approved by Senate. Senate will amend this Charter as and when necessary and will also review the Charter as a whole at least once every two years.

Under the direction of the Chancellor, the University Secretary is authorised to make administrative amendments to the Charter as required.

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<sup>1</sup> *The University of Western Australia Act 1911* ss 5, 13.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, s 16G

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**Approval and Implementation:**

Approval Authority: Senate

Responsible Officer(s): University Secretary

**Version Control and Revision History:**

TRIM F22/731

Version	Date approved	Description of version	Approval Reference (resolution number)
-	27 April 1999	In principle agreement to adopt a charter	SR76/1999
-	22 May 2000	Approved with a discrete amendment to be effected by Chancellor's Committee	SR53/2000
-	30 October 2000	Amended version noted and adopted as per SR53/2000	No resolution
-	26 July 2004	Revised	SR110/04
-	28 April 2022	Considered by Chancellor's Committee and recommended to Senate	CC R15/22
1/2022	23 May 2022	Revised	S R35/22