



CHARTER FOR THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

1. NAME

The name of the committee is the University Research Committee, hereafter referred to as the URC.

2. STATUS

The URC is a Senate Committee and reports to Senate.

3. MISSION AND GOALS

The URC assists Senate in executing its functions as contemplated in section 21 of the Standard Institutional Statute in respect of matters related to research in accordance with the vision, mission and core values of the University, the strategic goals and subsequent Key Performance Areas and Indicators, the principles of corporate governance and within the legal and management framework of the University.

4. COMPOSITION

- 4.1 Vice-Chancellor (*Ex Officio*);
- 4.2 Pro-Vice-Chancellor (*Ex Officio*);
- 4.3 Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Advancement (Chairperson);
- 4.4 Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic (*Ex Officio*);
- 4.5 Executive Deans;
- 4.6 One additional academic employee nominated by each Executive Dean;
- 4.7 Executive Director: Research & Innovation;
- 4.8 Co-opted members as determined by the URC;
- 4.9 Invited members when appropriate.

5. FUNCTIONS

The URC functions in accordance with the authority delegated to it by Senate. The specific functions of the URC are to:

- 5.1 give strategic direction with reference to research at the University;

- 5.2 develop institutional research-related policies for consideration by Senate;
- 5.3 consider and approve applications for funding of research activities and projects in accordance with the criteria and University research budget;
- 5.4 consider and recommend to Senate matters related to research;
- 5.5 monitor the quality of research and “research enabling environment” within the University;
- 5.6 deliberate on any matter that, in the opinion of the Chairperson should serve at the URC for consideration prior to serving at Senate.

6. SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

Senate delegates the scope of authority to the URC as it deems fit.

7. MEETING PROCEDURE AND REPORTING

- 7.1 The URC meets at least quarterly (meeting dates set in advance and contained in the University’s Year Programme).
- 7.2 The URC Secretariat administers meetings in accordance with the Rules in this regard.
- 7.3 The Chairperson of the URC may call an extraordinary or emergency meeting in accordance with the Rules.
- 7.4 The Chairperson may invite persons who are not members to attend meetings, on the condition that they may participate in discussions but may not vote.
- 7.5 Members of the URC diligently execute their duty of care and fiduciary duty during deliberations and decision-making.
- 7.6 Decision-making is primarily based on the principle of consensus and/or sufficient consensus.
- 7.7 If consensus cannot be reached, a principle/motion is put to the vote and it is carried if a simple majority vote of those present at the meeting has been obtained.
- 7.8 The Chairperson has, on any matter, a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, also a casting vote.
- 7.9 Central Committee Administration provides the Secretariat who administers meetings in accordance with the Rules.
- 7.10 The minutes of each meeting are considered at the next meeting.
- 7.11 A quarterly report is submitted to Senate for noting, ratification or consideration of matters.

8. LIFESPAN AND DISSOLUTION OF THE URC

The term of office of members of the URC is as follows:

- 8.1 The members of the Management Executive Committee, the Executive Deans and the Executive Director serve by virtue of their office.
- 8.2 Co-opted members serve for a period as determined by the URC.
- 8.3 The URC is a Senate committee and may be dissolved by Senate.

Approved by Senate on 20 October 2008