

MEMBER OF COUNCIL
Role Description

1. Membership

a) Members are expected to play an appropriate part in ensuring that the necessary business of the Governing Body (Council) is carried on efficiently, effectively, and in a manner appropriate for the proper conduct of public business. They are expected to make rational and constructive contributions to debate and to make their knowledge and expertise available to Council as opportunity arises.

b) Members have a responsibility for ensuring that Council acts in accordance with the instruments of governance of the College and with the College's internal rules and regulations, and should seek advice from the Council Secretary in any case of uncertainty.

c) Members are required to accept collective responsibility for the decisions reached by Council. Members elected, nominated or appointed by particular constituencies may not act as if delegated by the group they represent, and may not be bound in any way by mandates given to them by others.

2. Standards

a) Members have a responsibility for ensuring that Council conducts itself in accordance with accepted standards of behaviour in public life, embracing selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. They must at all times regulate their personal conduct as members of Council in accordance with these standards.

b) Members must make a full and timely disclosure of personal interests to the Council Secretary in accordance with the procedures approved by Council. They must as soon as practicable disclose any interest which they have in any matter under discussion and accept the ruling of the Chair in relation to the management of that situation, in order that the integrity of the business of Council and its Committees may be and may be seen to be maintained.

c) Since the College is a Charity, members have a responsibility for ensuring that Council exercises efficient and effective use of the resources of the College for the furtherance of its charitable purposes, maintains its long-term financial viability, and safeguards its assets, and that proper mechanisms exist to ensure financial control and for the prevention of fraud.

3. The Business of the College

a) Members have a responsibility for ensuring that Council exercises control over the strategic direction of the College, through an effective planning process, and that the performance of the College is adequately assessed against the objectives which Council has approved.

b) Members should endeavour to establish constructive and supportive but challenging working relationships with the College employees with whom they come into contact, but must recognise the proper separation between governance and executive management, and avoid involvement in the day-to-day executive management of the College.

c) Members may be appointed by Council to at least one Committee of Council and are expected to play a full part in the business of all Committees to which they are appointed.

d) Members are encouraged to attend Graduation Ceremonies and other key corporate events in the College's calendar.

e) Members are responsible for witnessing the use of the College Seal and may be called upon to do so on occasion.

f) In accordance with the College Ordinances, members may be called upon to participate in at least one Panel hearing per annum, constituted on an ad hoc basis to hear a grievance case or an appeal involving a member of the academic and professional staff. In addition, members may be asked to hear a case or an appeal involving a student.

4. The External Role

a) Members may be asked to represent Council and the College externally, and will be fully briefed by the College to enable them to carry out this role effectively.

b) Members may be asked to use personal influence and networking skills on behalf of the College (the 'door-opening' role).

c) Members may be asked to play a role in liaising between key stakeholders and the College, or in fund-raising. They will be fully briefed by the College to enable them to carry out this role effectively. However, this role in particular must be exercised in a carefully co-ordinated fashion with the Principal, other officers of Council and staff of the College.

5. Personal

Members will at all times act fairly and impartially in the interests of the College as a whole, using independent judgement and maintaining confidentiality as appropriate.

Members are expected to attend all meetings of Council and of Committees of which they are a member, or give timely apologies if absence is unavoidable.

Members must participate in procedures established by Council for the regular appraisal/review of the performance of individual members. Members should attend any induction activities arranged by the College and should participate in appropriate training events, which will be drawn to their attention by the Secretary to Council.

The likely overall time commitment required of members is one day a month.

Membership of Council is not remunerated, but members are encouraged to reclaim all travelling and similar expenses incurred in the course of College business, via the Council Secretary.

The formal start date and duration of appointment, together with any other relevant considerations shall be set out in the appointment letter.