

1. About the University

- 1.1 The University of Sussex was the first of the new wave of universities founded in the 1960s, receiving its Royal Charter in 1961. Over the following years, the University has become a leading research and teaching institution, ranked in the top 15 universities in the UK, and the top 100 in the world¹. We currently have over 13,000 students, 2,200 staff and turnover of £180 million a year. Sussex has developed a reputation for innovation and inspiration, attracting leading thinkers and researchers.
- 1.2 The University has counted three Nobel Prize winners, 14 Fellows of the Royal Society, six Fellows of the British Academy and a winner of the prestigious Crafoord Prize among its faculty. Sussex has academic links with every continent, over 3000 international students from 120 countries and teaching staff from 40 nations which gives the University a strongly international feel. Sussex is the only university campus in England that is entirely surrounded by a national park, set on the edge of the South Downs. The lively, friendly seaside city of Brighton & Hove is just a few minutes away, with its great leisure facilities and its rich cultural life.

2. Strategic Plan

- 2.1 The University published its Strategic Plan *Making the Future*² in March 2009 which sets out the strategic direction of the University over the period 2009-2015. The plan identifies eight goals:

- Inspirational teaching and learning; (see 3 below)
- Innovative research and scholarship; (see 4 below)
- Enhancing the student experience;
- Engaging with business and the community;
- Developing excellence in our staff;
- Working with the best;
- Managing effectively;
- Operating sustainably.

- 2.2 The 2009 Strategic Plan sought to grow University activity by 20% by 2015, and set specific targets for each goal. Progress against this plan has been so rapid (e.g. the student population has grown by 2000 students since 2010) that the University is currently developing a new strategic plan for the period to 2018, to present for Council's approval in 2013.

- 2.3 The current Strategic Plan defines the mission of the University as follows:

"to deliver innovative and inspiring research, scholarship, teaching and learning that leads to positive change in individuals, organisations and societies"

- 2.4 In pursuing the mission, the University – staff and students- share the following values:

Excellence, through a commitment to delivering the highest standards of research, scholarship, teaching and learning in order to provide a dynamic and stimulating environment for students and staff and to maximise their social and economic contribution to societies;

¹ Times Higher Education *World University Rankings* 2011-2012

² <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/strategicplan/>

Interdisciplinarity, through tackling multidimensional problems, while maintaining a strong, broadly based set of disciplines across the arts, social sciences and sciences;

Engagement, by actively seeking and considering an external perspective on all our activities, including an international perspective;

Challenge, in which all members of the Sussex community are prepared creatively to explore the status quo and alternatives, within the context of excellence and professionalism, and seek to make positive change;

Partnership, by developing long-lasting relationships that bring together complementary skills and resources to create mutual benefit and to deliver impact that cannot be achieved by either partner alone;

Professionalism, by upholding freedom of academic enquiry, undertaking activities in a responsible manner using robust, transparent processes and maintaining professional ethical standards in the conduct of all academic and support activities;

Equality and diversity, by developing entry routes based on educational merit and valuing the strength derived from contributions to our mission by people from different backgrounds, traditions, cultures and perspective;

Service, in which members of the Sussex community use their skills and talents to contribute to local, national and international communities.

3. Teaching and Learning at Sussex

- 3.1 Maintaining and growing our international student body is an important element of the University's strategic plan, as is the delivery of courses which

- 4.2 Sussex submitted the work of over 500 staff to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), nearly 90 per cent of those eligible, with over 480 presenting work that is internationally recognised or better. Taking account of all staff who could have been submitted, Sussex is at 16th place overall - a measure of the research intensity of the institution. Eighteen subjects at Sussex rank in the top 20 in the UK, across the arts, sciences and social sciences, with the American Studies department rated number 1 in the UK, Politics rated at number 2 and Art History at number 3.
- 4.3 The priorities set out by the research strategy are: to build strength in recognised centres of research excellence; to demonstrate research of international standing in all subject areas; to develop an infrastructure and culture that supports research quality; and to work to exchange knowledge and ideas nationally and internationally. The most significant challenge and goal of the research strategy will be to increase the research income base of the University – looking to double our income by 2015.
- 4.4 A number of cross-disciplinary research themes have been developed, building on

working relationship with the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and Secretary and secretary to Council. The roles of Chair of Council and Vice-Chancellor are formally distinct. The relationship is both mutually supportive and incorporates the checks and balances imposed by the different roles each has within the University's constitution.

6. Role of the Vice-Chancellor in relation to the Council

6.1 The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for the executive management of the University and its day-to-day direction.

6.2 The responsibilities of the Vice-Chancellor in relation to Council business include:

The good management of the University including, where appropriate, consultation with the staff and the Senate, and bringing to Council proposals for development or change affecting the i , where it is necessary and/or appropriate to do so;

implementing the decisions of the Council or ensuring that they are implemented through the relevant part of the i

fulfilling the duty, as the officer designated by the Council under the terms of the Funding Council's Financial Memorandum ('the designated Officer') to advise the Council if any actions or policy under consideration would be incompatible with the terms of the Financial Memorandum. If the Council nevertheless decides to proceed, then the Vice-Chancellor has a duty to inform either the Chief Executive of the Funding Council or other appropriate officer.

7. Key responsibilities of the Chair of Council

The key responsibilities are to:

7.1 chair the meetings of Council, in accordance with the provisions laid down by the [Charter, Statutes and Regulations](#)⁵ and to ensure that it contributes effectively to the development of the University;

7.2 be involved in recruiting new members of Council and ensuring that members work together effectively, take collective responsibility, and have confidence in the way that business is conducted and the [Code of Conduct](#)⁶;

7.3 ensure the quality of support arrangements to enable Council members (particularly independent members) to contribute effectively, including an effective process for

7.4

7.5

document or other meetings. In particular, as Chair of
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- (g) In consultation with Senate, to institute, subject to any conditions made by the Founders, Fellowships, Scholarships, Studentships, Exhibitions and Prizes.
- (h)

and to influence and interact with all members of Council including independent members, students, and academic and professional services staff;
 diplomacy and sensitivity;
 demonstrable authority and personal adherence to high standards of conduct;
 the ability to deal with conflict in a constructive manner;
 skills of networking, influencing and advocacy;
 political awareness;
 the ability to represent the University to a range of stakeholders including ministers, civil servants, students, staff, the local community and potential funders and donors;
 the ability to absorb large quantities of complex information quickly;
 collaborative skills and the ability to work as a member of a team;
 an interest in the education and welfare of students and a desire to help them to thrive and succeed.

Knowledge and experience

professional expertise and knowledge in matters relevant to the successful operation of a large, diverse organisation, e.g. commercial acumen, risk management, performance management;
 experience of chairing meetings and bringing matters to a satisfactory conclusion;
 awareness of the modern regulatory environment, so that legitimate scrutiny and accountability are respected and effectively discharged.

10. General information

10.1 Term of office and tenure of membership (from [Regulation 5](#)):

(14) Elected or appointed members shall be elected or appointed for periods of three years and shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment for three periods up to a maximum of nine years service. The maximum period of tenure shall apply whether the member is an Ordinary member or an Officer.

(17) The Chair shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(18) On the resignation, removal, non-reappointment or at the end of the maximum tenure of nine years, the Chair's membership of Council shall cease.

10.2 Method of appointment: under the provisions of the University Statutes, the Chair is appointed by Council from amongst its independent members. The normal process is for Nominations Committee of Council to make a recommendation to Council following consultation with members.

10.3 Time Commitment: this will average around 2 - 2.5 full time equivalent days per month. The University needs to be able to c

Appendix: commitment