Powers of the Council

The following is an extract from the University Charter of Incorporation (approved by the Privy Council on 9 December 2009) – Article 5: Powers of the Council.

Council shall exercise all such powers as are or may be conferred on Council by the Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations and carry them into effect and shall, in particular, have power to:

1. review the work of the University and take such steps as it thinks proper for the purpose of advancing the interests of the University, maintaining its efficiency, encouraging teaching, the pursuit of learning and the provision of research, after considering a report of Senate in academic matters;

2. ensure the establishment, monitoring and review of systems of control and accountability including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, and procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest;

3. appoint a Chair, Vice-Chair, the Pro-Chancellors, and the Treasurer;

4. appoint the Vice-Chancellor, and a Secretary to Council;

5. appoint an Auditor or Auditors;

6. appoint the lay members of Council;

7. provide for the welfare of all persons in the employment of the University or formerly in such employment or their dependants or relatives including the payment of money, pensions or other payments and to subscribe to benevolent and other funds for the benefit of such persons;

8. govern and regulate the finances, accounts, investments, property, business and all affairs whatsoever of the University, and for that purpose to appoint bankers and any other officers or agents whom it may deem expedient to appoint;

9. enter into, vary, carry out and cancel contracts on behalf of the University;

10. act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University;

11. invest any money belonging to the University in such stocks, funds, fully paid shares or securities as Council shall from time to time think fit whether within the United Kingdom or not or in the purchase of freehold or leasehold hereditaments in the United Kingdom including rents; provided that in the case of moneys held by the University as trustees the powers conferred by this paragraph shall be exercised subject to the provisions of the law relating to investment by trustees;

12. sell, buy, exchange, lease and accept leases of real and personal estate on behalf of the University;
13. provide the buildings, premises, furniture and apparatus and other means needed for carrying on the work of the University;

14. borrow money on behalf of the University and for that purpose if Council thinks fit to mortgage or charge all or any part of the estate of the University whether real or personal and to give such other security as Council thinks fit;

15. establish, abolish, combine or subdivide Faculties in consultation with Senate;

16. determine, after considering the recommendation of Senate, all University fees;

17. refer to Senate the names of persons proposed as recipients of Honorary Degrees (and Honorary Degrees awarded jointly with other higher education institutions having power to grant Honorary Degrees) and to approve or disapprove the names of persons proposed by Senate as recipients of such Degrees provided that no person shall be admitted by the University to an Honorary Degree whose name has not been approved for that purpose both by Council and by Senate;

18. review, refer back, control, amend or disallow any act of Senate and give direction to Senate provided that any act of Senate which is amended by Council shall be referred again to Senate for consideration and report before being carried into effect;

19. provide for the welfare of the Students;

20. expel any Student found or proved to have been guilty of grave misconduct and consider and adjudicate upon every appeal made by a Student from a decision of Senate under the Ordinances;

21. select a Seal, Arms and Mace for the University and have the sole custody and use of the Seal;

22. make proposals to add to, amend or alter the Charter;

23. make Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations;

24. take any lawful action which it reasonably considers to be in the best interests of the University and on which the Charter and Statutes are silent, provided that at the first opportunity consideration is then given to amending the Charter and Statutes to make proper provision for such action in future.