A-Z of OU COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Most committees meet three times per year. The meetings take place at Walton Hall, Milton Keynes although arrangements may be able to facilitate attending by phone. Meetings can last up to several hours.

Academic Quality Governance Committee

This committee assures the Senate that quality assurance and enhancement arrangements are appropriately established and implemented and oversees the University’s engagement with external quality assurance processes.

Boards of Studies (exact subject areas tbc)

The purpose of a Board of Studies is, on behalf of the Faculty, to oversee the development and maintenance of the curriculum, to monitor the performance of modules and qualifications within its area of responsibility, and to sponsor appropriate actions and interventions. The Board of Studies originates and develops the curriculum plan for its area of responsibility at both qualification and module level, makes recommendations to the Faculty Teaching Committee, identifies areas for improvement and resource allocation and feeds that information directly into Faculty management. It is responsible for the quality assurance and enhancement of all curriculum within its area of responsibility reporting on quality assurance/quality enhancement annually to the Faculty Teaching Committee. The Board of Studies works closely with Schools and Associate Deans and acts in accordance with University and Faculty strategic objectives. It brings together academic and business aspects of the curriculum. Members have collective responsibility for the student experience.

Central Disciplinary Committee

The Central Disciplinary Committee considers alleged offences and applies disciplinary penalties as outlined in the Code of Practice for Student Discipline. It also has responsibility for hearing appeals against decisions made by other disciplinary authorities.

Curriculum Partnerships Committee

This committee is responsible to the Education Committee for policy and regulations relating to taught provision, including validated provision, leading to an award of the University.

It has delegated authority to approve, amend and withdraw partnership arrangements which lead to a direct award of the University and validate programmes of study offered by partners leading to awards of the University.

Education Committee

This committee is responsible to the Senate for strategy and policy relating to curriculum, assessment and qualifications (including collaborative provision), learning and teaching and the student experience in the University in accordance with the University’s strategic objectives. Has responsibility for monitoring the academic standards of the University and promoting excellence within the curriculum, teaching, learning and the student experience.
Faculty Assemblies

The Faculty Assembly is a communication and consultation group the purpose of which is to provide an opportunity for information sharing and debate, and to consider an account from the Executive Dean, on matters of importance to the Faculty.

Human Research Ethics Committee

The Human Research Ethics Committee (formerly known as Human Participants and Material Ethics Committee), on behalf of the Research Committee, advises the University on ethical considerations relating to Open University research involving humans, including granting or withholding favourable opinion on the ethical aspects of research proposals.

OUSA Senate Reference Group

The purpose of the Open University Students’ Association (OUSA) Senate Reference Group is to act in an advisory capacity to the student members of Senate and in particular, to ensure that the student members of Senate have the benefit of a face to face forum in which they are able to draw on the diversity of circumstances, views and opinions of students as allowed for by OUSA within its representative structures.

Qualifications and Assessment Committee

This committee is responsible to the Education Committee for policy and regulations relating to modules, qualifications, assessment and the classification of qualifications (excluding research degrees and higher doctorates) within the University. It has delegated authority to introduce, amend and withdraw qualifications and their regulations.

Research Degrees Committee

The Research Degrees Committee is responsible to the Research Committee for all policy, regulatory, and procedural matters relating to research degrees and higher doctorates.

Research Committee

The Research Committee is responsible to the Senate for strategy, policy and standards relating to research, research degrees and higher doctorates in the University.

Senate

The Senate is the academic authority of the University which, subject to the powers reserved for the Council, is responsible for promoting the academic work of the University in teaching, learning, and research and enterprise. The Council has the ultimate authority, but it has to respect the views of the Senate in academic matters.

Student Experience Committee

This committee is responsible to the Education Committee for policy and regulations relating to the quality of the student experience including that delivered in collaboration with other parties and globally. This includes learning and teaching, service provision, and support for registered students.

Teaching Committees

The Teaching Committee is responsible to the Education Committee for strategy, policy and standards specifically relating to qualifications, modules, learning and teaching, assessment and the quality of the student experience. It has delegated authority to approve or recommend amendments to taught qualifications as prescribed in the frameworks approved by the Senate or Committees within its substructure. It has delegated to the Chairs of Boards of Studies the interpretation and approval of regulations and exceptions relating to students’ individual circumstances.
In addition to the four faculty Teaching Committees there will be two Learning and Teaching Innovation portfolio Teaching Committees to cover the Access and Open programmes and the IET Masters Programme.