

*Deum timeto: regem honorato: virtutem colito:  
disciplinis bonis operam dato*

## **Statute A**

# **THE CHANCELLOR AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY**

### **CHAPTER I**

#### **THE CHANCELLOR, THE SENATE, THE HIGH STEWARD, THE DEPUTY HIGH STEWARD, AND THE COMMISSARY**

1. The Chancellor of the University shall be elected by the members of the Senate and shall hold office, in accordance with the laws and customs of the University, until he or she voluntarily resigns or until the Senate otherwise determines.

2. The manner of nominating candidates, of taking votes in an election, and of determining the result of the election may be prescribed by Ordinance from time to time and unless so prescribed shall be as has been customary heretofore. When an election has taken place, an instrument of election shall be sealed as soon as conveniently may be, and shall be delivered to the person elected without delay.

3. The Chancellor shall have power to call Congregations of the Regent House, and to admit candidates to degrees and titles of degrees.

4. The Chancellor shall have power to see that all officers of the University duly perform their duties.

5. The Chancellor shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Statute or Ordinance.

6. If the office of Chancellor is vacant, the duties and powers of the Chancellor which are not otherwise allocated by Statute or Special Ordinance to the Vice-Chancellor shall be discharged by the High Steward (or the Deputy High Steward).

7. The following shall be members of the Senate:

(a) the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor;

(b) all persons whose names were inscribed on the Roll of the Regent House at the time of the last promulgation;

(c) all persons who hold any of these complete degrees of the University: any Doctor's degree of the University, any Master's degree of the University, or the degree of Bachelor of Divinity of the University;

provided always that

(i) if any member of the Senate wishes to resign his or her membership and so informs the Registry, and if the Council deems the reasons given sufficient and permits the resignation, that person shall cease forthwith to be a member of the Senate, and shall not be reinstated except by a subsequent decision of the Council which shall not be taken until a period of five years has elapsed from the date of removal;

(ii) any person who suffers suspension or deprivation of his or her degree shall not be a member of the Senate during the continuance of such suspension or deprivation.

8. It shall be the duty of the Senate to enact Ordinances regulating its own procedure.

#### **The High Steward, the Deputy High Steward, and the Commissary**

9. The High Steward shall be elected by the members of the Senate. The arrangements prescribed by Statute and Ordinance for the election of the Chancellor shall apply also to the election of the High Steward.

10. The Deputy High Steward shall be appointed by the High Steward by Letters Patent.

11. The High Steward and the Deputy High Steward shall perform such duties as have heretofore been customary and any duties prescribed by Statute or Ordinance. When the office of High Steward is vacant the duties of that office shall be performed by the Deputy High Steward.

12. The Commissary shall be appointed by Letters Patent by the Chancellor or, if the office of Chancellor is vacant, by the High Steward. The Commissary shall have judicial or quasi-judicial

experience or be legally qualified, and shall not hold any other office in the University or a College. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Commissary the Chancellor (or the High Steward if the office of Chancellor is vacant) shall appoint an Acting Commissary who shall have the full powers of the Commissary to act under the provisions of this chapter until a newly appointed Commissary takes office.

**13.** The Commissary shall perform such duties as have heretofore been customary and any duties prescribed by Statute or Ordinance. In the discharge of his or her duties under this chapter the Commissary shall not be under the direction of the Council or of any other authority in the University.

**14.** Each of the officers of High Steward, Deputy High Steward, and Commissary shall hold office until he or she voluntarily resigns or until the Senate otherwise determines.

## CHAPTER II

### POWERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**1.** The University shall have power, for the encouragement of learning, the maintenance of good order and discipline, and the management of its affairs, to enact Ordinances and to issue Orders (whether by way of exception to an Ordinance or otherwise); provided always that no such Ordinance or Order shall contravene any provision of the Statutes.

**2.** The University may admit to any of the several degrees listed in or established pursuant to Statute B II a matriculated person who has done all that is required by the Statutes or Ordinances. Admission to a degree shall take place when a candidate is admitted to it in person at a Congregation of the Regent House; provided that the University may prescribe conditions under which a candidate may be admitted to a degree in absence.

**3.** The University shall have all the powers of a natural person to acquire, manage, charge, deal with, and dispose of property, both real and personal, and to enter into and carry out any transaction relating to its property or otherwise in connection with the management of its affairs, so that it may exercise any power and may enter into and carry out any kind of transaction without limitation.

**4.** The powers in Section 3 of this chapter may be exercised at the absolute discretion of the University and shall apply to investment as well as to any other activity or function of the University.

**5.** The powers in Section 3 of this chapter shall apply to property, both real and personal, of which the University is trustee, save that, in the case of a trust of which the University is not sole trustee, where the trust instrument creating the trust expressly provides to the contrary and less than sixty years have elapsed since that instrument came into operation, the powers shall not so apply without the consent of the other trustees.

**6.** The University may enact Ordinances providing for:

- (a) the exercise and delegation of the powers in Section 3 of this chapter; and/or
- (b) the collective investment of any property, real or personal, held by or for the University, with or without any other property.

**7.** Such Ordinances shall be read with, and shall have the same force as, these Statutes to the extent that they are consistent with these Statutes, Ordinances, and any Act of Parliament.

**8.** In favour of any person having dealings with the University, a certificate signed by the Registry that any Ordinances enacted under Section 6 of this chapter have been complied with shall be conclusive.

**9.** The University shall have power to levy fees and other charges for any purpose or purposes connected with the University.

**10.** The University shall have power to accept benefactions, and shall not be prevented from accepting a benefaction even if the conditions attached thereto are at variance with the Statutes.

**11.** Subject to the provisions of the Statutes, the University may delegate the exercise of any of the powers specified in Sections 9 and 10 above.

**12.** The University shall have power to make Ordinances under which fines may be imposed by a University authority. Any such Ordinance shall state the classes of cases in which the fine may be imposed and the maximum amount which may be imposed in any one case.

**13.** (a) The University shall have a Great Common Seal and a Common Seal, and shall have power to give authority or to make Ordinances giving authority for either of the seals to be affixed to a document or to a class of documents. Neither seal shall be affixed without such authority, except when authority has been given in some other manner for which provision is made by Statute.

(b) The Great Common Seal shall be kept in some secure place, in a chest fastened with three locks, the keys of which shall be severally kept by the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctors; it shall not be affixed to any document except in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor or a duly appointed deputy and the Proctors or their deputies.

(c) The Common Seal shall be kept in some secure place, and shall be fastened with two keys, which shall be severally kept by the Vice-Chancellor, or by a Pro-Vice-Chancellor designated from time to time by the Vice-Chancellor, such designation to be published, and by the Registrar; it shall not be affixed to any document except in the presence of those officers or deputies appointed by them.

14. Titles of degrees may be granted *honoris causa* to members of the Royal Family, to British subjects who are of conspicuous merit or have done good service to the State or to the University, and to foreigners of distinction.

### CHAPTER III

#### THE REGENT HOUSE

1. The Regent House shall be the governing body of the University.

2. Any power of making, altering, or repealing Statutes which is assigned to the University by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act 1923, or by any other Act of Parliament, shall be exercised by the Regent House.

3. The powers of enacting, issuing and amending Special Ordinances, Ordinances and Orders, shall be exercised by Grace of the Regent House except so far as such powers are assigned by Statute to any other authority.

4. The Regent House shall have the power of initiating Graces to the Regent House and of initiating proposals for the amendment of a Grace already submitted to the Regent House but not yet approved, as prescribed by Special Ordinance.

5. Special Ordinances shall be made (or amended) by Grace of the Regent House, in all cases after the issue of a Report to the University by the Council, the General Board, or jointly by the Council and the General Board. The Report shall state the main purpose of the proposed Special Ordinance (or amendment).

6. Any matter which under Statute, Special Ordinance or Ordinance shall be regulated or determined by Special Ordinance, may only be so regulated or determined.

7. A Special Ordinance (not being a Special Ordinance prescribing the scale or basis of assessment of the contributions to be made by the Colleges to University purposes), which affects any College, shall not be subject to alteration without the consent of that College.

8. Whenever it is provided that an act or thing shall or may be done or determined by the University, it shall be done or determined by Grace of the Regent House unless it is expressly stated that it is to be done or determined otherwise, provided that the Regent House may delegate by Grace to the Council or to another University body or authority to act on its behalf in such matters as it may from time to time determine.

9. The members of the Regent House at any time shall be those persons whose names were on the Roll of the Regent House at the time of the last promulgation.

10. The Registrar shall promulgate the Roll of the Regent House in each year on a day appointed by Ordinance. Promulgation shall be by publication in the *Cambridge University Reporter*.

11. (a) The Registrar shall inscribe on the Roll of the Regent House the names of persons who meet the criteria for membership of the Regent House, as determined from time to time by Special Ordinance and Ordinance.

(b) No provision concerning the membership of the Regent House which affects the members of a College or of the Colleges shall be amended without the consent of that College or Colleges.

## CHAPTER IV

THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES<sup>1</sup>

1. (a) The Council shall be the principal executive and policy-making body of the University. The Council shall have general responsibility for the administration of the University, for the planning of its work, and for the management of its resources; it shall have power to take such action as is necessary for it to discharge these responsibilities. It shall also perform such other executive and administrative duties as may be delegated to it by the Regent House or assigned to it by Statute or Ordinance.

(b) The Council shall have the right of reporting to the University. It shall advise the Regent House on matters of general concern to the University.

(c) The Council shall make an Annual Report to the University, and shall initiate and submit a Grace for the approval of the Report by the Regent House.

(d) The Council shall have the power of initiating and submitting Graces to the Regent House and to the Senate. The procedure for the submission of Graces shall be prescribed by Special Ordinance.

(e) The Council shall oversee the work of all those institutions in the University which are placed under its supervision, and shall ensure that the University officers assigned to those institutions are satisfactorily performing the duties and fulfilling the conditions of tenure of their offices.

2. The Council shall consist of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, and twenty-three members in the following classes:

**Members elected by the Regent House**

(a) four from among the Heads of Colleges;

(b) four from among the Professors, Readers and Professors (Grade 11);

(c) eight from among the other members of the Regent House.

Members in each of classes (a), (b), and (c) shall be elected by the Regent House for a period and in a manner determined by Special Ordinance.

**Student members**

(d) three student members.

Members in class (d) shall be such persons as shall be prescribed by Special Ordinance and shall serve for a period determined by Special Ordinance.

**Appointed members**

(e) four persons appointed by Grace of the Regent House who at the time of appointment are not qualified to be members of the Regent House except under Statute A III 11 (a)(ii)<sup>2</sup> nor are employees of the University or a College, one of whom shall be designated by the Council to chair the Audit Committee of the Council.

Members in class (e) shall be appointed by Grace of the Regent House on the nomination of the Council; the arrangements for nomination shall be prescribed by Ordinance.

3. Detailed provision for periods of service, nomination, election (or appointment), tenure and continuing eligibility of members of Council shall be made by Ordinance. Provision shall be made by Ordinance for the filling of casual vacancies by resignation, death, disqualifications or otherwise and for bye-elections.

4. No person shall be elected a member of the Council after attaining the age of seventy years.

**The Chair and the Deputy Chair**

5. (a) The Chair of the Council shall be the Vice-Chancellor, provided that the Chancellor shall have the right to take the chair at any meeting of the Council at which he or she is present. If neither the Chancellor nor the Vice-Chancellor is present, the Chair shall be a member of the Council appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to act as his or her deputy, or in the absence of such deputy some other member of the Council chosen by the members present.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5(a), the Council shall from time to time designate a member of the Council in class (a), (b), (c), or (e), as Deputy Chair of the Council, who shall take the

<sup>1</sup> Statute amended following the approval by Her Majesty in Council of the amendments of Statute approved by Grace 5 of 29 July 2020 (see Notice, *Reporter*, 6628, 2020–21, p. 787).

<sup>2</sup> Now Special Ordinance A (i) (a)(ii).

chair at such proceedings of the Council as the Council may determine from time to time, notwithstanding the fact that the Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor is present.

#### **Frequency of meetings and quorum**

6. The Council shall meet at least twice in each term. No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless nine members at least are present.

#### **Committees of the Council**

7. There shall be

(a) the following standing committees of the Council: the Finance Committee and the Audit Committee;

(b) such other committees, whether standing or occasional, as may be appointed by the Council from time to time.

8. The Finance Committee shall consist of:

(a) the Vice-Chancellor, or a duly appointed deputy, who shall be Chair;

(b) such number of persons as shall be determined by Ordinance, elected or appointed in a manner prescribed by Special Ordinance; provided that

(i) the membership of the Committee shall include three persons elected by representatives of the Colleges; and

(ii) not less than three members of the Committee (including the Vice-Chancellor) shall be members of the Council.

9. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee

(a) to advise the Council on the management of the University's assets, including real property, moneys, and securities, investments, reserves, income and expenditure;

(b) to perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by Statute or Ordinance or by the Council.

10. Subject to the provisions of Statute A IV 2(e), the composition of the Audit Committee shall be determined by Special Ordinance. The Audit Committee shall perform such duties as may be assigned to it by Statute or Ordinance.

## CHAPTER V

### THE GENERAL BOARD, THE SCHOOLS, FACULTIES, AND DEPARTMENTS

#### **The General Board of the Faculties**

1. (a) Subject to the powers of the Regent House, and subject to the responsibilities of the Council under Statute A IV 1, the General Board of the Faculties ('the General Board') shall be responsible for the academic and educational policy of the University, and shall advise the University on questions relating to such policy. The General Board is accountable to the Council for its management of the University's academic and educational affairs. It shall make an Annual Report to the Council on the discharge of its duties. It shall fulfil the duties placed on it by Statute or Ordinance.

(b) The General Board shall consider the estimates of annual expenditure submitted by Faculty Boards and other authorities and, if it approves them, shall transmit them to the Council. The Board shall allocate the funds made available to it for the support of teaching and research.

(c) The General Board shall oversee the teaching and research work undertaken by the Schools, Faculties, Departments, and other institutions placed under its supervision; it shall ensure, in respect of those institutions,

(i) that the University officers assigned to those institutions are satisfactorily performing the duties and fulfilling the conditions of tenure of their offices;

(ii) that adequate facilities for teaching and research are available;

(iii) that appropriate courses of study and instruction are provided and that the teaching given is of the highest standard;

(iv) that research of the highest quality is conducted.

(d) The General Board shall have the power to make regulations about any matters within its responsibility, such regulations not to be inconsistent with the provisions of any Statute, Ordinance or Order, and to be published. In particular the Board may make regulations relating to:

(i) the administration and management of the institutions under its supervision other than Schools and the Councils of the Schools; and

- (ii) University courses and examinations, degrees, diplomas, and other qualifications in accordance with Statute B (except the degree of Master of Arts).
2. The General Board shall consist of the following members:
    - (a) the Vice-Chancellor, as Chair;
    - (b) eight members of the Regent House appointed by the Councils of the Schools to serve for four years in accordance with arrangements determined by Special Ordinance;
    - (c) four members of the Regent House appointed by the Council, to serve for four years, subject to the requirement that not fewer than three members of the Board (including the Vice-Chancellor) shall be members of the Council. If a member of the Board ceases to be a member of the Council he or she shall not thereby cease to be a member of the Board;
    - (d) two student members, who shall be such persons as shall be prescribed by Special Ordinance and shall serve for a period determined by Special Ordinance.
  3. If any member of the General Board becomes Vice-Chancellor, his or her seat shall thereupon become vacant.
  4. The General Board shall meet at least twice in each term, provided that the Chair shall have power to cancel any meeting if there is insufficient business. No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless five members at least are present.
  5. The Registrar or a University officer designated from time to time by the Council after consultation with the General Board shall be Secretary of the Board.

### **The Schools**

6. On the recommendation of the General Board the University may at any time by Special Ordinance institute one or more Schools. There shall be placed in each School such Faculties, Departments, and other institutions as the University may from time to time determine by Ordinance.
7. There shall be a Council of each School. The composition of such a Council, the number and manner of appointment of its members, and, subject to the provisions of Section 8 below, its powers and duties shall be determined by Ordinance.
8. Subject to the provisions of Section 7, the duties of the Council of a School shall include:
  - (a) the preparation of such academic and financial plans, and reports as the General Board shall determine;
  - (b) the allocation of the funds made available to it by the General Board amongst the institutions comprising the School;
  - (c) working with the institutions which comprise the School to ensure institutional and School academic plans are consistent, realistic, and affordable;
  - (d) consideration of any matter referred to it by the General Board.
9. There shall be a Head of each School who shall be appointed and hold office on such terms as may be determined by Ordinance.
10. The Head shall be Chair of the Council of the School and the principal academic officer of the School. The Head of School shall be responsible to the Council of the School, the General Board, and the Vice-Chancellor for the overall running of the School, including the use of the funds specified under 8(b) and the implementation of the approved plans referred to in 8(a).
11. The Council of each School shall have the right of reporting to the University.

### **The Faculties**

12. The term 'Faculty' shall denote a body of persons associated in accordance with the Statutes for the purpose of furthering the study of a subject or subjects.
13. On the recommendation of the General Board the University may at any time by Ordinance institute one or more Faculties. Each Faculty shall be assigned to one or other of the Schools.
14. There shall be a Board of each Faculty, which shall oversee the work of the Faculty. Provision shall be made by Ordinance for the membership of Faculties and for the composition of Faculty Boards.

### **Departments**

15. On the recommendation of the General Board, the University may at any time constitute one or more Departments within any Faculty, may constitute Departments independent of any Faculty but under the supervision of the General Board, or may suppress any Department.
16. There shall be a Head of each Department appointed in accordance with Regulations made by the General Board.

17. Subject to the powers of the Council of School, the Faculty Board or comparable authority and subject to the Ordinances and such Regulations as the General Board may make from time to time, it shall be the duty of the Head of a Department:

- (a) to organize the teaching and research of the Department;
- (b) to prepare and submit to the General Board, in accordance with arrangements determined by Ordinance, the annual estimates of the Department for consideration by the Board in accordance with Statute A V 1(b);
- (c) to be responsible for the proper application of the funds available to the Department, and to ensure that the approved estimate of expenditure is not exceeded and that the accounts are correctly maintained;

provided that the duties specified under Subsections (b) and (c) may be assigned by the Head of a Department to some other person approved by the General Board.

#### **Degree Committees**

18. There shall be Degree Committees for such Faculties and other institutions as may be determined by the General Board after consultation with the Board of Graduate Studies. Each Degree Committee shall be constituted in accordance with Regulations made by the General Board.

19. It shall be the duty of each Degree Committee to exercise such functions as may be prescribed by Regulation of the General Board in respect of the admission of postgraduate students and the supervision of their work, the award of degrees, diplomas, and certificates in respect of graduate study or contributions to learning, and other cognate matters.

### CHAPTER VI

#### BOARDS, SYNDICATES, AND COMMITTEES

1. There shall be in the University

- (a) such Boards, Syndicates, and Committees as may by any other provision of the Statutes be required to be maintained;
- (b) any other Boards, Syndicates, or Committees established by Ordinance.

2. Any Board or Syndicate constituted by Statute or Ordinance or by Grace of the Regent House shall have the right of reporting to the University.

3. No person shall be appointed or reappointed a member of any Board, or of any body of Electors or Managers even though it be not expressly called a Board, or of any Syndicate other than an occasional Syndicate, who at the commencement of his or her period of service or further period of service, as the case may be, would have attained the age of seventy years.

## CHAPTER VII

## THE BOARD OF SCRUTINY

1. There shall be in the University a Board of Scrutiny, which shall in each year scrutinize on behalf of the Regent House the Annual Report of the Council, the abstract of the accounts of the University, the allocations Report of the Council required by Statute F I 1(b), and any other Report of the Council proposing allocations from the Chest. In addition the Board shall perform such other duties, and shall have such powers, as may be specified by Ordinance or Order.

2. The Board of Scrutiny shall have the right of reporting to the University on any matters falling within the scope of Section 1 above which in the Board's opinion should be drawn to the attention of the University.

3. Subject to the provisions of Section 4 below, the Board of Scrutiny shall consist of

- (a) the Proctors;
- (b) the two Pro-Proctors who are nominated by the Colleges;
- (c) eight members of the Regent House elected by the Regent House, as follows:
  - (i) two persons who have been members of the Regent House for not more than ten years on 1 October next following their election;
  - (ii) six persons who are members of the Regent House.

Arrangements for election shall be made by Ordinance.

4. No person may be a member of the Board of Scrutiny who is a member of the Council, the General Board, or the Finance Committee of the Council, or who holds any of the University offices of Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University Advocate, Deputy University Advocate, Registry, Assistant Registry, or Secretary of a School. The University may by Ordinance make provision from time to time to designate University offices which are established by Ordinance and which have primarily administrative duties, the holders of which shall be prohibited from membership of the Board as though they were listed in this Statute. If any member of the Board of Scrutiny becomes a member of any of the aforementioned bodies or is appointed or elected to any of the aforementioned offices or ceases to be a member of the Regent House, his or her seat shall thereupon become vacant. The Chair and Secretary of the Board shall be elected annually.

5. The Board of Scrutiny shall have power

- (a) to consult any official documents or accounts (other than those of the [University Press] ⟨Press and Assessment Department⟩<sup>1</sup>) which may be relevant to any enquiry;
- (b) to consult such official documents or accounts of the [University Press] ⟨Press and Assessment Department⟩<sup>1</sup> as may be specified by Ordinance;
- (c) to make enquiry, whether in person or in writing, of the officers of any authority on matters pertaining to a subject of enquiry;
- (d) to request that a matter be put down for discussion by the Regent House, which request the Council shall not unreasonably refuse.

No documents or accounts requested by the Board under Subsection (a) or Subsection (b) above shall be withheld except on the ground of their irrelevance. Such withholding shall require the written sanction of the Vice-Chancellor.

## CHAPTER VIII

## CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Provision shall be made by Special Ordinance for

- (a) calling Congregations;
- (b) preparation and submission of Reports to the Regent House and the Senate; and their Discussion;
- (c) submission of Graces (that is, resolutions) to the Regent House and the Senate; arrangements for voting and amendments. All Graces submitted require the authorization of the Council; the Council may withhold that authorization in circumstances as prescribed by Special Ordinance;
- (d) elections by the Regent House and the Senate, and other elections.

<sup>1</sup> The entry in angular brackets will replace the entry in square brackets subject to the approval by Her Majesty in Council of the amendments of Statute approved by Grace 1 of 31 March 2021.



## CHAPTER IX

## REVIEW

**Compliance with the Statutes and Ordinances**

1. (a) If, within thirty days after the doing of any act by any person or body having power to act under the Statutes, or in the event of failure or omission to act as required by Statute, Ordinance, or Order within thirty days after the date specified for the performance of that act, it is represented in writing to the Vice-Chancellor by a member of the University that there has been a contravention of the Statutes, Ordinances, or any Order in the doing of such act, or in such failure or omission, the Vice-Chancellor shall inquire into the matter and shall declare either that there has been no such contravention, or that the said act or matter is of no effect, or, if the Vice-Chancellor is of the opinion that the contravention has not affected the result, that in his or her opinion the validity of the act or matter is not affected by the circumstances represented. Where the Vice-Chancellor finds that there has been a failure or omission to act he or she may give such directions in the matter as shall seem to him or her to be appropriate. The person making the representation shall state in writing the act or matter to which he or she refers, and with full detail of the contravention of Statute, Ordinance, or Order which he or she represents has taken place. The Vice-Chancellor shall give his or her decision promptly but in any event within three months, unless the person making the representation has agreed in writing to an extension of time.

(b) If the person making the representation is dissatisfied with the Vice-Chancellor's decision, or if he or she believes that there has been unreasonable delay, he or she may make a representation to the Commissary in the manner prescribed in this chapter. The decision of the Commissary shall be final. If there is no representation to the Commissary, the decision of the Vice-Chancellor shall be final.

(c) No act shall be invalid by reason of the fact that there has been a contravention of the Statutes, Ordinances, or Order unless there has been a representation in writing under Section 1(a) of this chapter within thirty days after the doing thereof.

(d) No act shall be invalid by reason of the fact that any person taking part in the act, and chosen in the manner prescribed or authorized by the Statutes, Ordinances, or Order to be the person or a member of the body authorized to act, was not qualified to be so chosen.

**Declaration of the meaning of a Statute**

2. If any doubt arises as to the true meaning of any Statute of the University, or of any Statute for the University and any one or more of the Colleges in common, the Council may apply to the Chancellor, who shall then declare in writing the meaning of the Statute in question, and such declaration shall be registered by the Registry of the University, and the meaning of the Statute as therein declared shall be deemed the true meaning thereof. The University shall defray the cost of any legal advice obtained by the Chancellor for the performance of his or her duty under this section.

**Review by the Commissary**

3. The Commissary shall have full power to determine all questions referred to his or her decision by a member of the University under the provisions of this chapter. The Commissary shall have the power to review, amend, or quash the decision of any University authority on the ground that the decision, or some aspect of the decision, was *ultra vires*, illegal, irrational, procedurally irregular or incorrect in fact, and to make such order (including an order to amend, quash, or refer back the decision) as seems to him or her to be justified. The Commissary's powers under the provisions of this chapter shall not extend to:

- (a) any matter still subject to further review by or appeal to any University authority, or which would otherwise be capable of review by any independent adjudicator for student complaints in higher education, as established by or pursuant to Act of Parliament;
- (b) the merits or substance of a decision made by:
  - (i) a University court or disciplinary panel;
  - (ii) a Board of Examiners, a Degree Committee, the General Board, a Review Committee or similar authority, in relation to the result of a University examination;
- (c) any decision by a University authority concerning the appointment of an individual or individuals to employment in the University, or concerning promotion in such employment;

(d) any matter under the responsibility of the [Press Syndicate or the Local Examinations Syndicate] <Press and Assessment Syndicate><sup>1</sup>.

4. In any particular case or cases the Commissary may appoint a person to act as his or her deputy, and may delegate to such a deputy his or her powers under the provisions of this chapter in respect of the case or cases concerned.

5. The Commissary or a deputy so appointed shall have the power to strike out a case which in his or her opinion is vexatious, frivolous, or out of time.

6. In relation to any case (not being a case struck out as vexatious, frivolous, or out of time) the Commissary shall direct that the matter shall be dealt with by oral or written representations, or both. Such representations shall be made:

(a) on behalf of the University by a person or persons appointed by the Council; and

(b) by any other party or parties to the proceedings either in person or through a representative.

7. The Commissary shall make general rules of procedure which shall bind the parties in any particular case. The rules of procedure shall make provision for a time limit or time limits within which a matter shall be raised with the Commissary. In any particular case the decision of the Commissary (or a duly appointed deputy) on any procedural matters shall be final, and the provisions of Statute A IX 1 shall not apply to it.

8. The Council shall consult the Commissary before proposing any Ordinance concerning matters regulated by Sections 3–9 of this chapter. The Commissary shall have the right to publish a statement for the guidance of the University about any such proposed Ordinance.

9. The University shall defray the cost of any legal advice obtained by the Commissary for the performance of his or her duties under this chapter.

#### Temporary Statute

10. (a) Nothing in this chapter enables or requires the Commissary to hear any appeal or to determine any dispute regulated under the provisions of the Education Reform Act 1988 about a member of the academic staff of the University as defined in the Statutes, which, being a matter regulated under the said Act, concerns the member's appointment or employment, or the termination of that appointment or employment. The Commissary has no power to disallow or annul any Ordinance made under or having effect for the purposes of the Statutes in relation to matters regulated under the said Act.

(b) When (a) is no longer needed, this section may be repealed by Grace.

## CHAPTER X

### MISCELLANEOUS<sup>2</sup>

#### Commencement and transitional provisions

1. Repeal of a Statute does not invalidate any order, election or appointment made or thing done under a Statute repealed, nor revive nor restore any Statute, order, or trust, or any power or provision repealed or abrogated by a repealed Statute.

#### Interpretation

2. In any Statute, Special Ordinance or Ordinance,

(a) the term 'Ordinance' means a Special Ordinance made under Statute A III 3 or an Ordinance;

[(b) the term '*in statu pupillari*' shall mean a member of the University (in which term shall be included a member of a College, or of an Approved Society, resident in the University with a view to matriculation) who has not been admitted to an office in the University (or to a post in the University Press specially designated under Statute J 7 or to an appointment approved by the University for the purpose of Statute A III 11(e)<sup>3</sup>), or to a Fellowship or office of a College, or to a degree which qualifies the holder for membership of the Senate under Statute A I 7(c), and is of less than three and a half years' standing from admission to his or her first degree (if any);]

<sup>1</sup> The entry in angular brackets will replace the entry in square brackets subject to the approval by Her Majesty in Council of the amendments of Statute approved by Grace 1 of 31 March 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Statute amended following the approval by Her Majesty in Council of the amendments of Statute approved by Grace 5 of 29 July 2020 (see Notice, *Reporter*, 6628, 2020–21, p. 787).

<sup>3</sup> Now Special Ordinance A (i) (f).

- (b) the term ‘*in statu pupillari*’ shall mean a member of the University (in which term shall be included a member of a College, or of an Approved Society, resident in the University with a view to matriculation) who has not been admitted to an office in the University (or to a post in the Press and Assessment Department specially designated under Statute J 7 or to an appointment approved by the University for the purpose of Special Ordinance A (i) (f)), or to a Fellowship or office of a College, or to a degree which qualifies the holder for membership of the Senate under Statute A I 7(c), and is of less than three and a half years’ standing from admission to her or his first degree (if any);<sup>1</sup>
- (c) the term ‘registered student’ shall mean any person who has matriculated as a student and is currently pursuing a course of study in the University, or any person pursuing a course of study leading to the award of a degree, certificate, or diploma of the University;
- (d) words of the masculine gender import the feminine unless this interpretation is excluded expressly or by necessary implication;
- (e) the term ‘degree’ means degree of the University unless in any Statute or Ordinance that meaning is expressly or by necessary implication excluded; a complete degree is a degree other than a title of degree;
- (f) whenever it is required that any matter be published, an announcement in the *Cambridge University Reporter* shall be sufficient publication;
- (g) the term ‘Grace’ shall mean an act, vote or decree of the Regent House or the Senate, the procedure for which shall be prescribed by Ordinance;
- (h) the term ‘Professor’ without further elaboration shall refer to the office of Professor under Statute C XI.

3. Subject to the provisions of the amendments of Statutes made by Grace 1 of 26 January 1994, a reference to the Council of the Senate in any Act of Parliament, Order in Council, Statute, Ordinance, or other instrument binding on the University shall be construed as a reference to the Council, and a reference to the Financial Board shall be construed as a reference to the Finance Committee of the Council.

#### **Signature of Reports**

4. A Report of the Council, or of any other body that has the right of reporting to the University, shall be signed by those members of the reporting body who agree with the Report; provided that no person shall sign a Report if he or she has been excluded, under the provisions of any Statute or Ordinance for reserved business, from any part of the discussion of the Report.

#### **Casting vote in elections**

5. If in an election for which votes have been taken by poll there is an equality of votes between two or more candidates, the Vice-Chancellor or other returning officer, whether or not he or she has previously voted or been entitled to vote, may, unless it is otherwise expressly provided by Ordinance, give a casting vote.

#### **Sermons**

6. Sermons shall be preached in the University Church during Full Term on such days as may be appointed by the Chancellor or by the University. No one shall be allowed in any sermon before the University to impugn the doctrine or discipline of the Church of England as established by law. A Commemoration of Benefactors shall be held every year in the University Church, at such time and in such manner as the University prescribes.

#### **Provision for certain former offices**

7. When in any Statute, Ordinance, contract, document, instrument of any description or any statement reference is made to the Treasurer or to the Secretary General of the Faculties after 14 December 2005 such reference shall be construed as a reference to the Registry, or a duly appointed deputy, unless different provision is made by Statute or Ordinance.

#### **Special Ordinances required**

8. Provision may be made by Special Ordinance for:
- (a) filling casual vacancies on University bodies;

<sup>1</sup> The section in angular brackets will replace the section in square brackets subject to the approval by Her Majesty in Council of the amendments of Statute approved by Grace 1 of 31 March 2021.

- (b) termination of membership of University bodies on account of failure to attend meetings;
- (c) the majority necessary for a decision of a University body, and, if necessary, for the quorum necessary for business to be transacted; and for comparable matters;
- (d) the appointment of committees by University bodies, and delegation of decision to such committees or to a University officer; provided such delegation does not relieve the delegating body of responsibility for the matter delegated;
- (e) exclusion of registered students from the proceedings of a University body or bodies about particular classes of business.

**Ordinances required**

9. Provision shall be made by Ordinance for the academical year, the dates of the Michaelmas, Lent, and Easter Terms in each academical year, for the dates of Full Term in each term, for residence, and for the Precincts of the University.