

University of Aberdeen

Protocol on the Roles of the Rector and Senior Governor on Court

To maximise the contribution of both roles to the effective operation of the University we recognise that, as members of Court and therefore charity trustees, the Rector and the Senior Governor will act in the best interest of the University and support informed, collective decision-making by Court.

The Rector will preside at Court ensuring that inclusion and issues of equality and diversity, articulated in our foundational purpose, remain fore-fronted in our decision-making. The Rector will provide an update on current issues to each Court identified through engagement with the student body or work with University staff, Aberdeen University Students' Association (AUSA) or wider stakeholders. It is recognised that each Rector will approach the engagement and ambassadorial aspects of the Rector role as unique individuals.

The Rector will retain, while presiding at Court, the deliberative and casting vote established in the 1889 Act and rearticulated in the 2016 Act.

While continuing to preside, the Rector will transfer the responsibilities to chair the business items of the Court meeting to the Senior Governor.

The Senior Governor will work with the Senior Management Team to ensure that the business agenda for Court encompasses the responsibilities of Court for strategic leadership of the University, the approval of the University's budgets and plans and secures assurance from Senate on academic matters. The Senior Governor is responsible for the effectiveness of Court and undertakes the appraisal of the Principal.

If the Rector is not available to attend Court, then the Senior Governor will preside and have a deliberative and casting vote.

Approved by the University Court on 29 September 2021. Reviewed by Governance and Nominations Committee June 2024.