

ECR 3

Office of the President
June 30, 2026

Members, Board of Trustees:

DIRECT THE PRESIDENT TO PROPOSE A REVISION TO THE UNIVERSITY'S
GOVERNING REGULATIONS TO ENSURE DEAN APPOINTMENTS ARE APPROVED BY
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees direct the President to propose a revision to the University's Governing Regulations to ensure Dean appointments are approved by the Board of Trustees.

Background: During its April 2026 meeting, the UK Board of Trustees charged a collaborative group of university stakeholders to examine the university's governing regulations regarding Dean appointments. The President appointed a Governing Regulations Review Work Group to analyze the current governing regulations to bring some options to the Board of Trustees for review.

Recognizing the unique position of Dean, which has both administrative and academic functions and serves as an integral connection between students, faculty, staff, and alumni, the Board of Trustees will approve all Dean candidates on behalf of the institution.

The Board of Trustees recognizes that selecting a preferred candidate for Dean requires input from numerous stakeholders within the university community. As such, the Board of Trustees instructs the President and his/her administrative team to still manage the hiring process which may include, but is not limited to, naming a selection committee, creating a position description, advertising the position, interviewing candidates, and naming a preferred candidate to be recommended to the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees further recognizes issues that were raised thanks to the diligent and thorough work of the Governing Regulations Review Work Group. Specifically, the university's expedited academic appointment process for senior academic appointments needs to be revised to meet the changing needs of an increasingly competitive academic leadership environment. The Board of Trustees recognizes the expedited academic appointment process is too slow and too cumbersome.

Specific Actions:

1. In accordance with GR II.J, the Board of Trustees directs the President to prepare changes to the university's Governing Regulations (GR) to ensure all future Dean appointments are approved by the Board of Trustees. The Board requests to have the first reading of these proposed GR changes at its September 2026 meeting.

2. The Board of Trustees supports the President's continuing efforts to revise and modernize the Administrative Regulations. As part of the already established process, the President should consider developing a means of streamlining the expedited academic appointment process for Deans.

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____