

University of Aberdeen

University Court

Proposed Changes to Resolution No 281 of 2015 [Reform of Academic Structure].

Notice is today, Thursday 11 May 2017, hereby given under the terms of the Universities (Scotland) Act 1966, that having been considered by the Senatus Academicus on 24 April 2017, of proposed changes to Resolution No 281 of 2015 [Reform of Academic Structure].

Proposed Changes

The proposed changes reflect proposals to remove Colleges from the academic governance structure of the University.

Following the approval of the Strategic Plan in 2015, the University agreed that Schools were the key academic vehicles for the delivery of our strategic objectives. In recognition of this, the University put in place a Schools based planning model and agreed the devolution of budgetary responsibility to Schools from the College level. While the overarching College structure was retained, the roles of the Head of College were revised to take account of the new role of Schools.

From the outset, it was recognised that the devolution of responsibility for the development and delivery of strategic, financial, and operational plans and targets to School level would change the function and responsibilities of Colleges. The role of Colleges moved to being one of ensuring and supporting Schools to drive their strategic plans and holding Heads of School accountable for delivery.

Since the establishment of the new structure on 1 August 2015, the devolved budgetary and planning framework has become embedded within the 12 Schools and the annual and 5-year School Plans are now the primary focus for the delivery of our strategic ambitions. The new approach, coupled with Vice-Principal portfolios that ensure central oversight and coordination at an institutional level, is working effectively and as a result the role of the College as a central 'enabler' has steadily diminished. It is proposed that the Schools now be recognised as the formal academic structure of the University and that the College as a governance entity be removed with effect from 1 August 2017. It is proposed that the role of Head of College would also, therefore, cease to be required and that Heads of School would report directly to the Senior Vice Principal. The proposed amendments to Resolution No 281 [Reform of Academic Structure] reflect those recommendations.

The revised draft Resolution is attached together with a version of the same but highlighting the proposed changes from the current Resolution for ease of reference.

Comments to the University Court

Any other body or person having an interest who wishes to comment on the proposals should lodge such representations (in writing) **by 5pm Thursday 8 June 2017** with Mr Bruce Purdon, Clerk to the Court, b.purdon@abdn.ac.uk, University Secretary's Office, Regent Walk, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3FX.

RESOLUTION NO OF 2017

[REFORM OF ACADEMIC STRUCTURE]

After consultation with the Senatus Academicus, the University Court of the University of Aberdeen, at its meeting on [Insert Date], passed the following Resolution:

1. Resolution No 281 of 2015 [Reform of Academic Structure] of the University Court is hereby revoked:
2. There shall be twelve academic Schools; and such other Schools as may subsequently be created by Resolution.
3. Each School shall comprise the Departments and such other academic units as may be assigned to it from time to time by the University Court on the recommendation of the Senatus Academicus .
4. For electoral purposes each School shall consist of the Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers and the holders of research and academic-related posts of equivalent status in those Departments and units assigned to that School.
5. There shall be a head of each School who shall be appointed by the University Court for such period as may be determined by the Court and will be responsible to the Senior Vice-Principal.
6. The internal governance of each School shall be for the head of that entity to determine, after appropriate consultation, subject only to such general regulations as the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus, may prescribe.
7. The holders of Chairs assigned to specific Faculties by the University Court under the terms of previous Ordinances or Resolutions shall be Professors in the Schools to which they have been assigned.
8. This Resolution shall come into force on the date on which it is passed by the University Court.

RESOLUTION NO ~~284~~ OF 201~~7~~5

[REFORM OF ACADEMIC STRUCTURE]

After consultation with the Senatus Academicus, the University Court of the University of Aberdeen, at its meeting on ~~30 September 2015~~[Insert Date], passed the following Resolution:

1. Resolution No ~~234–281~~ of 201~~503~~ [Reform of Academic Structure] of the University Court is hereby revoked.
2. There shall be ~~twelve academic Schools~~~~three academic Colleges: Arts & Social Sciences; Life Sciences & Medicine; Physical Sciences;~~ and such other ~~Colleges—Schools~~ as may subsequently be created by Resolution. ~~Notwithstanding the Schools, Departments and such other academic units as may be assigned to the three Colleges, there shall also be a School of Business which will be independent of those Colleges.~~
3. Each ~~College—School~~ shall comprise the ~~Schools~~, Departments and such other academic units as may be assigned to it from time to time by the University Court on the recommendation of the Senatus Academicus.
4. ~~For~~ electoral purposes each ~~College—School~~ shall consist of the Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers and the holders of research and academic-related posts of equivalent status in those ~~Schools~~, Departments and units assigned to that ~~College—School~~. ~~Similarly, the School of Business shall consist of the Professors, Readers, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers and the holders of research and academic-related posts of equivalent status.~~
5. There shall be a head of each ~~College—School and a Head of the Business School~~ who shall be appointed by the University Court for such period as may be determined by the Court and will be responsible to the Senior Vice-Principal.
6. The internal governance of each ~~College—School and the School of Business~~ shall be for the head of that entity to determine, after appropriate consultation, subject only to such general regulations as the University Court, after consultation with the Senatus Academicus, may prescribe.
7. The holders of Chairs assigned to specific Faculties by the University Court under the terms of previous Ordinances or Resolutions shall be Professors in the ~~Schools—Colleges to which their Schools or Departments to which they~~ have been assigned ~~or to the School of Business as appropriate.~~
8. This Resolution shall come into force on the date on which it is passed by the University Court.