

3. Values and Principles, and Role and Responsibilities (approved at Board meeting on 26/02/2020 and 22/04/2020)

This section of the report sets out the Values and Principles underpinning Trinity's Governance and the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board that were approved by the Board in February and April 2020 respectively.

3.1 Values and Principles Underpinning Trinity's Governance¹

The mission of the University is²:

Civic Action - *Through our teaching, research and public engagement, we courageously advance the cause of a pluralistic, just and sustainable society.*

Organisation - *We foster an effective and flexible organisation, which values all members of our community.*

Research - *Pursued at the frontiers and intersections of disciplines, our research benefits our students, Ireland, and the world.*

Education - *We challenge our students to think independently, communicate effectively, act responsibly, and develop continuously, equipping them for lives of active citizenship.*

To that end, the following values and principles underpin our governance:

Governance Values

1. **Academic Freedom** - we preserve and promote the principle of academic freedom in the conduct of our internal and external affairs.
2. **Autonomy** - we value autonomy, allied with accountability, as the best way to advance our strategic mission in education and research, which benefits our students, Ireland and the world.
3. **Accountability** - we ensure full accountability to our diverse internal and external stakeholders, including students, staff, alumni, funders, government and local community.
4. **Engagement and impact** - our governance supports our strong record of contribution to society and provides a solid basis from which to shape our future impact in the world.
5. **Transparency** - we view transparency as essential to promoting confidence in our governance and decision-making.
6. **Collegiality and pluralism** - these values are grounded in our Statutes and informed by our unique legal structure.³ They are expressed in the participation in our governance by members of the Trinity community, whose range of experience and perspectives enhances the quality of our decision-making.

¹ As approved by Board 26/02/2020

² Strategic Plan 2020-2025 as approved by Board.

³ (i) Charters and Letters Patent of the College - <https://www.tcd.ie/Secretary/corporate/legal-faq/>,

(ii) Statutes - https://www.tcd.ie/registrar/assets/pdf/Statutes_incorporating_changes_22_May_2019.pdf,

(iii) Trinity College Dublin (Charters and Letters Patent Amendment) Act, 2000 -

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/prv/1/enacted/en/html>,

(iv) Universities Act, 1997 - <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1997/act/24/enacted/en/html>.

7. **Integrity** - we are committed to integrity in the pursuit of our mission in education and research and in ensuring the effective management of the University.

Governance Principles

1. The governance system, based on autonomy allied with accountability, is consistent with our unique legal structure and is appropriate to advancing the mission of the University, which is the cultivation and practice of excellence in education and research.
2. The governance system provides direction and leadership, and monitors and ensures progress towards achieving the strategic goals of the University.
3. The governance system enhances the University's capacity to flourish as a globally significant institution, including through the identification of strategic opportunities to realise its ambition.
4. The governance system provides clarity regarding responsibility and accountability for key decisions.
5. The governance system delivers assurance regarding regulatory compliance, protection of reputation and adherence to ethical standards of good practice.
6. The governance system ensures institutional sustainability and underpins success through effective systems of revenue generation, control and risk management.
7. The governance system supports academic freedom and includes academic governance that assures the highest standards of education and research.
8. The governance system engages effectively with internal and external stakeholders and secures support for the advancement of the mission of the University.