# Terms of Reference of the Risk Management and Audit Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Arrangements</th>
<th>Board of Directors (BOD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose and Scope</td>
<td>The Risk Management and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Directors and has been delegated authority, to provide advice and assist the Board with all higher education risk management and audit matters. The Committee does not have the authority to make decisions. The primary role of the Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC) is to assist the BoD with risk management of the School via the establishment of a risk management framework, and oversight of implementation and review of the effectiveness of the risk management framework and plans in identifying and managing risks. This includes financial and quality/compliance audits.</td>
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| Responsibilities | a. Oversee the development of a risk management framework and review risk management plans quarterly, including academic risk, and monitor and report on outcomes.  
b. Provide advice on policies and procedures pertaining to risk management, quality assurance and compliance, and their effectiveness.  
c. Oversee and advise on financial administration and management, including exposure to fraud and mismanagement.  
d. Oversee and schedule financial audits (internal and external), and report on outcomes.  
e. Provide advice to the Board of Directors: on compliance with relevant legislation and regulations; key risks that may impact the School; and advise on proposed mitigation of such risks.  
f. Oversee internal quality audits and resulting continuous improvement plans.  
g. Evaluate and advice on succession plans for the President and all key management and academic personnel.  
h. Seek to obtain information as necessary to fulfil the Committee’s role, including the right to obtain information and interview personnel with or without management being present.  
i. Seek advice from external consultants or specialists, where necessary. |
| Membership | The Risk Management and Audit Committee members will be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall consist of not more than seven (7) persons with expertise covering financial literacy, accounting, risk management, quality assurance, higher education regulation and compliance, and comprising:  
  a. a majority of independent or external members including:  
   - At least one (1) independent director  
   - At least two (2) external members nominated by the Board of Directors, with relevant technical knowledge, and an understanding of the higher education sector  
   - the School’s Australian external auditor, for meetings at least annually, and otherwise as required  
  b. Executive staff and the internal auditor, who may be invited to meetings by invitation of the Committee’s Chairperson but will have no voting rights.  

The Chairperson of the Board of Directors may not be a member of this Committee.  

The Chairperson of the Committee will be an independent director appointed by the Board of Directors but may not be the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. |
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| Term of Office | a. Independent and external members shall serve for one (1) year in the first instance and be eligible for reappointment for up to two (2) years.  
  b. Casual vacancies shall be filled by invitation of the Board of Directors and shall serve only the remaining period of the member they replace. |
| Resignations and Removal from Office | a. A member may resign from his/her office by notice of resignation in writing to the Board of Directors.  
  b. The Board of Directors may remove a member of the RMAC from office for breach of a duty set out above in the Responsibilities section.  
  c. The removal from office may be effected only if the motion for removal is supported by a majority of the total number of directors of the Board.  
  d. The motion for removal must not be put to the vote of the meeting unless the RMAC member concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity to reply to the motion prior to the meeting in writing and may be given an opportunity to respond in person at the meeting of the Board of Directors if deemed necessary.  
  e. If the member for whom the motion for removal refers to does not attend the meeting, a reasonable opportunity to reply to the motion is taken to have been given if notice of the meeting has been duly given. |
| Meeting Frequency and Quorum | a. The Risk Management and Audit Committee will meet at least four (4) times a year. Meetings may be face-to-face or conducted electronically.  
  b. No business may be transacted unless there is a quorum of half of the number of members (not including casual vacancies). |
| Secretary | a. The Board of Directors shall appoint a member of the administrative staff to be the Secretary. |
### 2. Standing Orders

| Notice of Meetings | Meetings shall be held according to the Annual Schedule or at other times such as:  
|                   | a. When specifically requested by the Chairperson of the Board of Directors or via a request from a majority of members of the Committee. Not less than five (5) working days’ notice shall be given.  
|                   | b. The Minute-taker will circulate an agenda and meetings papers normally at least five (5) working days before the meeting. The Chairperson may permit additional business to be added at the meeting if time permits.  
|                   | c. For out of session urgent matters, a flying minute may be circulated to members by the Chairperson. |
| Appointment of Proxy | a. A member of the Committee may attend and vote by proxy at a meeting or if the proxy is a member and has been appointed by writing under the hand of the appointor or by telegram, fax or other form of visible communication from the appointor.  
|                   | b. Such an appointment may be general or for any particular meeting or meetings. |
| Meeting Conduct | a. The Chairperson shall conduct the meeting according to the standing orders; ensure order is maintained; and give members an opportunity to speak and vote on matters tabled at the meeting.  
|                   | b. The order of business shall follow the agenda unless agreed otherwise.  
|                   | c. Matters for debate or to move a motion must be on the agenda and seconded, unless otherwise approved.  
|                   | d. Voting shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested.  
|                   | e. Members may vote by proxy if they are unable to attend.  
|                   | f. Matters will be passed by a majority of members.  
|                   | g. A motion may be amended or withdrawn with the consent of the members.  
|                   | h. When an amendment is before the Chairperson, discussion shall be confined to that amendment.  
|                   | i. No further amendments can be made if they are substantially the same, or if the amendment is a direct negative. |
| Minutes | a. A Minute-taker shall be appointed to accurately record the minutes of each meeting and distribute the draft minutes via email within seven (7) working days of the meeting. The following details shall be recorded in the minutes:  
|                   | i. Date, time and venue of the meeting  
|                   | ii. Names of members present and apologies, and the name of the Chairperson  
|                   | iii. An overview of discussions and business conducted; motions and outcomes of votes; action items and persons responsible  
|                   | iv. Date, time and venue of next meeting  
|                   | b. The minutes of the preceding meeting shall be circulated to members. The Chairperson will:  
|                   | i. Seek confirmation of the minutes in their current state; or  
|                   | ii. Seek confirmation of the minutes with amendments;  
|                   | iii. Sign the confirmed minutes |
### Adjournment

- The Chairperson may adjourn the meeting from time to time with the consent of the members or if directed by the Committee.
- Business at the adjourned meeting shall be confined to business that was left unfinished at the meeting where the adjournment took place.
- If a meeting has been adjourned for more than ten (10) working days, notice shall be given as for an ordinary meeting.

### Code of Conduct

A member shall:

- Keep their comments to matters before the Committee
- Attend meetings and be punctual
- Undertake review of documents prior to meetings, within timeframes requested
- Act in the best interest of the School, and not bring the School into disrepute
- Exercise appropriate care and diligence
- Not make false statements or falsify records
- Act appropriately to not gain advantage for themselves or others
- Not make offensive statements or comments or behave improperly
- Shall cease speaking when called to order by the Chairperson
- Declare any potential conflicts of interest and stand aside from discussions and voting on such matters deemed to be a conflict of interest
- Keep all matters in confidence and not disclose any matters of business to the general public, members of staff or other associates of the School

### Related Documents

- Financial Accounting Procedures Handbook
- Financial Audit Policy
- Financial Management Policy
- Risk Management Policy