

STATEMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

The primary responsibilities of the Council of the Royal Veterinary College are:

1. To approve the Mission and Strategic Vision of the College, its long-term academic and business plans and Key Performance Indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders.
2. To delegate authority to the Principal, as Chief Executive, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and personnel management of the College; and to establish and keep under regular review the policies, procedures and limits within such management functions as shall be undertaken by and under the authority of the Principal.
3. To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, and procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflict of interest.
4. To ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the College against approved plans and Key Performance Indicators which should be benchmarked, where appropriate and possible, against comparable institutions.
5. To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Council itself.
6. To conduct business in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
7. To safeguard the good name and values of the College.
8. To appoint the Principal of the College as Chief Executive, and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his performance.
9. To appoint a Secretary to the Council and to ensure that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the College, there is appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.
10. To be the employing authority for all the staff of the College and to be responsible for establishing a human resources strategy.

11. To be the principal financial and business authority of the College, to ensure that proper books of account are kept, to approve the annual budget and financial statements, and to have overall responsibility for the College's assets, property and estate.
12. To be the College's legal authority, and to ensure that systems are in place for meeting all the College's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the College's name.
13. To make such provisions as it thinks fit for the general welfare of students.
14. To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the College.
15. To ensure that the College's constitution is followed at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.
16. To ensure that the College remains a leading institution in the fields of veterinary and para-veterinary education and research and the basic science which supports them, to the benefit of animal health and welfare, the owners and users of animals, and the veterinary and para-veterinary professions.

AN Smith
Secretary and Registrar