

The background of the slide is a vibrant, abstract pattern of various geometric shapes including circles, triangles, and rectangles in colors such as teal, orange, purple, yellow, and dark blue. A white rectangular box is centered on the slide, containing the text.

AdvanceHE

Academic Governance Effectiveness Reviews

January 2024

Context

Governing bodies are expected to actively seek assurances that academic assurance is robust and effective.

This becomes ever-more important with the political interest in issues surrounding quality in higher education and ensuring value for money for public expenditure.

In England it is now a regulatory requirement to ensure effective Student Outcomes as part of Ongoing Condition of Registration – B3.

1. Student Continuation (80%)
2. Completion (75% UG, 80% PGT).
3. Graduate employment and, in particular, progression to professional jobs and postgraduate study. (60%UG, 70% PGT)

In Scotland it is a requirement of the Scottish Code of Good Higher Education Governance 2023 to undertake an external academic governance effectiveness review alongside or separately to the governing body.

Context

Advance HE has been undertaking corporate governance effectiveness reviews for several years and have benchmark data from over 60 institutions.

Advance HE have received feedback from across the higher education sector that external support is needed to seek assurance for effective academic governance.

Worked with a sector steering group to develop an offer of support to institutions.

Received feedback that institutions were at different stages and required different support, sought options for those who did not wish to undertake a full review and to support the work of internal teams.

Academic Governance

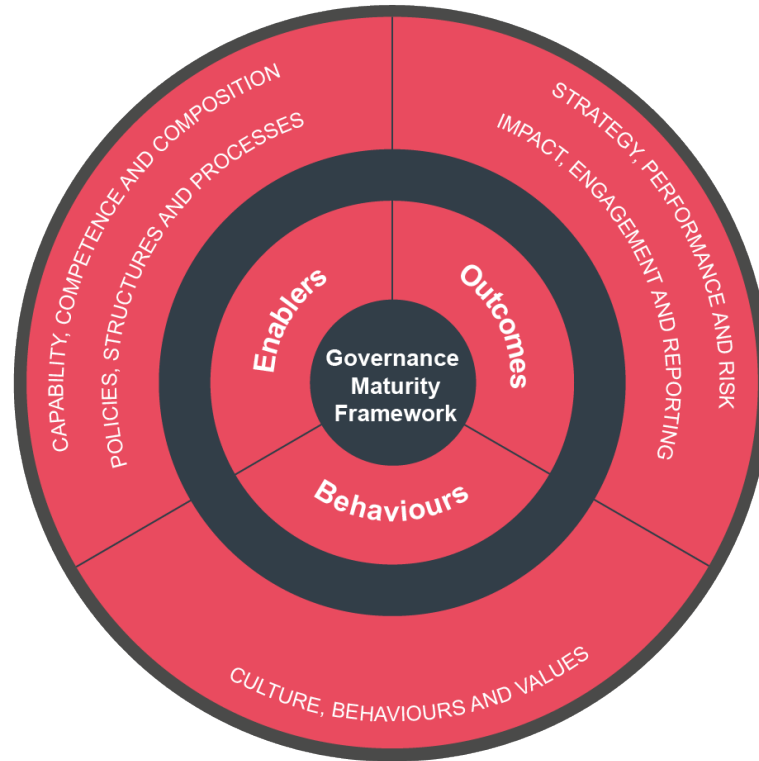
Academic Assurance Project

GDP: Student Experience and Academic Assurance

Academic Governance Effectiveness Reviews

- Sector and Member Benefits – Academic Assurance project with Universities UK, Guild HE and Committee of University Chairs.
- Governor Development Programme – Specific Academic Assurance training and embedded into wider GDP.
- Developed new academic governance benchmarking data and pilot project.
- **Academic Governance Reviews** – Flexible Model to suit all types and sizes of provider.

What is effective academic governance?



Benchmarking Survey

- Advance HE has developed a new benchmarking survey for academic governance effectiveness. Co-created with sector representatives.
- Ran a pilot project with 7 institutions from November 2023-January 2024.
- 8 Benchmarked question areas, Likert Scale plus open text comments
 - +Commitment to effective governance (3)
 - +Academic governance and assurance (6)
 - +Structure and processes (10)
 - +Recruitment and membership (7)
 - +Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (3)
 - +Working relationships and behaviours (6)
 - +Outcomes of effective governance (3)
 - +The Committees (5)

Core

An extensive review of the Senate/Academic Board

- + Includes a three-person team of Advance HE staff/expert associates.
- + Initiation with the steering group.
- + Working with the steering group to plan and implement the Academic Governance Benchmarking Survey.
- + Advance HE will undertake observations of the Senate and key committees, conducting multiple interviews and focus groups.
- + A developmental workshop will be delivered.
- + A comprehensive report on findings and recommendations will be presented.
- + 1 year follow up consultancy is included.

4-5 months

Discovery

Academic Governance Benchmarking Survey and results

- + Working with a steering group to plan and implement the survey.
- + Presentation and workshop with steering group on survey findings and next steps the institution should look to take.

6-8 weeks

A review designed to complement the ongoing work undertaken by in-house teams

- + Advance HE will meet a steering group twice.
- + Working with the steering group to plan and implement the Academic Governance Benchmarking Survey.
- + Advance HE will undertake an observation of the Senate or equivalent and conduct a small number of key interviews.
- + Advance HE will deliver a small report on findings and recommendations which will be presented to the steering group.

2-3 months

Next Steps

- Discuss with Chair of Academic Board/Senate and/or Chair of Governing Body.
- Book in a call with the Consulting and Governance team or your Head of Membership to discuss specific requirements.
- Contact us on email to arrange – governance@advance-he.ac.uk.
- Advance HE have capacity to work with institutions from March 2024 onwards.