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Student Engagement in Governance Policy

The Metanoia Institute

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1. Policy Context

The Metanoia Institute (also ‘Metanoia Institute, ‘the Institute, ‘Metanoia’) values meaningful and productive student engagement in the institution’s governance arrangements as key for sustaining and developing a high-quality learning and teaching experience for its learners and trainees.

Student engagement in governance, as part of a wider institutional enhancement strategy, recognises the importance of student contribution via the student ‘voice’ and through learners’ active participation in governance structures and in key quality assurance and enhancement (QA&E) processes that operate through and are overseen by those governance arrangements.

Also, as a provider on the Office for Students’ (OfS’s) Register of Higher Education Providers in England (‘the Register’), the Metanoia Institute is committed to the effective application within the governance structure of the public interest governance principles; specifically, in this context, the principle that:

‘...the governing body ensures that all students have opportunities to engage with the governance of the provider and that this allows for a range of perspectives to have influence.’¹

Metanoia believes that student engagement in both learning and teaching and academic governance can result in an enhanced learning experience for all learners, which benefits the staff body and the Institute itself.

2. Metanoia’s Commitment to Student Engagement in Governance

Student engagement through partnership in the Institute’s governance arrangements is important for the following reasons:

- The participation of students through representation in governance processes enables learners to feel ownership of the Institute’s activity that supports and enables effective learning and teaching.

¹ <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/public-interest-governance-principles/>

- Working in partnership (through governance between students and staff creates and reinforces a mutually beneficial community of learning.
- Meaningful engagement through partnership helps to foster a sense of belonging.
- Student engagement in governance enables the Institute to identify the learner perspective and to identify improvements and enhancements.
- Capturing the student view is essential for ensuring that approval, monitoring, evaluation and other quality assurance processes are appropriately focused and operate effectively.

3. Underpinning Commitments

The following commitments underpin the practical ways (see Section 4) in which student engagement and active participation in governance (and associated activity) may be understood within Metanoia:

- i. There is a genuine and felt commitment on the part of the Institute to recognise and address barriers to engagement so that all students, at all levels, can have an equal voice and opportunity to contribute to quality assurance and governance arrangements.
- ii. Students should be engaged in discursive and meaningful decision-making processes within the academic governance structure and be equipped with appropriate information to make effective contributions.
- iii. Students should be able to identify and articulate the skills they gain from engagement with and participation in governance and QA&E mechanisms.
- iv. Opportunities to engage are publicised, accessible and appropriately flexible to meet the needs of students.
- v. Students are invited and encouraged to undertake formal roles and, where appropriate, are trained and supported to fulfil these roles.
- vi. The Institute ensures that student representatives are clear in terms of what is expected of them – including behaviours – as members of deliberative, decision-making committees/bodies;
- vii. The Institute's staff are well-informed about student engagement in governance and associated processes and collectively are able to support this collaborative activity; and
- viii. The effectiveness and impact of student engagement in governance and associated activity are regularly monitored and reviewed – for example, student attendance – with a view to continuous enhancement.

4. Engagement Opportunities in Practice

Students at Metanoia are enabled to:

- volunteer to act as a student representative at cohort, course and institutional levels, subject to an election process, as applicable;

- through the student representation (rep) scheme, participate in discussion / deliberation and decision-making within the academic and institutional governance structure where student membership has been agreed by the Board of Trustees; that is Boards of Study, Academic Board, Education Committee, Joint Staff-Student Committee (JSSC), EDI Committee, the Board of Trustees and via regular meetings, for example, between the Director of Education and student reps;
- participate at the Institute's most senior level through the appointment of a Student Trustee;
- take part in annual monitoring, course (re)approval, module review and other periodic feedback mechanisms for all programmes at both module and course levels;
- take part in professional body periodic monitoring review of programmes;
- participate in the National Student Survey (NSS), in Postgraduate Taught and Research Experience Surveys (PTRES) and in institutional and course surveys and other internal mechanisms that take the temperature of the student experience;
- support the Institute in terms of its obligations in meeting the Prevent Duty² and its efforts in ensure safeguarding measures remain robust and effective; and
- active participation in the work of the Institute's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee and in the discharge of its responsibilities.

5. Further Information

Where student engagement opportunities and institutional requirements (including internal and external compliance) in governance and quality assurance and enhancement arrangements and activity apply, the relevant policy and/or procedure documents provide information about those opportunities and requirements.

The list below titled 'Related policies and other documents' shows the relevant institutional documents that operate alongside this policy.

In addition, the Registry and Academic Services (RAS) team and the Governance team at Metanoia can provide advice and guidance in the area of student engagement in governance and quality to students and staff.

Contact email: governance@metanoia.ac.uk

² <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/counter-terrorism-the-prevent-duty/>

POLICY BACK SHEET

Section 1 - to be completed by policy proposer and forwarded to relevant Committee Secretary

Policy Title:	Student Engagement in Governance Policy
Author:	Head of Regulation
Rationale: <i>Outline the purpose of the policy, and its scope e.g. credit-bearing provision</i>	The policy sets out the Institute's commitment to facilitating student engagement in the governance arrangements and in the quality assurance and enhancement (QA&E) mechanisms in place at Metanoia, confirms the principles and commitments that underpin the policy and, in summary form, provides examples of opportunities for engagement provided by the Institute.
Consultation undertaken: <i>List all groups and/or committees where consultation was undertaken e.g. students, administration, external advisor, QSC, etc.</i>	Joint Staff-Student Committee (JSSC) Education Committee Academic Board
Resource implication: <i>Outline the potential financial, human and technological resource implication of the policy</i>	None

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Related policies and other documents

- Institutional Strategy 2023-28
- Governance Handbook
- Review Framework for Annual and Periodic Monitoring
- Programme Approval Policy and Procedures
- Student Representation Scheme
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy
- Access and Participation Statement
- Student Support Strategy
- Student Code of Conduct
- Student Charter

External Reference Points

- AdvanceHE's 'Student Engagement Through Partnership' Framework (2024)³
- Professional Standards Framework Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher Education (2023)⁴
- QAA's UK Quality Code for Higher Education Advice and Guidance: Student Engagement

³ <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/framework-student-engagement-through-partnership-0>

⁴ <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/teaching-and-learning/psf>