

Component 3: Strengthen governance of HEIs through university charters and university councils

The NEL (2014) grants universities autonomy in teaching, learning and management. However, in order to gain this autonomy, universities need to develop university charters and have them approved by the National Education Policy Commission. All universities will have the autonomy to carry out their activities in accordance with their charter. Once approved, HEIs will need to be supported to successfully implement their charters. It will be important to establish a robust monitoring and reporting mechanism that tracks this implementation.

HEIs will be supported to establish university councils to provide strategic leadership that supports the management of these institutions. The Higher Education Co-ordination Committee will approve university councils, while the NIHED will provide training courses to strengthen their role.

A university council should consist of members who can contribute to the achievement of a university's goals and who have the required experience for the development of the university. The university council should develop policies that will support long-term development and be responsible for monitoring overall performance in terms of teaching and learning, research and innovation, performance, administration and financial management. The council will also investigate and make decisions regarding disputes arising from management or administration decisions.

The chairman and members of a university council should be nominated by a university and then approved by the ministry or commission or the relevant committee. When a vacancy arises, appropriate or qualified people should be selected to fill the post.

University chapters Examples

<https://www.usq.edu.au/alumni/chapters/find-a-chapter/singapore>

<https://www.ewb.org.au/explore/chapters/nsw/usyd>

<https://www.mrs.org/list-of-chapters>

University chapters

<http://www.mrs.org/university-chapters>