



What is a Rep?

Part 1

What is a Rep?

Tell us your ideas!



*Put your hand up or comment in the chat*

What is a rep? A rep is somebody who has been selected through an election to represent others, and who collects views and opinions of others and puts these points and opinions forwards!

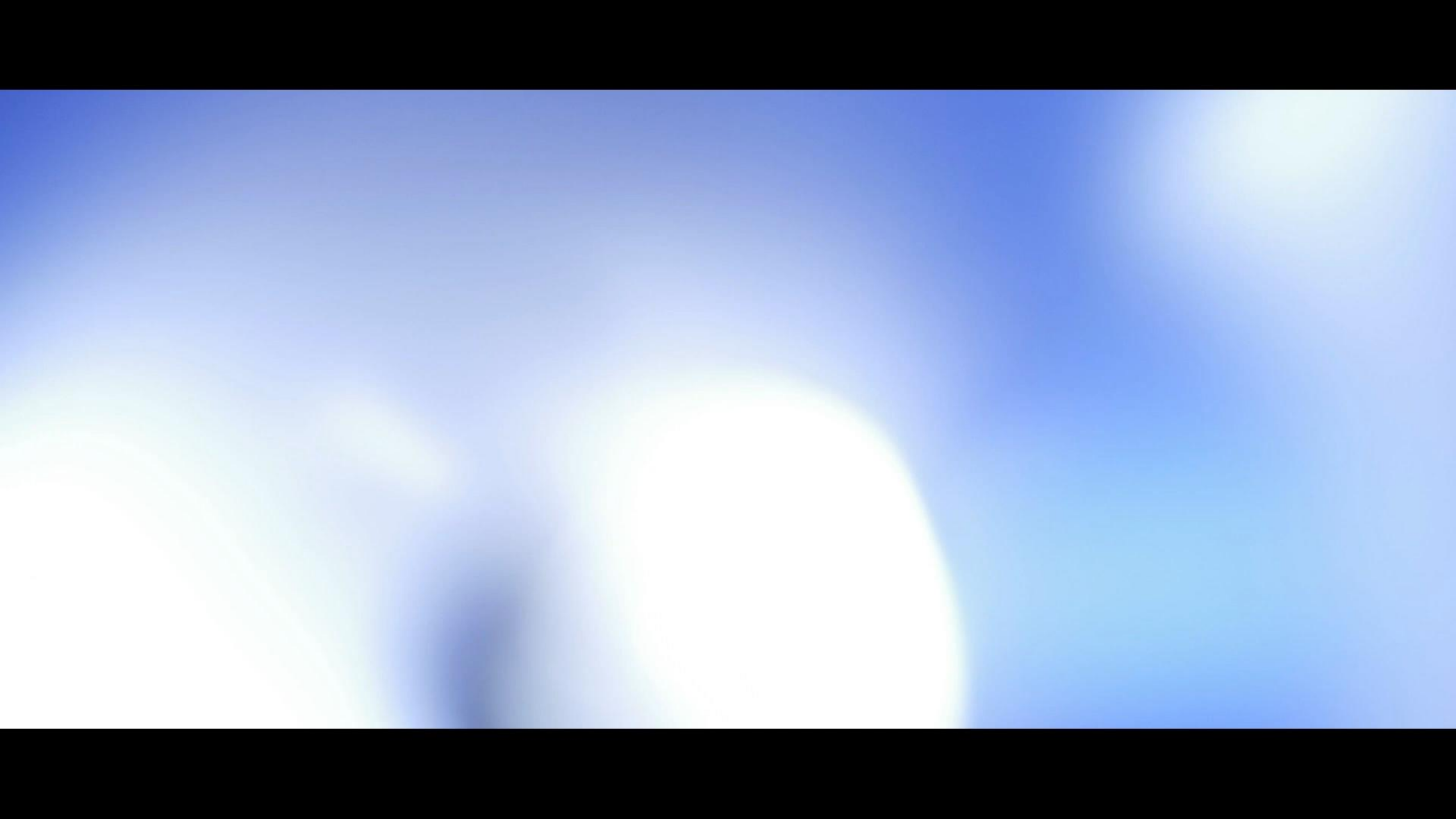
Someone who takes student views to OU committees and staff

A rep is a student who represents, communicates and gives feedback on issues that affect and concern their fellow students.”

Someone who will ensure that the opinion of students is heard at all levels of governance in the OU.

someone to provide perspective that is in the interest of the of the cohort one represents and to advocate for what matters to that cohort and support efforts to see discussions translate to real time actions.

Someone who takes student views to OU committees and staff





**Students**  
ASSOCIATION

Student Voice

# Student Voice- what is it?

The thoughts and opinions of students on an educational journey

Expressed through consultations, surveys, working groups and committees

- *General student population*
- *Elected student reps (SLT)*
- *Appointed student reps*



# How can you capture the student voice?

Your own experiences count – you are an expert in being a student!

Speaking to students at tutorials and study events

Talk to other reps

Stay in touch on the forums and some students identify lots of issues from social media

Students Association research and surveys

OU Consultations

National Student Survey

80.2%

OU Students agree  
OUSA  
Represent their views

NSS Survey 2023

# Student Voice

## Why does it matter?

It benefits *all* students

It benefits the University



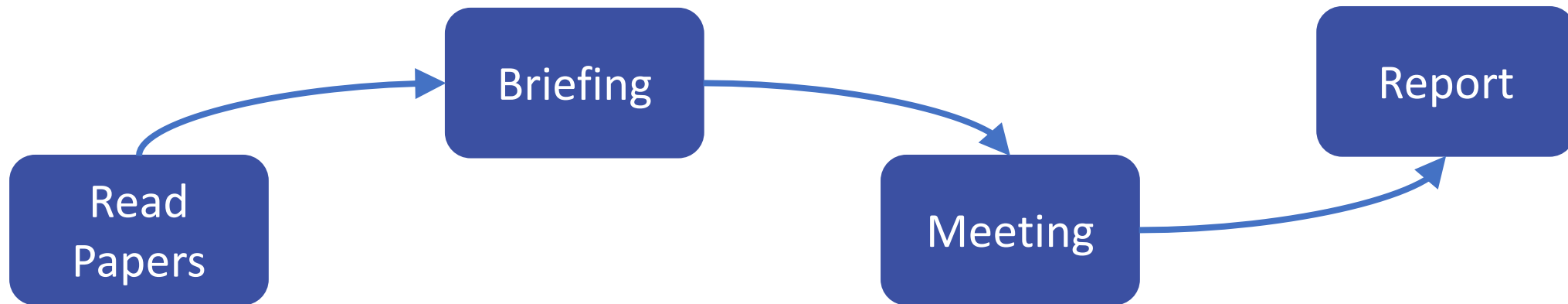




Being a Rep

# What does a rep do?

A large part of the role involves scrutinising and discussing committee papers – both in meetings and on forums



# What does a rep do?

## Read Papers

We recommend that you set aside time to read papers upon receipt.

Your individual needs have been shared with the committee secretaries in advance and should be aware of your accessibility requirements.

# What does a rep do?

## Briefing

You will be invited to a pre-meeting briefing with a member of the Representation team and the reps from your committee (30 minutes via MS Teams).

The aim of the briefing to provide a discussion space that helps you to identify areas of interest that could impact students.

You can ask for advice and support about sharing your views

The expectation is that you will arrive at your pre-meeting briefing having read some of the papers.

# What does a rep do?

## Meetings

You will receive an invitation to a meeting from the committee or board secretary.

You should aim to attend the meetings, and let us and the committee know if you cannot.

The expectation is you will attend the committee/board meeting and represent the student community.

You may be asked to attend a meeting face to face. If this is viable for you, we will work with you to provide you with support and assistance (e.g. reasonable travel expenses and subsistence).

# What does a rep do?

## Reports

There is an expectation that you will complete a report at least 3 weeks after the committee meeting.

If there is more than 1 Rep attending your meeting you may want to complete this together.

Faculty Assembly Representatives do not have to write a report, but are encouraged to provide an update on the forums.

# Communication and Collaboration

Students

Other reps

Committee members

VP Education

SLT– including Faculty Reps

Association Staff

# Support and Resources

Student Voice Online forums

Pre-Meeting Briefings

Monthly Student Voice Live Forum

Volunteer Zone





**Take a break**

**45mins**





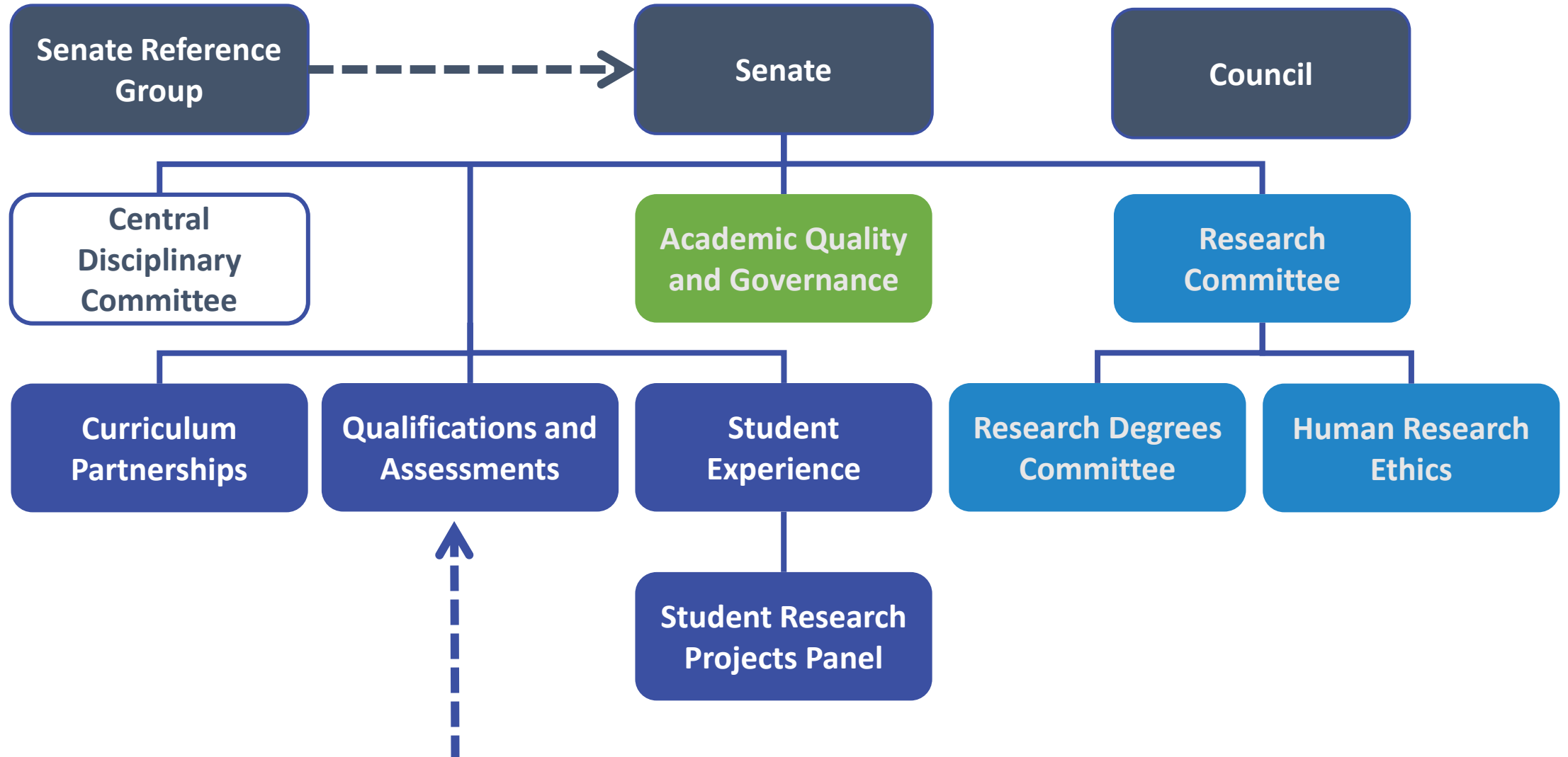
What is a Rep?

Part 2



Governance and Committees at  
the Open University

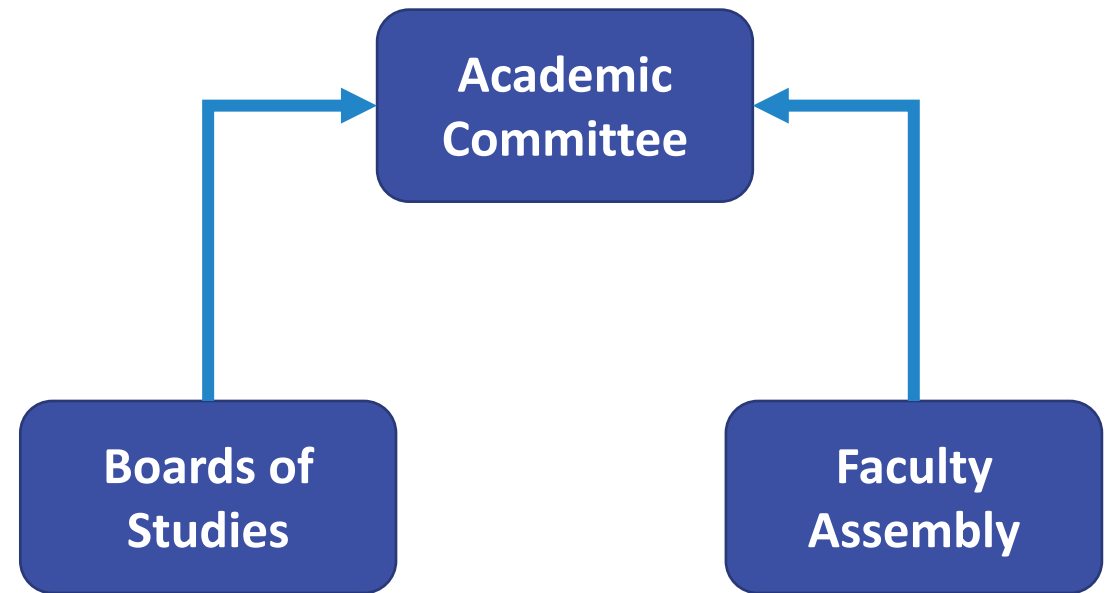
# Institutional governance –



# 3 Reps on each faculty/school committee:

Access and Open	Arts and Social Sciences	Business and Law	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths	Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies
Access	Arts and Humanities	Law	Computing and Communication	Education, Childcare, Youth and Sport
Open	Psychology and Counselling	Business (Undergraduate)	Environment, Earth, and Ecosystems	Languages and Linguistics
	Social Sciences and Global Studies	Business (Masters)	Life, Health and Chemical Sciences	Health, Wellbeing, and Social Care
	Research	Policing Apprenticeships	Maths and Statistics	Research
		Research	Physical Sciences	
			Research	

# Faculty Governance





Next session –

Volunteering platforms and next steps...