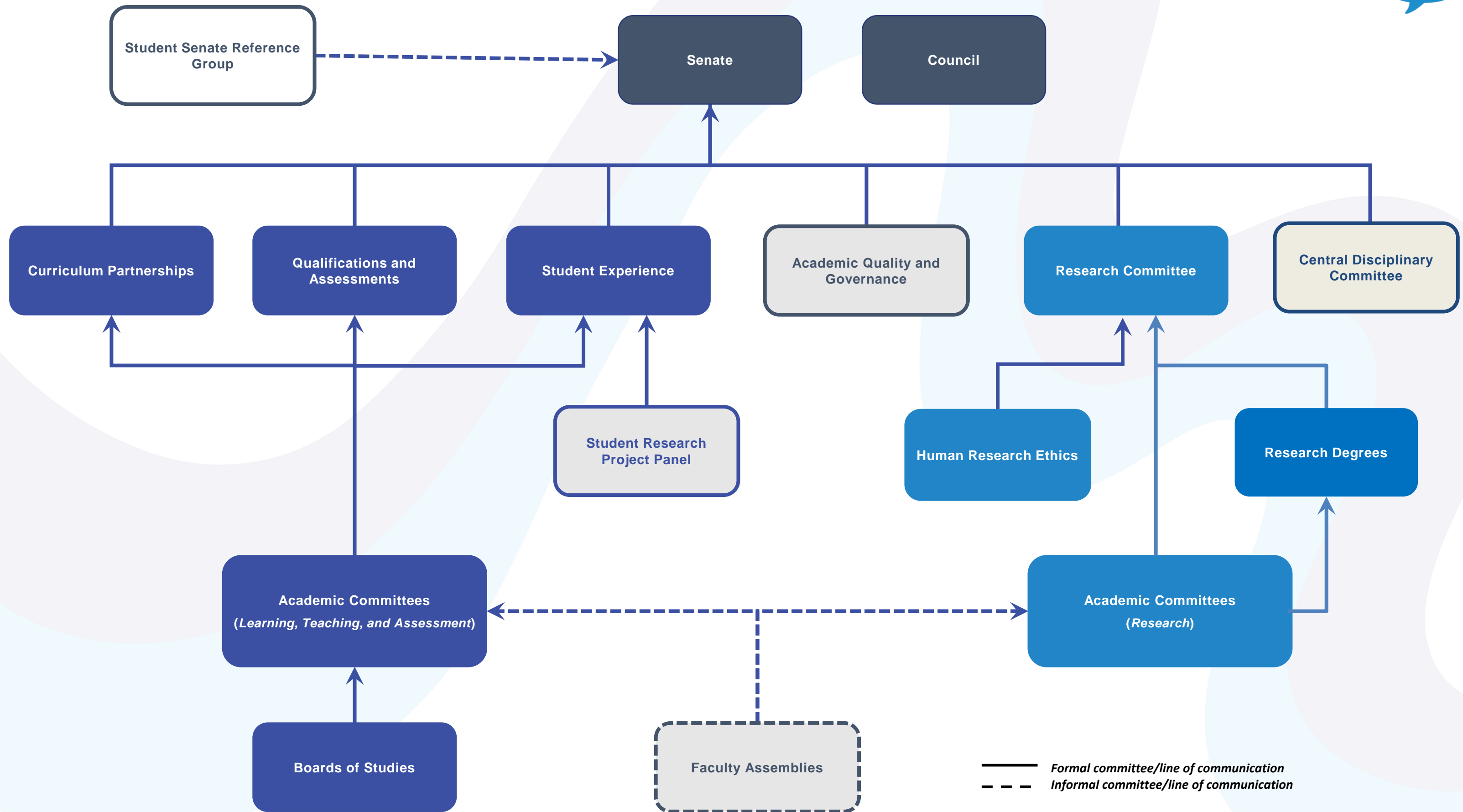




Governance and Committees at the Open University

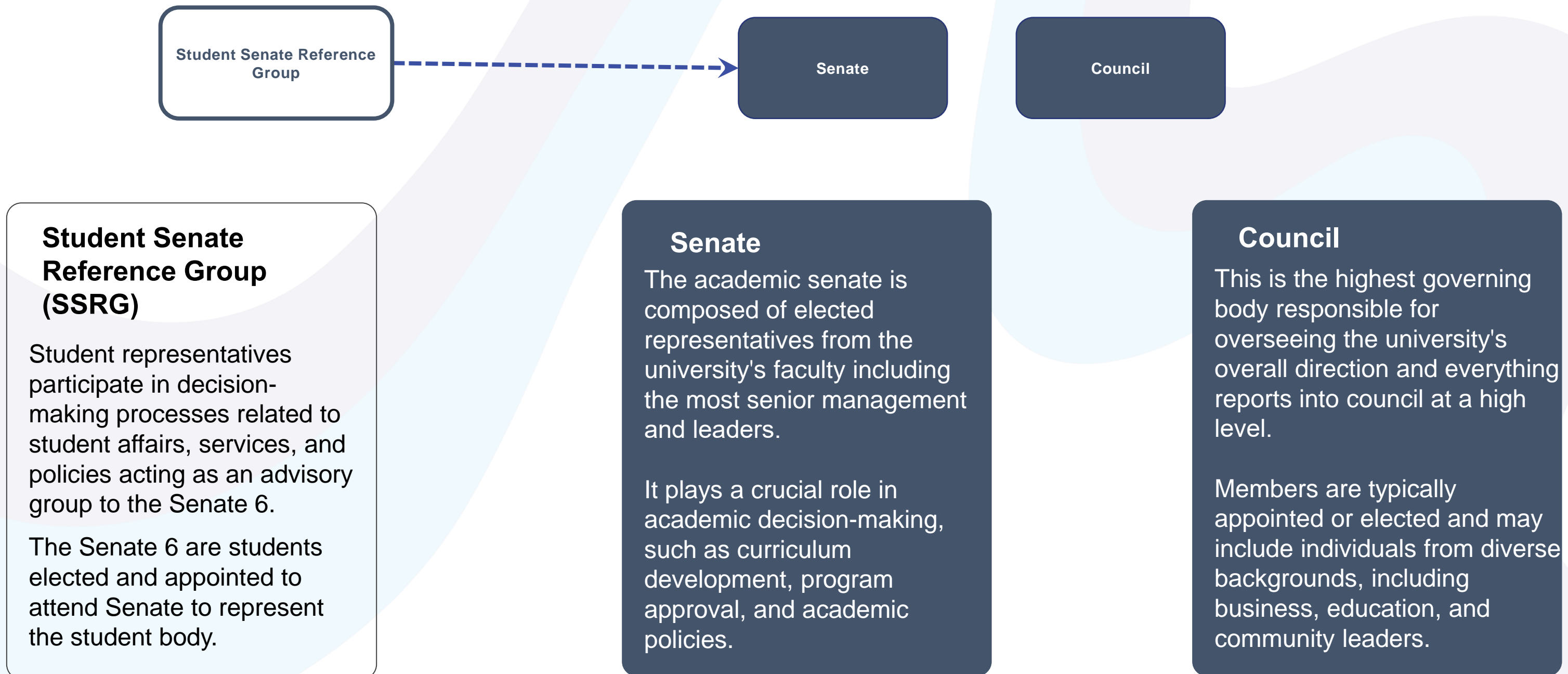
Introduction

- A university governance system refers to the structure and processes through which a university is organized, managed, and administered.
- This system involves individuals like you, committees, and governing bodies, that work together to make decisions, set policies, and ensure the overall well-being of the institution.
- Effective university governance systems strive to balance the diverse interests and perspectives of these stakeholders, ensuring transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to the needs of the academic community and society at large.



— Formal committee/line of communication
 - - - Informal committee/line of communication

Key components



A quick summary

1

Governance is a way of describing a system of committees, that work together to make decisions about the overall future well-being of the institution.

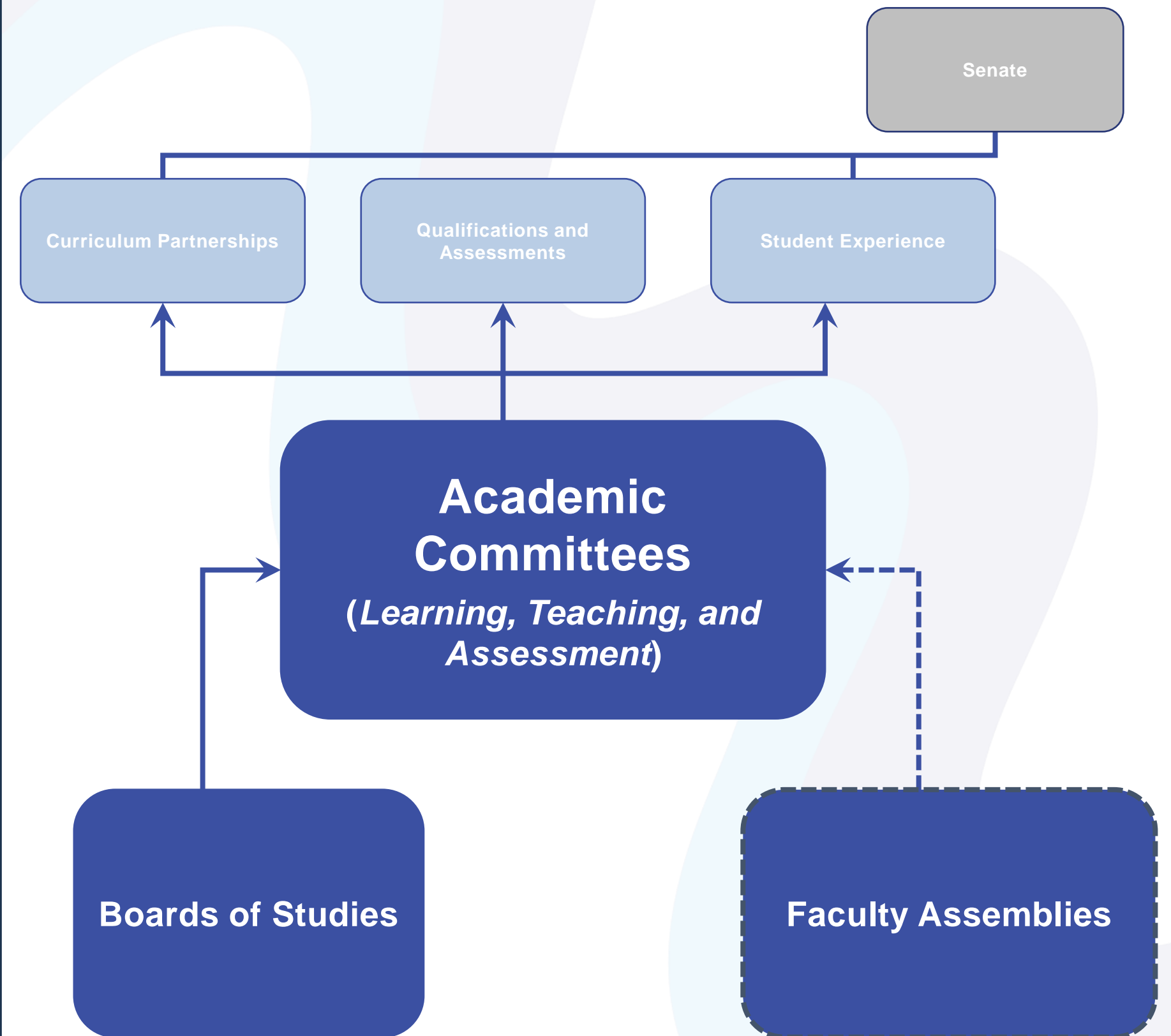
2

Student reps are appointed and some ex officio members (there because of their position 'in office') of OU governance committees, but all contribute throughout the different levels of governance.

3

Students are there as members to provide the student perspective at the highest level of governance to impact change for now and in the future.

Faculty Governance



Boards of Studies

Faculty Assemblies

**Academic
Committees**
*(Learning, Teaching, and
Assessment)*

Curriculum Partnerships

Qualifications and
Assessments

Student Experience

Senate

Academic Committee

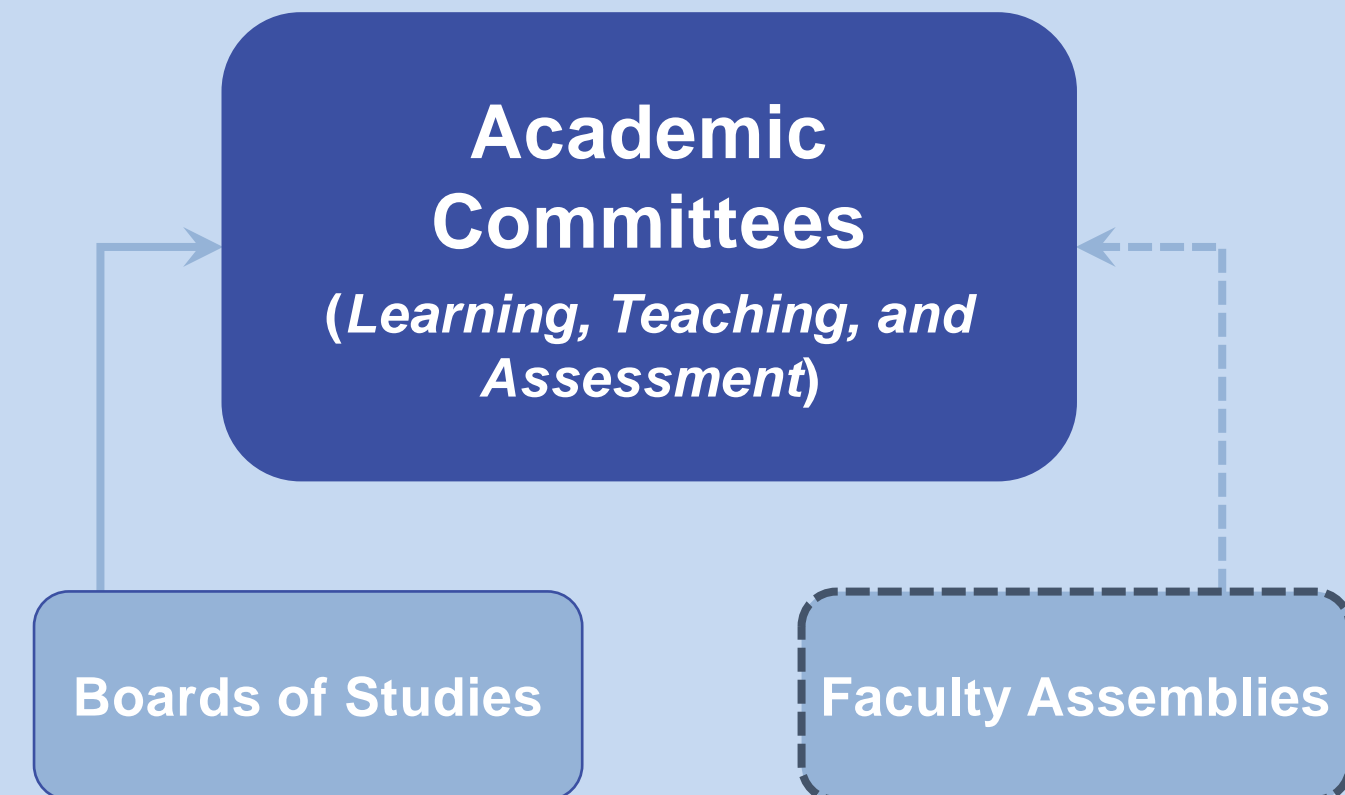
The purpose of the Academic Committee, Learning Teaching and Assessment (ACLTA) is to:

- Oversee the creation and implementation of modules and monitor effectiveness.
- Ensure that appropriate actions and innovations take place.
- Produce an annual report to the Academic Committee and make recommendations for improvement and enhancement.

Some examples of matters impacting students that you will encounter are -

- Reports provided by the Board of Studies about the quality of their qualifications, Partnership arrangements and Qualification specifications for new ways of teaching.

- 1 elected Student Faculty Rep (FAR) appointed student representatives.
- Each faculty has an Academic Comm (5 in total).
- Deans, Directors of Teaching, Association of Lecturers, Student Support Staff Lead and Student Service areas attend.



Boards of Study

The purpose of the Board of Study (BoS) is to:

- Oversee the creation and implementation of modules and monitor effectiveness.
- Ensure that appropriate actions and innovations take place.
- Produce an annual report to the Academic Committee and make recommendations for improvement and enhancement.
- Feed up to the Academic Committee, Learning, Teaching and Assessment.

Some examples of matters impacting students that you will encounter are -

- Flexible study options
- Availability of resources
- Suitability of module materials
- Curriculum development and lots more!

- 3 Students appointed to each board of studies (BoS) for each school within each faculty and are full voting members.
- Deans, Associate Lecturers, Student Support Staff Leads, Student Services such as the Library and Careers attend



Faculty Assembly

- 3 Appointed student reps and there are 4 Faculty Assemblies.
- Purpose is to provide all members of the faculty with updates regarding the day-to-day activities, achievements and plans.
- Much larger meeting with all staff once per quarter.
- No formal report to write after meeting but encourage you to share on forums.



“The Faculty Assembly is ideal to keep in touch with what is going on in my area of study. There are no papers to read and I don’t have to write a report either, which means I still have time to volunteer, study and balance my workload.”

