AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Governance Policy

Document type	Policy
Scope (applies to)	All staff and students
Issued	2023
Last revision date	2026
Review Cycle	Every 2 years
Version	v4.0
Approval Authority	University Council
Document owner	Sustainability Office
Status	Approved and Published

CONTENTS

1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE....4
1.1. Legislative and Strategic Context....4
2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS....4
3. APPLICABILITY....5
4. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE....5
5. GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS....6
5.1. Accountability and Transparency....6
5.2. Participatory and Collegial Governance....6
5.3. Academic Autonomy and Integrity....6
5.4. Legal Compliance and Ethical Conduct....6
5.5. Strategic Leadership and Sustainability....6
6. DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION....6
7. MONITORING, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND RISK MANAGEMENT....7
8. POLICY EVOLUTION....7

1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Azerbaijan Technical University (hereinafter referred to as “AzTU”) recognises effective governance as a critical foundation for academic excellence, institutional integrity, and long-term sustainability. This Governance Policy establishes the principles, structures, and processes that guide leadership, decision-making, and oversight across all academic, administrative, and financial domains of the University.

The Policy defines how authority is distributed, responsibilities are delegated, and decisions are made within AzTU. It supports ethical conduct, transparency, accountability, participatory leadership, and compliance with national legislation and international best practices in higher education governance.

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- promote accountability, transparency, and integrity in institutional governance;
- support strategic planning, academic quality, and research excellence;
- ensure inclusive and participatory decision-making involving key stakeholders;
- strengthen leadership effectiveness and operational coherence; and
- enhance institutional resilience and long-term strategic sustainability.

1.1. Legislative and Strategic Context

This Policy is developed in accordance with:

- the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- the Laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On Education” (No. 833-IIIQ of 19 June 2009) and “On Science” (2016);
- relevant presidential decrees and orders;
- resolutions and orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- regulatory acts of the Ministry of Science and Education;
- the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG);
- the State Strategy for Education Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- the Charter of Azerbaijan Technical University;
- decisions of the Academic Council and internal regulatory documents of AzTU.

2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Governance Policy, the following key terms and definitions are provided to ensure a common understanding of governance concepts, roles, and institutional structures used throughout the document. These definitions support clarity, consistency, and effective interpretation of the policy across all academic and administrative units of Azerbaijan Technical University.

- **Governance** – The system of structures, processes, and relationships through which AzTU is directed, managed, and controlled.
- **Academic Council** – The highest collegial decision-making body responsible for academic strategy, policy approval, and academic oversight.

- **Rectorate** – The executive leadership body responsible for the operational management and implementation of University policies and decisions.
- **Stakeholders** – Individuals or groups with an interest in or influence on University activities, including students, staff, governing bodies, partners, and external organisations.
- **Accountability** – The obligation of individuals and bodies to explain, justify, and take responsibility for decisions and actions.
- **Transparency** – Openness in governance processes, decision-making, and access to information.

3. APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to all governance bodies, structures, and individuals involved in leadership, oversight, and management at Azerbaijan Technical University.

It covers, in particular:

- the University Academic Council;
- the Rector and Rectorate;
- faculty and departmental councils;
- administrative and support units;
- research centres and institutes;
- student representative bodies; and
- committees, commissions, and advisory groups involved in governance functions.

All individuals holding leadership or decision-making authority, including senior executives, deans, directors, heads of departments, and committee members, are subject to this Policy.

4. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

AzTU operates under a collegial and participatory governance model supported by a system of checks and balances.

The core governance structures include:

- **University Academic Council**, which serves as the highest academic and strategic decision-making body;
- **Rectorate**, which provides executive leadership and is responsible for policy implementation and day-to-day management;
- **Faculty and Departmental Academic Councils**, which support academic planning, quality assurance, and curriculum oversight at faculty level;
- **Administrative Departments**, which manage operational, financial, human resource, research, infrastructure, and support functions; and
- **Student Representative Bodies**, which ensure student participation in governance and decision-making processes.

These bodies operate within clearly defined mandates to ensure coherence, effectiveness, and institutional development.

5. GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

AzTU's governance framework is grounded in principles of accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, legality, academic integrity, and sustainability. Governance practices are designed to ensure responsible leadership, evidence-based decision-making, and alignment with the University's mission and strategic objectives.

5.1. Accountability and Transparency

Governance bodies and leaders are accountable for their decisions and actions. Transparency is ensured through open meetings, documented decisions, published reports, and regular communication with stakeholders.

5.2. Participatory and Collegial Governance

AzTU promotes inclusive governance by engaging academic staff, administrative personnel, and students in consultative and decision-making processes. Collegial dialogue and consensus-building are central to institutional governance.

5.3. Academic Autonomy and Integrity

Academic decision-making is protected from undue influence, ensuring academic freedom, integrity, and independence in teaching, research, and scholarly activities.

5.4. Legal Compliance and Ethical Conduct

All governance activities are conducted in full compliance with national legislation, University regulations, and ethical standards. Integrity, impartiality, and professionalism guide leadership behaviour at all levels.

5.5. Strategic Leadership and Sustainability

Governance decisions support long-term institutional sustainability by integrating academic quality, financial responsibility, risk awareness, and alignment with national and international development priorities.

6. DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION

AzTU follows a structured and layered decision-making model. Strategic and academic decisions are reviewed by relevant committees and submitted to the University Academic Council for deliberation and approval.

Operational decisions are delegated to the Rectorate, administrative leaders, and faculty-level bodies within clearly defined mandates. Approved decisions are implemented through institutional regulations, procedures, and action plans.

7. MONITORING, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The effectiveness of governance is monitored through internal reviews, performance evaluations, audits, and feedback mechanisms.

Monitoring focuses on:

- effectiveness of governance structures and leadership;
- quality and consistency of decision-making;
- compliance with legal and institutional requirements;
- achievement of strategic and academic objectives; and
- identification and mitigation of institutional risks.

An internal control and risk management framework supports continuous oversight and reports to the Rector and Academic Council.

8. POLICY EVOLUTION

This Policy is reviewed at least every two years or earlier if required by changes in national legislation, governance requirements, or institutional strategy.

The previous version of the Policy remains in force until a revised version is approved by the University Academic Council and formally adopted.

AZTU

AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

25 H. Javid Avenue, Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1073
(+994 12) 539-13-05

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



