UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Charter of Incorporation

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Executive Brief

Lays down the core tenets of the governance of the University: its establishment and legal status, its objects and powers, its governing body and key institutional officers. Amendments to the Charter have to be approved by the Privy Council.

Dated 24th March 1900

Revised: 22nd April 1927, 17th September 1975,
29th June 1977, 20th November 1990, 16th October 1991, 21 October 1998, 1 January 2008

VICTORIA by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith
TO WHOM ALL THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

WHEREAS Petitions have been presented to Us by the Mason University College of Birmingham by the Mayor Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Birmingham in the County of Warwick by the School Board for the said City by the Governors of the Grammar School of King Edward VI in the said City and by others praying Us to erect within the said City for the promotion of Arts, Sciences and Learning a University and to grant a Charter with such appropriate provisions therein in that behalf as shall seem to Us meet and fit.

AND WHEREAS We have taken the said Petitions into Our Royal consideration and are minded to accede thereto.

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We by Virtue of Our Royal Prerogative in that behalf and all other powers enabling Us so to do of Our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion by these Presents do for Us Our Heirs and Successors grant will direct and ordain as follows:-

1. There shall be from henceforth for ever in Our said City of Birmingham a University by the name and style of "The University of Birmingham".

2. Our trusty and well-beloved Councillor Joseph Chamberlain the persons named in the Schedule hereto as members of the Court of the University and the members for the time being of the Court of the University the Council and Senate of the University the Chancellor the Pro-Chancellor the Deputy Pro-Chancellor the Vice-Chancellor and Principal and the Vice-Principal or Vice-Principals of the University for the time being and all others who shall pursuant to this Our Charter and the Statutes of the University for the time being be members of the University are hereby created and from henceforth for ever shall be one body politic and corporate with perpetual succession and a Common Seal by the name and style of "The University of Birmingham" with full power and capacity by and in such name to sue and be sued and to take and hold and to do all other lawful acts whatsoever.

3. We Our Heirs and Successors Kings and Queens of the Kingdom aforesaid shall be and remain the Visitor and Visitors of the University of Birmingham through the Lord President of Our Council for the time being.

4. There shall be a Chancellor of the said University and one Pro-Chancellor who subject to the Statutes and Ordinances of the University shall act for the Chancellor pending a vacancy in that office or during the absence or inability of the Chancellor.

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The first Chancellor shall be Our said trusty and well-beloved Councillor Joseph Chamberlain.

The first Pro-Chancellor shall be Sir Harry Gilbert Barling Baronet.

5. There shall be a Deputy Pro-Chancellor who subject to the Statutes and Ordinances of the University shall act during the absence or inability of the Pro-Chancellor.

The first Deputy Pro-Chancellor shall be John Henry Lloyd Esquire.

6. There shall be a Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the said University and at least one Vice-Principal the number of Vice-Principals to be determined by the Council from time to time. The Vice-Principal or in the case of there being more than one Vice-Principal one of those so appointed by the Council who subject to the Statutes and Ordinances of the University shall act for the Vice-Chancellor and Principal pending a vacancy in that office or during the absence or inability of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

The first Vice-Chancellor and Principal shall be Charles Grant Robertson.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal shall be from time to time appointed by the Council in accordance with the procedure set out in the Statutes.

The first Vice-Principal shall be Robert Samuel Heath, M.A., D.Sc., now Principal of Mason University College.

7. There shall be such other senior officers as may be designated by the Statutes of the University.

8. There shall be a Court of the University which shall have the constitution powers and duties conferred upon it by the Statutes.

The Chancellor shall be ex-officio head of the University and shall chair the Court.

The Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Pro-Chancellor shall be ex-officio members of the Court.

9. The supreme governing body of the University shall be the Council and subject to this Charter the Statutes of the University and the Law of the Realm the Council shall have absolute power within the University and shall have the government and control of the finances of the University and of the good order practical affairs business and work of the University.

Statutes of the University shall regulate the performance of the duties of the Council the election and continuance in office of the members of the Council (including the continuance in office of the first members) the filling of vacancies among the

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members and all other matters relative to the Council which it may be thought are proper to be so regulated.

10. There shall be a Senate of the University which shall subject to this Charter and the Statutes of the University be responsible to the Council for regulating and directing the academic work of the University in teaching examining and research and for the award of all Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other academic distinctions of the University and for the discipline of the students of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal shall chair the Senate ex-officio.

Statutes of the University shall regulate and define the powers and business of the Senate and all other matters relative to the Senate which it may be thought are proper to be so regulated.

11. The University shall be both a teaching and an examining University and shall further the prosecution of original research.

The University may confer Degrees Diplomas Certificates and other academic distinctions whether honorary substantive or otherwise and such Degrees Diplomas Certificates and other academic distinctions shall be conferred and held subject to any such provisions as may be made by the Statutes and Ordinances of the University with reference thereto.

The University shall have power to co-operate by means of Joint Boards or otherwise with other Universities Authorities and Bodies whether public or private for any of the purposes of the University.

12. The University may admit to affiliation with it or to any of its privileges any College or Institution or the members or students thereof upon such terms and conditions and subject to such regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by the Statutes of the University.

13. No discrimination on the grounds of political opinion, age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation shall be exercised by the University in the admission of students, or the appointment or promotion of staff or the awarding of any Degree Diploma or Certificate, or generally, in the execution of any of its Objects as laid down by the Charter.

14. The Council may from time to time make Statutes for the University which shall carry into effect this Charter and its provisions and may regulate and govern and contain prescriptions in regard to the affairs business work and interests of the University and those of the Corporate members thereof as such and the status appointment and removal of the members Chancellor Pro-Chancellor Deputy Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and Principal Vice-Principal or Vice-Principals and Officers thereof and

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may contain all such provisions as the Council may deem it fit and meet should be made with respect to or for the governing of the University its constituent parts and members or to promote the objects of these presents.

The Court and the Senate shall have power to comment on Statutes to be made by the Council and it shall be the duty of the Council duly to consider the same.

The Statutes of the University shall be those scheduled to these presents and they are hereby declared to be valid and within the powers of this Article of these presents conferred.

The Statutes may add to amend alter or repeal the Statutes from time to time in force and the power to make Statutes shall not be limited by or with reference to existing or any subsequent Statutes or the several subject matters therein dealt with.

Any Statutes to be hereinafter made which are not repugnant to the provisions of this Charter or the Laws of the Realm shall be operative and have effect when allowed by Us or by any Committee of Our Most Honourable Privy Council and not before. Such allowance shall be conclusive evidence of the Statutes so allowed being authorised by the provisions of this Charter.

15. The Court the Council and the Senate respectively may from time to time make standing orders for governing subject to these presents and the Statutes of the University the proceedings of those bodies respectively. The power to make standing orders shall include the power to add to amend alter or repeal any theretofore made.

16. It shall be the duty of the Council from time to time to bring before the Court and the Senate any matters which in its opinion should be dealt with by these bodies respectively.

17. There shall be an Alumni Association of the University to be known as the University of Birmingham Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association and a Guild of its Students. The constitution functions privileges and all other matters connected with the said Association and Guild requiring to be prescribed shall be prescribed as may be provided by the Statutes.

18. The Council may after the Court and Senate shall have pronounced an opinion thereon at any time alter or amend or add to these presents and their provisions by a Special Resolution in that behalf and such alteration amendment or addition shall when allowed by Us Our Heirs or Successors under the sign manual or otherwise as We or They shall deem meet become effectual so that these presents shall thenceforward continue and operate as though they had been originally granted and made as so altered amended or added to as aforesaid. This Article of these presents shall apply to this Charter as altered amended or added to in manner aforesaid. A Special Resolution means a Resolution passed and confirmed in the manner provided by the Statutes of the University.

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19. Our Royal Will and Pleasure is that these presents shall ever be construed benevolently and in every case most favourably to the University of Birmingham and the promotion of the objects of this Our Charter.

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