UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

CHARTER

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CHARTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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 and 1 January 2009.

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. Foundation of The University of Birmingham

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. Corporate Body

The members for the time being of the Court of the University, the Council and Senate of the University, including the Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellor, the Deputy Pro-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, the Vice-Principal or Vice-Principals of the University 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. University objects

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

4. The Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor

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.

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

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

5. Deputy Pro-Chancellor

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.

6. Vice-Chancellor and Principal and Vice-Principal/s

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

7. The Council

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 and delegation of the Council's powers and all other matters relative to the Council which it may be thought are proper to be so regulated.

8. The Senate

There shall be a Senate of the University which shall subject to this Charter and in accordance with the Ordinances 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.

9. The Court

There shall be a Court of the University which shall be subordinate to the Council and shall have the constitution, powers and duties conferred upon it by the Ordinances.

10. Guild of Students and Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association

There shall be a Guild of Students of the University. The constitution, functions, privileges and all other matters connected with the said Guild requiring to be prescribed shall be prescribed in Ordinances.

There shall be an alumni association of the University to be known as the University of Birmingham Guild of Graduates and Alumni Association. The constitution, functions, privileges and all other matters connected with the said Association requiring to be prescribed shall be prescribed in Ordinances.

11. University powers

The University may confer Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other academic distinctions whether honorary, substantive, dual, joint 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.

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.

The University may admit to affiliation with it or to any of its privileges any educational establishment 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 Ordinances of the University.

12. Equal opportunities

The University promotes equal opportunities and shall exercise no discrimination on the grounds of political opinion, age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation 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.

13. Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations

The Council may from time to time make Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations for the University which:

(1) carry into effect this Charter and its provisions;
(2) regulate and govern the affairs, business, work and interests of the University including its constituent parts and members;
(3) regulate and govern the status, appointment and removal of the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Deputy Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Vice-Principal or Vice-Principals and officers and members of the University; and
(4) shall promote the objects of the said University of Birmingham.

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

The Statutes shall specify a procedure to add to, amend, alter or repeal the Statutes from time to time in force. 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 Our 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.

14. Variation of the Charter

The Council may, after the Senate and Court shall have provided an opinion thereon, at any time alter or amend or add to this Our Charter and its provisions by a Special Resolution passed and confirmed in accordance with the Statutes. Such alteration, amendment or addition shall only become effectual when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors under the sign manual or otherwise as We or They shall deem meet, so that this Our Charter shall thereafter continue and operate as though it had been originally granted and made as so altered, amended or added to. This Article of this Our Charter shall thereafter apply to this Charter as so altered, amended or added to.

15. Visitor

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.

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