

# **PARTICIPATION RULES**

## **for the**

# **VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL**

These regulations give effect to the provisions of Chapter 5 of the Codex Higher Education regulations<sup>1</sup>, concerning the rules governing participation by and support of student representatives<sup>2</sup>, and to the provisions on student participation as described in the General Organisational Articles of the VUB.

These regulations should be read together with the Student Council and Stuvoraad regulations of the VUB.

### **Article 1: co-management by students**

The university operates on the basis of a student co-management model.

Without prejudice to the applicable Codex Higher Education provisions and those of the VUB's own articles, the students are represented in the following bodies and where appropriate, they have voting rights.

- the University Council
- the Board of Governors
- the Academic Council
- the Education Council
- the International Policy Council
- the Council for Student Services
- the Faculty Councils
- the Faculty Boards
- the Study Programme committees.

All rights and obligations of Council members shall apply equally to the student representatives.

This means that the student representatives on the above bodies not only have the right to be heard, but also to genuinely take part in the deliberations and decision making.

### **Article 2: The Student Council is elected directly**

Student representatives on the Student Council are elected directly by the student community.

### **Article 3: Exercise and delegation of powers by the student council**

§ 1. The Student Council may, on its own initiative, provide the University's internal bodies with a written recommendation on all matters of concern to the students. The body concerned must draw up a reasoned response in writing, in the form of a proposal, to any such recommendation received.

§ 2. The Student Council may delegate its powers to participation committees, the student representatives' structures, within the existing University bodies.

§ 3. The competent governing body<sup>1</sup> of the university will delegate all policy decision making with regard to the operation and organisation of student services within the limits of the multi-year budget for Section III – student services- and the approval of regulations concerning the organisation of the student services to the Student Council.

### **Article 4: The appointment or nomination of student representatives**

§ 1. The student representatives in the bodies mentioned in Titles IV, V and VI of the VUB's own articles are appointed as determined in the VUB articles or in these Participation Regulations.

1. As proposed by the Student Council, the student representatives in the University Council will be appointed by and among the members of the Student Council or Stuvoraad. Preferably spread equally across all genders, faculties and the MILO (multidisciplinary teacher training) in as far as these are represented in the Student Council and Stuvoraad.
2. The members of the Academic Council will be appointed by the Student Council. They will preferably be student representatives who have at least one year of experience in the Student Council or Stuvoraad, either currently or as former members. Preferably with all genders equally represented in the members nominated.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://data-onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/edulex/document.aspx?docid=14650>

<sup>2</sup> *Students, including doctoral students, who are enrolled at the VUB and who represent the student community at the VUB.*

Students who are not members of the Student Council when they are appointed as member with voting rights to the Academic Council shall be included in the Student Council with voting rights.

- a. Student representatives in the Education Council, from every faculty in the university, shall be appointed by and on the proposal of the student representatives in the Student Council. Preferably, students with an interest in the organisation of the education.
- b. The student representatives in the International Policy Council shall be appointed by and on the proposal of student representatives in the Student Council. Preferably, students with an interest in the subject of internationalisation.

§ 2. Half the members of the Stuvoraad shall be appointed by the Student Council and the other half by the Executive Board, acting on proposals by the Student Council.

§ 3. The student representatives in the Participation Committees of the Study Programme Committees will be appointed/elected in accordance with the conditions of the internal regulations of the faculty.

In consultation with the Student Council, the Department of Education and Student Policy provides guidelines for the constitution of the student representation in the study programme committees. The Department of Education and Student Policy monitors the constitution and the way in which these study programme committees are established and informs the Student Council about this.

§ 4. With regard to the designation of student representatives in the participation committees of the faculty councils, the procedure is as follows:

1. The student who, as defined in article 77 of the General Regulations of the Student Council and the Stuvoraad is elected to the Student Council for the next academic year with the most votes of all candidates from that faculty, irrespective of their ranking, will automatically be appointed as student representative to their Faculty Council;
2. For the remaining mandates in the Faculty Councils, student representatives of the Faculty Councils will be appointed/elected in accordance with the conditions of the internal regulations of the faculty.

In consultations with the Student Council, the Department of Education and Student Policy provides guidelines for the constitution of the student representation in the Faculty Councils. The Department of Education and Student Policy monitors the constitution and the way in which these Faculty Councils are established and informs the Student Council about this.

§ 5. With regard to the designation of student representatives of the participation committees in the Faculty Boards, the procedure is as follows: the student representatives in the Faculty Boards are appointed by and from the student representatives in the Faculty Council.

§ 6. With regard to the appointment of the student representatives in the internal commissions which fall outside the bodies defined in the VUB's own articles or the Participation Commissions, such appointments will be made by the Student Council, taking into consideration the provisions included in that commission's internal rules and regulations.

§ 7. With regard to the appointment of the student representatives in the external councils and commissions, such appointments will be made by the Student Council, taking into consideration the provisions included in the articles or other regulations of the organisation or institute concerned.

#### Article 5: Special conditions under the Teaching and Examination Regulations

The competent governing body shall ensure that student representatives appointed by the Student Council or the competent governing body, as laid down in Article 5, enjoy the necessary special conditions established under the Teaching and Examination Regulations. In this regard, student representatives shall be granted the status of 'Reflex' student, as defined in the Teaching and Examination Regulations.

#### Article 5: Support for the operation of the Student Council and Council for Student Services

The university shall make a fully equipped room available to the students of the Student Council. This room is intended exclusively for use for activities related to Student Council activities.

The university will provide within its budget the necessary operating budget lines to allow the Student Council to function properly without the student representatives having to invest personal resources. The university will provide administrative support and organise the purchase of services and goods so that the student representatives do not have to pre-finance purchases from personal resources.

The university supports the communication of the Student Council.

The managers of the various services within the VUB support the student representatives in acquiring a sound understanding of the student-oriented and student-related policy of the university. The service managers may take the necessary initiative in this matter, or it may be organised at the request of the student representatives.

The student representatives, as specified in Article 6, may make use of the available education, training and education for staff members.

The Student Council may submit a reasoned proposal for the support desired to the competent governance body.

#### Article 7: Dispute settlement

The Vice Rector for Educational and Student Affairs will mediate any disputes that may arise with regard to the implementation or interpretation of participation rights. Such disputes will, if necessary, be resolved by the Rector.

Should the Student Council feel that the university is failing to comply with its statutory obligations, the Student Council may inform the government commission about this.