General regulations of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services for the Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Contents

TITLE I Composition of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services ........................................4

CHAPTER I Composition of the Student Council .................................................................4
  Article 1 Composition ..............................................................................................................4
  Article 2 Successors ...............................................................................................................4
  Article 3 Advisors .................................................................................................................4
  Article 4 Term of office .........................................................................................................5
  Article 5 Chair, Vice Chair and coordinators .......................................................................5

CHAPTER II Composition of the Council for Student Services ........................................5
  Article 6 Composition ...........................................................................................................5
  Article 7 Successors .............................................................................................................5
  Article 8 Advisors ................................................................................................................5
  Article 9 Term of office .........................................................................................................5
  Article 10 Chair and Vice Chair ..........................................................................................6

CHAPTER III Inauguration of the Student Council and Council for Student Services ..........6
  Article 11 Acknowledgement of the outcome of the electoral process .................................6
  Article 12 Agenda of the inaugural meeting of the Student Council ........................................6
  Article 13 Agenda of the inaugural meeting of the Council for Student Services ....................6

CHAPTER IV Election of the Chair, Vice Chairs and coordinators of the Student Council ........6
  Article 14 Election of the Chair and the Vice Chair ...............................................................6
  Article 15 Election of the coordinators ...............................................................................7

CHAPTER V Resignation as member and resignation from an office ......................................7
  Article 16 Resignation as member .......................................................................................7
  Article 17 Resignation as Chair, Vice Chair or coordinator ....................................................7
  Article 18 Motion of no confidence .....................................................................................8
  Article 19 Election after a motion of no confidence ..............................................................8

TITLE II Powers of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services ..................8
  Article 20 Powers of the Student Council ..........................................................................8
  Article 21 Powers of the Council for Student Services ........................................................8

TITLE III Rules of procedure ................................................................................................8

CHAPTER I General provisions ..............................................................................................8
  Article 22 Representation of the student community ............................................................8
  Article 23 Replacement of the Chair ....................................................................................9
  Article 24 Incompatibilities .................................................................................................9
  Article 25 Supervision of implementation of resolutions .......................................................9

CHAPTER II Support ..............................................................................................................9
  Article 26 Secretariat ..........................................................................................................9
  Article 27 Preparation and implementation of decisions .......................................................9
CHAPTER III Agenda .................................................................................................................. 9
Article 28 Preparation of meetings ......................................................................................... 9
Article 29 Agenda Consultation ............................................................................................ 9
Article 30 Agenda items ...................................................................................................... 9
Article 31 Agenda items submitted at the meeting as a matter of urgency ...................... 10
Article 32 Agenda items submitted as a matter of urgency using the written procedure .... 10
Article 33 Extremely urgent resolutions .............................................................................. 10
CHAPTER IV Meeting procedure ......................................................................................... 10
Article 34 Public nature of meetings .................................................................................. 10
Article 35 Frequency of meetings ....................................................................................... 10
Article 36 Invitation to attend the meeting ......................................................................... 10
Article 37 Quorum ............................................................................................................... 10
Article 38 Course of the meeting ......................................................................................... 10
Article 39 Deliberation of agenda items ............................................................................ 11
Article 40 Voting ................................................................................................................ 11
Article 41 Resolutions by absolute majority .................................................................... 11
Article 42 Irrevocability of resolutions .............................................................................. 11
Article 43 Any other business ............................................................................................ 11
CHAPTER V The minutes ..................................................................................................... 12
Article 44 Draft and approval ............................................................................................ 12
Article 45 Publicity of reports ........................................................................................... 12
Article 46 Conservation .................................................................................................... 12
Article 47 Signing of resolutions ....................................................................................... 12
CHAPTER VI Rights and obligations of members of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services ........................................................................................................ 12
Article 48 Presence ............................................................................................................ 12
Article 49 Absence ............................................................................................................ 12
Article 50 Conflicts of interest .......................................................................................... 12
Article 51 Remuneration .................................................................................................. 13
CHAPTER VII Consultation of persons and committees .................................................... 13
Article 52 Ad hoc invitations ............................................................................................. 13
Article 53 Ad hoc committees ......................................................................................... 13
CHAPTER VIII Expenses and payments ........................................................................... 13
Article 54 In accordance with the prevailing VUB rules ................................................... 13
Article 55 Budget ............................................................................................................. 13
Article 56 Financial report ................................................................................................. 13
TITLE IV Election procedure for the Student Council ......................................................... 13
CHAPTER I Voters ............................................................................................................... 13
Article 57 Electoral college ............................................................................................... 13
Article 58 Constituencies .................................................................................................. 13
Article 59 Compulsory voting .......................................................................................... 14
Article 60 Eligibility to vote ............................................................................................ 14
CHAPTER II Electoral commission and electoral office ....................................................... 14
Article 61 Electoral commission. The members of the electoral commission will be appointed by the Student Council.

Article 62 Electoral office.

CHAPTER III Electoral calendar and publication

Article 63 Electoral calendar.

Article 64 Publication.

CHAPTER IV Applications

Article 65 Eligibility.

Article 66 Applications.

Article 67 Electoral publicity.

CHAPTER V Voting process

The voting is electronic and secret.

Article 71 Manner of voting.

Article 72 Voting period.

Article 73 Presentation of the candidates.

Article 74 Number of votes to be cast.

Article 75 Summons.

CHAPTER VI Result of the voting

Article 76 Quorum.

Article 77 Elected candidates.

Article 78 Successors.

Article 79 Report.

Article 80 Publication.

Article 81 Complaints against the result of the voting.

Article 82 Review of complaints against the result of the voting.

Article 83 Annulment.
These regulations implement the provisions of the Higher Education Codex¹, Part II, Title V, Chapter 4, relating to the student council, and Chapter 5 on the student services in higher education, as well as the provisions on the Student Council and the Council for Student Services in the General Organisational Statute of the VUB².

The intention is that the VUB Student Council and the Council for Student Services will have the same composition insofar as possible under the Codex of Higher Education. This also applies to the positions of chair and vice-president of both councils.

These regulations should be read in conjunction with the VUB student participation regulations³.

The General Regulations of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services deal, in particular, with:
- the composition of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services
- the powers of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services
- the rules of procedure for the Student Council and the Council for Student Services
- the electoral procedure.

TITLED I Composition of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services

CHAPTER I Composition of the Student Council

Article 1 Composition

The Student Council is composed of 20 students⁴, who are directly elected to the Student Council ⁵ from a single constituency representing the entire student population. Of the students of faculties IR, WE, ES, PE, RC, LW, LK and MILO (multidisciplinary teacher training), at least one student will always be represented, on condition that there is always one candidate from those faculties and MILO. For the faculty GF, there are always at least two students represented on condition that there are at least two students from that faculty.

Until all 20 mandates are filled, the student council can co-opt the co-opted Stuvo Council members as effective and voting members of the student council.

Article 2 Successors

All non-elected candidates will be ranked per constituency as successors based on the number of votes that they each obtained (from high to low).

Article 3 Advisors

The Vice-Rector for Educational and Student Affairs⁷ and the general manager, or their representatives, shall be invited to attend in an advisory capacity. The managers of the student services departments, the Chairs of the Brussels Student Association ‘Geen Taal, Geen Vrijheid’ [No Language, No Freedom] and the Centre for Free Enquiry and the chief editor of The Moeial, or their representatives shall be invited to attend in an advisory capacity.

The student representatives from the Faculty Councils shall be invited to attend the meeting in an advisory capacity.

Members of the Council for Student Services who do not serve in the Student Council will also be invited to serve in an advisory capacity on the Student Council.

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⁴ In accordance with the definition in the Codex Higher Education, we regard a student as the person enrolled at the Free University Brussels.
⁵ Members of the Student Council who cancel their enrolment at the institute during the academic year, resign as members of the Student Council.
⁶ These 4 students will also be directly elected to the Brussels University Association Student Council (BAST)
⁷ In 2015-2016, this will still be the Vice-rector for Student Affairs, in accordance with the transitional provision of the new General Organisational Statute, see art. 94(3).
On the designation of the International Relations and Mobility Office, the president of a group which represents the international students at the VUB, or another international student with a state of merit, shall be invited to attend in an advisory capacity.

The government commissioner and the representative of finance have the right to attend meetings of the Student Council in an advisory capacity by virtue of the power vested in them by decree.

Advisors shall not be members of the Student Council.

Article 4 Term of office

The term of office of a member of the Student Council shall run from the first to the last day of the academic year.

Only the inaugural meeting may take place in the previous academic year. The agenda may then only contain items relating to the inauguration, as laid down in Article 12.

Article 5 Chair, Vice Chair and coordinators

Each year, during the inaugural meeting, the elected members of the Student Council must elect a Chair and at the latter’s proposal, a Vice Chair from among the members.

At the same time, at least 2 coordinators must be elected who shall have the powers set out in article 15.

CHAPTER II Composition of the Council for Student Services

Article 6 Composition

The number of seats in the Council for Student Services corresponds to the number of elected representatives to the Student Council. The number of members will only be increased if:

- the total number of members does not meet the gender balance for the Council for Student Services, imposed by decree: at least one third of the members must be of the opposite sex;
- in case of an odd number – one additional seat will be filled to meet the required parity decreed.

The Council for Student Services is then composed with equal representation in a contingent ‘indirectly elected by the Student Council’ and a contingent ‘appointed by the competent administrative body’. The elected chair of the Student Council is appointed to the contingent ‘indirectly elected by the Student Council’, the elected Vice chair to the contingent ‘appointed by the competent administrative body’.

The other members are arranged in a sequence determined by lottery. The first half of this is considered to be elected indirectly by the Student Council, just as the chair. The second half will be presented to the competent administrative body to be appointed to the Council for Student Services, just as the Vice chair.

If seats have to be added to the Council for Student Services, non-elected candidates for the Student Council will first be nominated for these seats. Those candidates should be of the gender required to meet the gender balance imposed by decree and ranked according to the percentage of votes obtained per constituency. If this is not enough, a call will be launched, and the members of the Student Council will nominate extra candidates based on their motivation.

The indirect election and nomination shall take place during the inaugural meeting of the Student Council. Because of the required parity imposed by decree and the gender criterion, numbers of members may vary from year to year.

Article 7 Successors

All candidates not elected in the Student Council election will be ranked per constituency as successors based on the number of votes that they each obtained (from high to low).

Article 8 Advisors

The same advisors shall be invited as for the Student Council.

Advisors may not be members of the Council for Student Services.

Article 9 Term of office

The office for the members of the Council for Student Services has the same term as that for the Student Council.

Only the inaugural meeting can take place in the previous academic year. The agenda may then only contain items relating to the inauguration as laid down in article 12.
Article 10  Chair and ViceChair
On nomination by the Student Council, a Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the Council for Student Services.

CHAPTER III  Inauguration of the Student Council and Council for Student Services

Article 11  Acknowledgement of the outcome of the electoral process
Once the current Student Council has taken due note of the outcome of the electoral process, the newly elected members shall be convened for the inauguration of the Student Council for the next academic year.

Article 12  Agenda of the inaugural meeting of the Student Council
Until a Chair is elected, the newly elected Student Council will be chaired by the oldest member present.
The agenda for this meeting shall contain the following items, in the order given below:
1. Inauguration of the new Student Council
2. Election of the Chair
3. Election of the Vice Chair on nomination by the Chair
4. Establishment of two joint quotas of the Council for Student Services, one ‘elected by and from among the students’ and the other ‘to be appointed by the competent administrative body’
5. Election of coordinators
6. Appointment of student representatives to the vacant offices within the bodies in accordance with the VUB Organisational Statute and the Student Participation Regulations
7. Appointment of student representatives to the vacant offices within internal councils and committees
8. Appointment of student representatives to vacant positions within external councils and committees
9. Fixing of the date of the first meeting of the Student Council and of the inaugural meeting of the Council for Student Services.

Article 13  Agenda of the inaugural meeting of the Council for Student Services
Until the Chair is elected, meetings of the Council for Student Services shall be chaired by the Chair of the Student Council.
The agenda for this meeting shall be limited to the following items, in the order given below:
1. Inauguration of the new Council for Student Services
2. Election of the Chair through acceptance of the nomination by the Student Council
3. Election of the Vice Chair through acceptance of the nomination by the Student Council.

CHAPTER IV  Election of the Chair, Vice Chairs and coordinators of the Student Council

Article 14  Election of the Chair and the Vice Chair
Candidates for the position of Chair submit their application, consisting of an application letter and CV, to the Vice-rector for Educational and Student Affairs no later than the day before the meeting at which the Chair will be elected.

For the position of Vice Chair, the Chair nominates a candidate. Other members can also apply as Vice Chair.8

The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected as follows:
1. Candidates will be given the chance to clarify their applications during the meeting.
2. The members must be granted the opportunity to pose questions to the candidates.
3. The members will discuss the applications. No minutes will be taken of these deliberations. The candidates may be asked to leave the meeting during the deliberations. A request to this end from at least one member is all that is required.

8 The Chair and Vice Chair must belong to a different quota of the Council for Student Services (as required by decree)
4. The candidates will rejoin the meeting following the deliberations and the vote will be taken by secret ballot. All the members of the Student Council, including the candidates, shall take part in the vote, casting one vote for a single candidate.

5. The candidate who obtains the absolute majority of votes, laid down in Article 41, is elected Chair or Vice Chair.
   If no candidate has obtained the absolute majority of the votes and if there are several candidates for the positions, a second voting round will be held. In the second round, the members bring out their vote on the two candidates who obtained the most votes in the first round of voting. In case of an ex aequo in the first round of voting, the candidate who obtained the largest number of votes, in terms of percentage, per constituency for the Student Council elections, is eligible for the second round of voting. The candidate who obtains the absolute majority of votes in the second round of voting, will be elected Chair or Vice Chair. In case of an ex aequo in the second round of voting, the candidate who obtained the largest number of votes, in terms of percentage, per constituency for the Student Council elections, will be elected Chair or Vice Chair.

6. The Student Council nominates the elected persons as Chair and Vice Chair for the Council for Student Services.

Article 15 Election of the coordinators

At least 2 coordinators shall be elected who will be responsible for an area of work and ensure coordination of that area.

The Chair, the Vice Chair or the candidate coordinators themselves may propose an area of work for which they deem coordination to be desirable.

The coordinators shall be elected as follows:

1. The candidates will be given the chance to clarify their applications during the meeting.
2. The members must be granted the opportunity to pose questions to the candidates.
3. The members will discuss the applications. No minutes will be taken of these deliberations. The candidates may be asked to leave the meeting during the deliberations. A request to this end from at least one member is all that is required.
4. The candidates will rejoin the meeting following the deliberations and the vote will be taken by secret ballot. All the members of the Student Council, including the candidates, shall take part in the vote, casting one vote for one or more candidates.
5. To be elected, the candidate must have an absolute majority of the votes cast, as laid down in Article 41.

CHAPTER V Resignation as member and resignation from an office

Article 16 Resignation as member

Any member wishing to resign must notify the Chair promptly. The resignation will be noted at the following meeting.

The successor from the same constituency ranking first will then be asked to fill the vacant seat. If they decline, the person from the same constituency ranked next will be selected.

If no more successors are available, the seat of the resigning member will no longer be filled nor will it be taken into account in determining the quorum.

A member who has been duly convened but who has been absent twice in one year without prior written notice will be invited by the council to explain these absences. If the member is unable to be present at the session to justify themselves, they must submit a written account to the Student Council. The Student Council will take note of the justification or lack of justification for the member’s absence. The council may make a reasoned decision about whether or not this member should resign.

From the academic year 2016-2017, a member will be invited to the council to explain their absences as soon as such absences occur without prior written notice.

Article 17 Resignation as Chair, Vice Chair or coordinator

A Chair, Vice Chair or coordinator who wishes to resign from their office must notify the Student Council immediately. The resignation will be noted at the following meeting.
The office may then be filled again in accordance with the election procedure set out above in Articles 14 and/or 15.

Article 18  
Motion of no confidence

A reasoned motion of no confidence against the Chair, Vice Chair or a coordinator must be brought by at least 5 members of the Student Council or Council for Student Services.

A reasoned motion of no confidence against the Vice Chair or a coordinator may also be brought by the Chair.

Any such motion must be communicated to the member against whom it is brought immediately, and not later than 14 days before the following meeting.

They may append documents in their defence to the notice convening the meeting and are entitled to be heard at the meeting. For the handling of the motion of no confidence, the normal quorum shall apply.

If the motion is adopted, the member concerned may no longer perform the corresponding duties. The member shall, however, continue to be a member of the Student Council or Council for Student Services.

Article 19  
Election after a motion of no confidence

If a motion of no confidence brought against the Chair is passed, the Student Council shall, within one week, convene at a special meeting, with the election of a new Chair as sole agenda item.

The replacement of the relevant Chair, Vice Chair or coordinator can be placed on the agenda of the following ordinary meeting.

TITLE II  
Powers of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services

Article 20  
Powers of the Student Council

The powers of the Student Council are governed by the Higher Education Codex and in accordance with the provisions of the participation rules and the Organisational Statute of the VUB.

The Student Council also has the power to:
- appoint student representatives to the bodies as laid down in the VUB Organisational Statute with regard to the powers of the Student Council and in the Student Participation Regulations
- appoint or nominate representatives to other internal councils and committees\(^9\) upon their submission of such a request to the Student Council
- appoint or nominate representatives to external councils and committees upon their submission of such a request to the Student Council.

Powers delegated to it by the competent VUB administrative body shall be exercised in full by the Student Council.

Article 21  
Powers of the Council for Student Services

The powers of the Council for Student Services are governed by the Higher Education Codex and in accordance with the provisions of the VUB Organisational Statute.

Powers delegated to it by the competent VUB administrative body shall be exercised in full by the Council for Student Services.

TITLE III  
Rules of procedure

CHAPTER I  
General provisions

Article 22  
Representation of the student community

The Chair of the Student Council represents the student community of the Free University Brussels.

\(^9\) (Management Committee Library, Buildings Committees, Governance Committee (GOCO), ICT Council, etc.)
Article 23 Replacement of the Chair
If the Chair is absent, they shall be replaced by the Vice Chair.

Article 24 Incompatibilities
The office of core board member of a recognised student association or of board member of the Brussels Student Association ‘Geen Taal, Geen Vrijheid’, Research Freedom Study Circle or the De Moeial journal is not compatible with the position of Chair or Vice Chair of the Student Council and Council for Student Services.

Conflicts of interest in the exercise of a mandate as a student council member and as a working student at the VUB must be avoided. The relevant head of service, head of department or director organizing a recruitment and selection is responsible for this assessment. The Student Jobs Service draws the appointee’s attention to this responsibility at the start of a recruitment and selection process.

Article 25 Supervision of implementation of resolutions
The Chair and Vice Chair of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services are responsible for supervision of the implementation of all resolutions passed by those councils.

CHAPTER II Support

Article 26 Secretariat
The secretariat of both the Student Council and the Council for Student Services shall be provided by a University staff member. The secretariat shall draw up the draft minutes, send out the meeting notices, draft the resolutions and ensure their follow-up, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Article 27 Preparation and implementation of decisions
For the preparation and implementation of their resolutions, the Student Council and the Council for Student Services may request the help of the University’s heads of department.

CHAPTER III Agenda

Article 28 Preparation of meetings
The Chair and Vice Chair are in charge, together with the secretary of the Student Council, of preparing the meetings and agenda of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services.

Article 29 Agenda Consultation
The Chair and Vice Chair shall finalise the agenda in an Agenda Consultation as soon as possible after the deadline for submitting items for the agenda as prescribed in Article 30. The Vice-rector for Educational and Student Affairs, the manager of the Vice-Rectorate, the General Manager and the Secretary, or their representatives, shall be members of this Agenda Consultation.

The Chair can extend the agenda consultation by inviting any advisors needed to judge possible effects on specific target groups.

Article 30 Agenda items
Items can be tabled on the agenda of the following meeting, provided that the written motion reaches the Chair at least 14 calendar days before the date of the meeting.10

The Chairs of the competent administrative bodies, the Vice-rector for Educational and Student Affairs and the General Manager may, on their own initiative, table an item for the agenda of the Student Council or the Council for Student Services.

Any member of the Student Council and Council for Student Services may submit a written request to the Chair for an item to be tabled on the agenda.

All motions that are supported by at least 30 students and have been submitted to the Chair on time11 will be put on the agenda of the Student Council or Council for Student Services. The person who has put forward the motion will be invited to clarify their proposal.

10 To be delivered through Studentenraad.stuvoraad@vub.be
11 To be delivered through studentenraad.stuvoraad@vub.be
Article 31  Agenda items submitted at the meeting as a matter of urgency

Items that are submitted after distribution of the agenda may only be added to it if the Chair acknowledges the reason for the urgency of the matter.

These items may be communicated up till 24 hours before the meeting is planned.

If the Chair wishes to add another item to the agenda during the meeting, the Student Council must accept the agenda item.

Article 32  Agenda items submitted as a matter of urgency using the written procedure

If the Student Council or Council for Student Services is unable to meet with the required quorum or if the urgency so requires, the Chair may decide to submit a matter for approval by the members using the written procedure.

On receipt of the written motion, the members must inform the Chair whether or not they consent to it or abstain from voting. A member who does not respond within the prescribed period shall be deemed to have abstained.

If the quorum is not reached, the Chair may, if the urgency dictates, take a decision themselves, as provided for in Article 33.

Article 33  Extremely urgent resolutions

The Chair of the Student Council and Council for Student Services shall personally table any extremely urgent resolutions. This is possible only if the procedure set out in Article 32 has not led to a result or if the need could not have been foreseen earlier and there is extreme urgency. They shall inform the Student Council and/or Council for Student Services of the decision taken, at the following meeting.

CHAPTER IV Meeting procedure

Article 34  Public nature of meetings

Meetings are open to all members of the university community, unless otherwise decided by the Student Council or Council for Student Services.

However, those members of the university community may not take part in the meeting, unless the Chair asks for their opinion.

Article 35  Frequency of meetings

The Student Council and Council for Student Services shall convene at least 4 times per year, and whenever deemed appropriate by the Chair.

If at least 5 members submit a written request to this end, the Chair must convene the Council, which must meet within 15 working days of receipt of the notice.

Article 36  Invitation to attend the meeting

The Student Council and Council for Student Services shall be convened by the Chair.

The invitation shall give the date, time and place of the meeting, as well as the agenda. It will be sent to the student representatives together with any relevant documents.

Except when there is an unexpected need for urgency, meetings must be convened at least 5 full working days in advance.

After communication of the agenda, changes to the meeting documents can only take place with the consent of the Chair.

Article 37  Quorum

Resolutions shall be validly adopted only if the majority of the members is present or represented.

If this quorum is not reached and urgency dictates, the Chair may decide to submit a matter for approval by the members using the written procedure.

Article 38  Course of the meeting

The meetings shall be declared opened and closed by the Chair, who will chair the meeting.
The agenda items shall be discussed in the order previously determined by the Agenda Consultation, as set out in Article 29. However, if justified, the Chair may change the order of the items or give absolute priority to any particular item.

The Chair must introduce each item submitted for deliberation. They may, however, ask any other member or an advisor to introduce the item.

Article 39  Deliberation of agenda items

The Chair will give the floor to the members of the Council in the order in which their requests are submitted.

In the case of digital meetings, Council members can ask for the floor by putting an 'X' in the chat box.

In the case of digital meetings, members of the Council can indicate that they wish to respond to an intervention by entering ‘XX’ in the chat box.

In the case of digital meetings, members of the Council can indicate that they agree or disagree with the content of an intervention by putting ‘+’ and ‘-’ in the chat box respectively.

The Chair may limit the number or duration of the interventions or cut the speaker short.

The Chair may take part in the deliberations without being required to relinquish their position as Chair.

The Chair may also put an item to the vote if they are of the opinion that the members have been sufficiently informed.

The Chair may suspend the meeting for a maximum of fifteen minutes.

Article 40  Voting

If no member asks for a vote to be taken on a given item, a resolution is deemed to have been passed.

A motion will be put to the vote if so requested by a voting member on completion of the deliberation. Voting will normally take place by a show of hands. Any voting member may ask for a vote to be taken by secret ballot.

It is up to the Chair to decide whether resolutions relating to individuals should be taken by secret ballot.

The outcome will be announced immediately after the vote and reported in the minutes.

In the case of digital meetings, voting takes place by completing a Microsoft form drawn up by the secretary. The secretary checks whether only those with voting rights have voted. The student council trusts the secretary to keep the results confidential.

Article 41  Resolutions by absolute majority

All resolutions shall be passed by absolute majority, except in the case of extremely urgent resolutions which may be passed by the Chair as provided for in Article 33.

An absolute majority equals more than half of the votes cast. Abstentions and blank votes are deemed to be votes cast.\(^{12}\)

Article 42  Irrevocability of resolutions

Resolutions are, in principle, irrevocable unless found to be incompatible with internal or external regulations.

No second round of voting may take place on a single motion, unless the Student Council or Council for Student Services decides that new facts have emerged which make it necessary to reopen the agenda item.

Article 43  Any other business

No voting may take place during discussion of items falling under ‘any other business’, nor may resolutions be passed.

The Chair may refuse to proceed to the ‘any other business’ item if they believe this would lead to an item being put to the vote.

\(^{12}\) Invalid votes are not deemed to be votes cast.

General regulations Student Council and Council for Student Services, as accepted by the Student Council and Council for Student services of December 12 2020.
CHAPTER V The minutes

Article 44 Draft and approval

The secretariat shall draw up draft minutes of each meeting. This draft shall be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

Only what is discussed orally during the meeting is included in the minutes. Written contributions during digital meetings that only appear in the chat box are not included in the minutes. The Chair may decide to take a written contribution orally, so that it still appears in the minutes.

At the invitation of the Chair, the members may make known any comments they may have, and the meeting shall decide on any comments or corrections made. If the comments relate to members’ contributions, they should ideally be submitted in writing to the secretary.13

Individual members may explicitly request that their statements at a meeting be recorded in the minutes. This also applies to the advisors.

During approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, individual members may ask for the statements they have made to be incorporated. The meeting shall decide whether the request is justified and, where appropriate, on the suitability of the content of the statement made.

Resolutions may be made public before the minutes are approved. The meeting may, however, decide to keep certain resolutions secret for the time being.

At the start of the new terms of office, the Student Council and/or Council for Student Services in the previous composition shall approve or annotate, by email, the last minutes of the Council concerned. These minutes shall be submitted for information to the next meeting of the newly constituted Student Council and Council for Student Services.

Article 45 Publicity of reports

The draft and approved reports of the meetings are made public.14

Article 46 Conservation

The minutes approved and resolutions passed shall be conserved by the Council secretariat. The members shall have the right, at all times, to inspect them.

Article 47 Signing of resolutions

Resolutions shall be signed by the Chair.

CHAPTER VI Rights and obligations of members of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services

Article 48 Presence

Members have a moral obligation to attend the meetings.

Article 49 Absence

The Chair and Secretary must be informed in writing of any absence from a meeting.

A member who is absent from a meeting may give a written proxy to another member. These proxies shall be taken into account in determining the quorum. Each member shall represent no more than two other members.

Article 50 Conflicts of interest

The Chair may decide that a member present must leave the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest. However, a member cannot be prevented from taking part in the vote.

If, during the meeting, a matter is addressed that touches upon the personal interests of a member, their partner or relatives up to and including the second degree, the member shall leave the meeting prior to deliberation.

13 Via studentenraad.stuvoraad@vub.be
14 via https://vub.sharepoint.com/sites/ORG_StudRaad
Article 51 Remuneration
Neither the members of the Student Council nor the members of the Council for Student Services shall receive remuneration.

CHAPTER VII Consultation of persons and committees
Article 52 Ad hoc invitations
The Chair may decide to invite or hear all persons prior to the meeting, for a specific agenda item, if they believe that this could be expected to provide useful information.

Article 53 Ad hoc committees
Both the Student Council and the Council for Student Services may be assisted in their tasks by committees, which may investigate issues of both a general and specific nature. These committees may be set up ad hoc. The Chair or their representative may attend the meetings of these committees.

The Chairs of these committees shall be appointed by the committees themselves and shall report on their activities. The committees shall furnish advice at the request of the Student Council or Council for Student Services and may formulate proposals.

CHAPTER VIII Expenses and payments
Article 54 In accordance with the prevailing VUB rules
All expenditure and payments must be undertaken in accordance with the prevailing VUB rules.

Article 55 Budget
The Chair shall present a budget for approval to the first meeting of the newly constituted Student Council.

Article 56 Financial report
The Chair shall submit a financial report for approval to the last meeting of the Student Council.

All members shall be allowed to inspect the expenses on request. They must address any such request to the Chair or Secretary, who shall provide the information requested as quickly as possible.

TITLE IV Election procedure for the Student Council

CHAPTER I Voters
Article 57 Electoral college
All students enrolled on the first day of the first week of lectures of the second semester with a diploma contract, a credit contract or an exam contract, are voters.

The electoral rolls are drawn up by the Education and Student Administration. In addition to the voter’s name, the electoral rolls also state the voter’s registration for a study programme and accompanying faculty, the relevant number of study credits, VUB NetID and each voter’s email address.

Article 58 Constituencies
There is one constituency per faculty and one constituency representing the entire student population.

The electoral rolls shall be drawn up by the Education and Student Administration.

The electoral rolls shall include, for each voter, in addition to the name, their enrolment in a study programme with associated faculty, the accompanying number of study points, the VUB NetID, and e-mail address.

If a student is enrolled in several faculties, they shall, as far as the faculty constituency is concerned, be assigned to the faculty in which they have enrolled for the highest number of study points. If they are enrolled in several faculties with an equal number of study points, they shall, as far as the faculty constituency is concerned, be assigned to the faculty where they have been enrolled the longest.
Compulsory voting is a moral duty. This moral duty is a personal obligation and cannot be undertaken by a proxy.

Students who are of the opinion that they have been unjustly excluded from the elections must, with proof of their eligibility to vote, contact the electoral office, which is vested with powers as provided for in Article 62.

CHAPTER II. Electoral commission and electoral office

Article 61. Electoral commission

The electoral commission will ensure that the election takes place in an orderly fashion and, if appropriate, will take immediately enforceable decisions to facilitate or guarantee such proper conduct.

This commission is composed of one member per faculty with eligibility to vote and a Chair who holds at least a MSc in Rights. Candidates for the present elections cannot be members of this committee.

The members of the electoral commission will be appointed by the Student Council.

Article 62. Electoral office

The secretariat of the Council shall act as electoral office and report any irregularity to the Chair of the electoral commission.

It may add voters who were unjustly omitted to the electoral rolls and is also authorised to determine the faculty constituency to which a student is to be assigned in case of uncertainties. It may also take other urgent ad hoc decisions that must later be taken note of by the electoral commission.

CHAPTER III. Electoral calendar and publication

Article 63. Electoral calendar

The calendar for the electoral procedure to be applied shall be set out and approved by the Student Council. The electoral committee may change the calendar in exceptional circumstances.

Article 64. Publication

The publication of the election of the Student Council shall take place no more than one month before the first day of the election by communication to the student community. All relevant documents shall also be published.

CHAPTER IV. Applications

Article 65. Eligibility

To be eligible, one must be a voter.

Article 66. Applications

The candidates must apply in writing in a personal capacity either for the faculty constituency or for the constituency covering the whole population. They send their application to the Chair of the Electoral Commission.

Candidates must be nominated by at least 10 students. The candidates must moreover subscribe to the principle of Research Freedom, acknowledge these general regulations, and declare that they intend to enrol as a student in the next academic year.

The electoral commission shall convene to check the admissibility of the applications as soon as possible following the last day for the submission of applications.

The list of admissible applications shall be communicated to the student community no later than on the day fixed for this purpose given in the electoral calendar, as defined in Article 4 of the Participation Rules for the Free University Brussels.
Article 67  Electoral publicity
We organise a series of events and initiatives during the election week aimed at informing the student community about the student elections and the candidates, and actively encouraging them to bring out their votes.

CHAPTER V  Voting process
Article 70  The ballot is secret.
The voting is electronic and secret
Article 71  Manner of voting
Voting takes place electronically.
Article 72  Voting period
The exact dates are recorded annually by the Student Council in the calendar.
Article 73  Presentation of the candidates
Prior to the election, the names of the candidates shall be listed on the electronic ballot papers in an order determined by the drawing of lots. This shall be done under the supervision of the electoral commission.
Article 74  Number of votes to be cast
The number of votes cast on each ballot paper must not exceed the number of seats to be filled. The procedure also provides for the casting of blank votes.
Article 75  Summons
The secretariats of the councils shall summon the voters. The summons takes place electronically and provides all necessary information.
The voting shall, in any event, take place, unless there is not a single candidate.

CHAPTER VI  Result of the voting
Article 76  Quorum
For the election of a member of the Student Council to be valid, a quorum of 20 per cent is required. This quorum is determined by the number of voters who have cast their vote in proportion to the total number of eligible voters.
Article 77  Elected candidates
Provided that the quorum is reached, the candidates are ranked based on the number of votes they each receive.
For the faculties IR, WE, ES, PE, RC, LW and LK and the MILO (multidisciplinary teacher training) represented among the candidates, the candidate in that faculty or MILO who obtained the most votes, irrespective of their ranking among all candidates, shall be elected.
For the GF faculty, if it is represented among the candidates, the two candidates in that faculty who obtained the most votes, irrespective of their ranking among all candidates, shall be elected.
The remaining mandates shall be filled by the candidates with the most votes, irrespective of their faculties.
In the event of a tie for the last seat to be filled, the seat will be allocated by the drawing of lots.
Article 78  Successors
The remaining candidates are ranked as laid down in Article 2.
Article 79  Report
The secretariats of the councils shall count the number of votes cast and the abstentions. Blank ballot sheets shall be deemed to be abstentions.
In all cases, the count shall be rounded, even if the quorum was not reached.
A report shall be drawn up giving the number of votes obtained by each candidate and indicating whether or not the quorum of voters was reached.
Article 80  Publication
The names of the persons elected, and their successors must be communicated to the student community on the working day following the last day of the voting process. This communication shall contain information required for any appeal against the outcome of the elections.

Article 81  Complaints against the result of the voting
All candidates may lodge a written and reasoned appeal in their own name with the Chair of the Electoral Commission against the conduct of the voting and vote counting within 24 hours of notification of the outcome. If these conditions are not met, the complaint shall be inadmissible.

Article 82  Review of complaints against the result of the voting
The electoral commission shall rule on any complaints.

The electoral commission shall examine the complaint and hear the parties involved if the latter so desire. The deliberations shall be held behind closed doors. The electoral commission shall draw up a report on the deliberations, including the decisions taken.

The secretariats of the councils shall forward the decision of the electoral commission to the complainants and the parties involved. The decision of the commission shall be communicated, the day after it meets, in the same way as the outcome of the elections was published.

Article 83  Annulment
The Electoral Commission may declare the elections null and void in the event of irregularities that influenced the outcome of the elections.

The secretariats of the councils shall advise the Electoral Commission on the validity or invalidity of the result of the voting.

Everything needed to examine the correctness of the voting and counting operations shall be made available to the secretariats of the councils immediately after the process and until expiry of the period of appeal.

If the Electoral Commission declares the elections null and void, the election process shall be repeated as soon as possible after the annulment.