

PARTICIPATION RULES

for the

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Article 1: co-management by students

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

The students are represented in the student council en in following governing bodies:

- 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 the rights and obligations of Council members shall apply in the same way 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 in the decision taking.

Article 2: The Student Council is elected directly

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

Article 3: Nomination period

The nomination period starts in the second school week of the second semester and ends in the second week of march.

Article 4: voting period

The Student Council is elected every year during the second semester of the academic year preceding the academic year for which the Student Council is to be set up. The voting period starts two weeks after the end of the nomination period. The voting period lasts for at least one week after spring holiday, and ends at the latest 2 weeks prior to the start of the pre-exam study period preceding the second exam period.

The voting period lasts at minimum 3 weeks but may be extended by the electoral commission by one week at the time as long as the quorum was not achieved in all constituencies.

Article 5: Exercise and delegation of powers by the student council

§ 1. The Student Council may, on its own initiation, provide a written opinion on all matters of concern to the students, to the University's internal bodies. The body concerned must draw up a reasoned response in writing, in the form of a proposal, to any such opinion 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 body¹ of the university delegates taking all policy decisions concerning the operation and the organization of student services within the limits of the multi-year budget for Section III – student services- and the approval of regulations concerning the organization of the student services to the Student Council.

Article 6: The appointment or nomination of student representatives

§ 1. Student representatives on internal and external bodies are appointed or by the Students Council or as determined in the Organizational Statute or in this participation rules.

¹ The Board of Directors is authorized to determine, by approving a general strategic plan (ASP), the general strategic policy within the general strategic vision as determined by the University Council; the adoption of the annual and multi-annual budget and the annual accounts of the university; the preparation of the annual report; determining and adjusting the investment and financing plan; human resource matters. The Board of Directors may delegate its powers (from article 27 and 28 of the Organizational Statute).

§ 2. The student representative in the Board of Directors is appointed by the University Council on the proposal by the student representatives in the University Council and following an advice from the Student Council.

§ 3. The student representatives in the Council for Student Services are appointed half by the Student Council and half by the Board of Directors, on the proposal by the Student Council.

§ 4. The student representatives in the study programme committees are appointed/elected according to the conditions of the internal regulations of the faculty.

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

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

1. The students who, as defined in article 1 of the General Regulations of the Student Council and the Council for Student Services, are elected to the Student Council for the following academic year within a faculty constituency are automatically 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 according to the conditions of the internal regulations of the faculty.

The department Education and Student Policy provides, in consultation with the Student Council, guidelines for the constitution of the student representation in the faculty councils. The department Education and Student Policy monitors the constitution and the way in which these faculty councils are established and informs the Student Council about it.

§ 6. 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.

Article 7: 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 8: Support for the operation of the Student Council and Council for Student Services

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

The university provides 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 provides administrative support and organizes the purchase of services and goods so that the student representatives do not have to pre-finance purchases with personal resources.

The university supports the communication of the Student Council.

The managers of the different services within VUB support the student representatives in getting a good understanding of the student-oriented and student-related policy of the university. The service managers can take the necessary initiative for that, or it can be organized at the request of the student representatives.

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

The Student Council can submit a motivated proposal about the desired support to the competent governance body.

Article 9: Dispute settlement

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