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Statute of the Student Body of the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

of 30 August 2010 (Official Notice 10/2013) as amended by the First Amendment Statute of 23 October 2013 (Official Notice 43/2013)

Section 1

Definition and legal status

- (1) The student body of the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences is the community of students enrolled at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.
- (2) The student body is a joint corporation with legal capacity of the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

Section 2

Tasks of the student body

- (1) The student body has the following tasks:
 1. to safeguard the interests of its members at the university and in society;
 2. to represent the interests of its members within the scope of legal provisions;
 3. to state its position on university and science policy issues;
 4. to safeguard the interests of its members regarding university policy;
 5. to represent the specialist, economic, cultural and social interests of its members;
 6. to promote students' sports;
 7. to cultivate regional and international student relationships.

- (2) On the basis of the constitutional order, the student body promotes political education, civic responsibility and the willingness of its members to practice active tolerance. General political decision-making relating to socio-political issues going beyond the tasks of the student body can take place in the committees and executive bodies of the student body and in the student associations of the University of Applied Sciences.

Section 3

Executive bodies of the student body at university level

Executive bodies of the student body at university level are:

1. the Plenary Assembly (VV),
2. the Student Parliament (StuPa),
3. the General Student Committee (AStA),
4. the Faculty Student Group Representatives' Conference (FSRK).

Section 4

Ballot

The subject matter of a ballot among all members of the student body can be:

1. adoption of regulations on the performance of tasks by the student body;
2. decisions on fundamental issues of the student body;
3. adoption of the Statute of the student body;
4. decisions on the fees schedule and the Election Regulations for elections to the executive bodies of the student body and the faculty student groups.

Section 5

Procedure and duration of the ballot

- (1) A ballot is held upon written application by at least ten percent of the members of the student body or upon a resolution of the majority of the members of the Student Parliament.
- (2) The ballot is directed by the Permanent Election Committee of the Student Parliament on behalf of the Student Parliament.
- (3) At the earliest ten, at the latest twenty days after receipt of the application to hold a ballot by the Permanent Election Committee of the Student Parliament, the ballot is held, which takes place, if possible, on five consecutive days on which there is no recess. An extension of the duration of the ballot is possible.

- (4) The ballot takes place in all faculty student groups by casting votes in writing on a ballot note showing the ballot text (motion) or alternative ballot texts (motions) for voting upon.

Section 6
Effect of the ballot result

- (1) Resolutions passed on ballots with a majority are binding on the executive bodies of the student body if at least 30 percent of the members of the student body have approved in writing.
- (2) If the majority under paragraph (1) is not achieved, the results of ballots apply as a recommendation for the executive bodies of the student body if at least 30 percent of the eligible voters took part in the ballot and the majority approved the motion.

Section 7
Plenary Assembly (VV)

- (1) The Plenary Assembly is the basis-democratically organised opinion-forming and decision-making body of the student body and consists of all the students enrolled at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences. It passes resolutions on specific matters concerning the student body and gives the Student Parliament and the General Student Committee recommendations.
- (2) The Plenary Assemblies are convened by the General Student Committee, stating the items on the agenda, with a period of notice of 13 days
1. upon a resolution by the Student Parliament,
 2. upon written application by a member of the student body, which must have been signed by at least 30 students,
 3. upon resolution by the General Student Committee.

The student body has the right to carry out up to two Plenary Assemblies during a semester.

- (3) The Plenary Assembly is not limited in time.
- (4) The Plenary Assembly is presided over by a member of the Executive Board of the Student Parliament and one member of the General Student Committee Board.
- (5) At the beginning of the Plenary Assembly, the person presiding over the Plenary Assembly proposes one or two minute-keepers from the group of students present. The persons proposed are confirmed by the Plenary Assembly. The minute-keeper(s) keep minutes of the meeting which must contain the following:

1. Date, place and time of the Plenary Assembly
2. List of names of the minute-keeper(s)
3. Items on the agenda
4. Resolutions
5. Attendance list in the annex to the minutes.

The minutes drawn up shall be submitted to the Student Parliament for cognisance at its meeting following the Plenary Assembly. If this occurs, the minute-keeper(s) receive the customary expense allowance according to the budget of the student body.

(6) The Plenary Assemblies are open to members of the university. Upon application, non-student members of the university may be excluded for the entire meeting or individual items on the agenda by a simple majority of the students present. The application is explained, discussed and decided upon at the beginning of the Plenary Assembly. Resolutions passed at an assembly not open to members of the university must be announced once the Plenary Assembly is again open to university members.

(7) The Plenary Assembly has a quorum if students were duly invited and at least ten percent of the students are present.

Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of the students present.

Resolutions are put to the vote by a show of hands. If the vote is not clear, it is repeated using voting cards.

In case of a tie in the votes, a motion is considered rejected.

The Plenary Assembly has the right to give opinions and recommendations.

(8) The items on the agenda include:

1. welcome and determination of whether there is a quorum
2. minute-keeping
3. approval of the agenda
4. reports and inquiries from members of the student body
5. motions
6. miscellaneous.

The General Student Committee Board shall draw up the proposed agenda with the participation of the Student Parliament Executive Board.

(9) Individual or all the items on the agenda of a Plenary Assembly may be linked to a ballot. Further details are given in this connection in Sections 4 ff.

- (10) The rules of procedure of the Student Parliament of the student body at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences apply to the rest of the meeting.

Section 8

Student Parliament (StuPa)

The Student Parliament is the assembly of the elected representatives of the student body. It is the highest decision-making executive body.

Section 9

Composition of the Student Parliament

- (1) The Student Parliament consists of 25 members.
- (2) 17 members of the Student Parliament are elected by all eligible voters via university-wide election lists, eight members of the Student Parliament (two members from each faculty student group) are elected by the eligible voters of the respective faculty student group. From 2014 the number of members who may be elected by university-wide election lists will be adjusted to the total number of students based on a distribution key of 1:212.
- (3) The number of members of the Student Parliament can increase as a result of overhang mandates (Section 27 Election Regulations).
- (4) The General Student Committee Board and the coordinator of the Faculty Student Group Representatives' Conference (FSRK) or an authorised representative are non-voting advisory members of the Student Parliament.

Section 10

Election of the Student Parliament

- (1) The Student Parliament is elected by members of the student body by universal, direct, free, equal and secret vote based on the principles of proportional representation involving elements of voting for individuals. The seats won are distributed among the groups taking part in the university-wide election based on list voting in accordance with the rolling d'Hondt system, taking into account any seats won through list voting relating to a faculty student group and involving elements of voting for individuals.
- (2) Further details are defined in the Election Regulations.

Section 11
Convocation of the Student Parliament

- (1) At the latest on the twenty-fifth day after the last election date, the Election Officer of the Student Parliament invites members to a constituent meeting.
- (2) During its term of office the Student Parliament is invited by the Student Parliament president, or if he or she is prevented, by his or her first representative, or in case he or she is prevented, by his or her second representative.
- (3) The Student Parliament shall be convened if at least three members of the Student Parliament demand this in writing from the Student Parliament president or his or her representatives, stating the topic of discussion.
- (4) As a rule, the notice period is five days.

Section 12
Tasks of the Student Parliament

- (1) In safeguarding the interests of the student body, the Student Parliament has the following tasks:
 1. adoption of regulations on the performance of the tasks by the student body;
 2. decisions on fundamental matters of the student body;
 3. adoption of the Statute of the student body;
 4. decisions on the fees schedule and the Election Regulations for elections to the executive bodies of the student body and the faculty student group;
 5. adoption of the budget and monitoring of its execution;
 6. election of the chairman or chairwoman of the General Student Committee and his or her representatives and the financial advisor;
 7. decisions on the formal approval of the actions taken by the members of the General Student Committee.
- (2) The Student Parliament passes resolutions on the budget regulations which are an integral part of the Statute.
- (3) The Student Parliament elects the Student Parliament president and the first and second representative of the Student Parliament president from among its members.
- (4) The Student Parliament elects the committees of the Student Parliament in addition to the General Student Committee Board (Section 17). When appointing members to the committees, the relative

strength based on the distribution of seats in the Student Parliament is to be taken as a basis in accordance with the rolling d'Hondt system.

- (5) Permanent committees of the Student Parliament are the Budget Committee and the Permanent Election Committee.
- (6) The Student Parliament may set up further committees if required.
- (7) The Student Parliament adopts rules of procedure.
- (8) Through its resolutions, the Student Parliament works towards the tasks of the student body named in Section 2.

Section 13

Resolution in the Student Parliament

Unless special majorities are specified by law, in this Statute or in other regulations, the Student Parliament resolves and elects by a simple majority of the members of the Student Parliament present. A simple majority has been achieved if votes in favour of a motion outweigh the votes against it. Abstentions from voting and invalid votes are not counted. In case of a tie in the votes, a motion is rejected.

Section 14

Term of office of the Student Parliament

The term of office of the Student Parliament is one year.

Section 15

General Student Committee (AStA)

- (1) The General Student Committee is the executive body of the students' self-administration. It is bound to resolutions of the Student Parliament. Section 6 remains unaffected.
- (2) The General Student Committee may adopt its own rules of procedure which must be confirmed by the Student Parliament.

Section 16

Composition of the General Student Committee

- (1) The General Student Committee consists of a board and advisors. The Student Parliament president and his or her representatives may not be a member of the General Student Committee.
- (2) The General Student Committee Board consists of the chairman or chairwoman and three representatives at the individual university locations. One of these three is the financial advisor.

Section 17

Election of the General Student Committee

- (1) The chairman of the General Student Committee and his or her representatives are elected by the Student Parliament by a majority of the members present. Further details are given in the rules of procedure of the Student Parliament.
- (2) The voting off of the chairman or chairwoman of the General Student Committee or a representative is only permitted by electing a new chairman or chairwoman or a new representative.
- (3) Voting off is only possible by a majority of the members of the Student Parliament, the election of the new General Student Committee members concerned must take place at the same Student Parliament meeting. New members are elected by a majority of the members present of the Student Parliament.
- (4) The advisors except for the financial advisor are elected upon proposal by the chairman or chairwoman of the General Student Committee by the Student Parliament by a majority of the members present. The election may be carried out in a block. An advisor may be voted off again by the Student Parliament by a majority of the members present upon a motion by the chairman or chairwoman of the General Student Committee.
- (5) In the event of the resignation of a member of the General Student Committee Board, Section 17 (3) Sentence 2 applies accordingly. In the event of the resignation of an advisor, Section 17 (4) Sentence 1 and 2 applies accordingly.

Section 18

Tasks of the General Student Committee

- (1) The General Student Committee implements the resolutions of the Student Parliament and the ballot and attends to the business of the ongoing administration of the student body.

- (2) The General Student Committee carries out the financial planning and draws up the budget in cooperation with the Budget Committee. Further details are provided in the budget regulations.
- (3) At least one member of the General Student Committee Board takes part in the meetings of the Student Parliament.
- (4) The General Student Committee represents the student body to external parties and to the University of Applied Sciences.
- (5) The General Student Committee promotes cooperation with student bodies at home and abroad.
- (6) The General Student Committee has a duty to provide information to the Student Parliament.

Section 19

Term of office of the General Student Committee

- (1) The term of office of the General Student Committee is bound to the term of office of the Student Parliament.
- (2) If during the term of office the General Student Committee Board or individual members of the General Student Committee Board are re-elected, their term of office ends at the time when the term of office of the voted-off General Student Committee Board or the voted-off members of the board would have normally ended.
- (3) The General Student Committee Board remains provisionally in office until the following Student Parliament has elected a new board for the General Student Committee. The same applies to the advisors until their successors have been appointed. Paragraph (2) remains unaffected.

Section 20

Faculty student groups

The student body is divided into faculty student groups. Faculty student groups as defined by this Statute are set up:

1. by the students of the Faculty of Technology and Bionics,
2. by the students of the Faculty of Life Sciences,
3. by the students of the Faculty of Society and Economics,
4. by the students of the Faculty of Communication and Environment.

Section 21

Executive bodies at the level of the faculty student groups

Executive bodies at the level of the faculty student groups are:

1. the Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group
2. the Faculty Student Group Council (FSR).

Section 22

Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group

- (1) The Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group is the highest decision-making executive body at the level of the faculty student groups. All the members of the respective faculty student group are eligible to vote at the Plenary Assemblies of the faculty student groups.
- (2) The subject matter of a Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group is the adoption of resolutions on fundamental matters concerning the faculty student group.

Section 23

Procedure and duration of the Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group

- (1) The Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group is held upon written application by at least thirty percent of the members of the faculty student group, stating the issues to be put to the vote.
- (2) The Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group is presided over by the chairperson of the Faculty Student Group Council or his or her representative.
- (3) The Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group is to be announced to the faculty student groups no later than five days beforehand. In this context the issue to be put to the vote and the agenda shall also be published.
- (4) The Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group shall be carried out without delay as soon as the application under paragraph (1) has been received by the Faculty Student Group Council.

Section 24

Effect of resolutions of the Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group

- (1) Resolutions of the Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group are binding on the Faculty Student Group Council if at least thirty percent of the members of the faculty student group have taken part in the written vote on the issue put to the vote carried out following the Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group.

(2) In addition, results of the Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group are considered recommendations if

1. less than thirty percent of the members have taken part in the written vote,
2. the vote was carried out informally by a show of hands and not in writing on an issue other than the issue to be put to the vote.

Section 25

Faculty Student Group Council (FSR)

The Faculty Student Group Council performs the tasks of the faculty student group. It is bound by resolutions of the Plenary Assembly of the faculty student group.

Section 26

Composition of the Faculty Student Group Council

- (1) The Faculty Student Group Council consists of at least five members, to which one member per hundred students is added.
- (2) The Faculty Student Group Council elects the chairman or chairwoman and his or her representative from among its midst.

Section 27

Election of the Faculty Student Group Council

- (1) The Faculty Student Group Council is elected by members of the faculty student group by universal, direct, free, equal and secret vote based on the principles of proportional representation involving elements of voting for individuals. The seats are distributed among the groups taking part in the election based on list voting in accordance with the rolling d'Hondt system.
- (2) Further details are defined in the Election Regulations.

Section 28

Convocation of the Faculty Student Group Council

- (1) At the latest on the twenty-fifth day after the last election date, the Election Officer invites the Faculty Student Group Council to a constituent meeting.
- (2) Over the period of the term of office, the Faculty Student Group Council shall be convened by its chairman or chairwoman or if he or she is prevented, by his or her representative.

(3) The Faculty Student Group Council shall be convened if one member of the Faculty Student Group Council demands this in writing, stating the topic of discussion.

(4) As a rule, the notice period is five days.

Section 29

Tasks of the Faculty Student Group Council

(1) The Faculty Student Group Council safeguards the special interests of members of the faculty student group as part of the tasks of the student body under Section 2.

(2) The Faculty Student Group Council passes resolutions on the Statute of the faculty student group.

(3) The Faculty Student Group Council is accountable to the faculty student group about the use of the funds allocated to it for self-management. This report must be published.

Section 30

Resolutions in the Faculty Student Group Council

Unless the Statute or other regulations specify special majorities, the Faculty Student Group Council passes decisions by a simple majority of the members present. Section 13 Sentences 2 ff. apply accordingly.

Section 31

Term of office of the Faculty Student Group Council

(1) The term of office of the Faculty Student Group Council is one year.

(2) If elections are held during the term of office of the Faculty Student Group Council, the term of office ends at the time when the term of office of the previous Faculty Student Group Council would have normally ended.

Section 32

Faculty Student Group Representatives' Conference (FSRK)

The FSRK is a cross-faculty body of the student body.

Section 33
Composition of the FSRK

The FSRK consists of five members. Four of these members are the communication advisors of the Faculty Student Group Council who are appointed and dismissed by the members of the Faculty Student Group Councils of the respective faculty student groups. The fifth member is a member of the General Student Committee Board or a representative appointed by the General Student Committee Board or a representative appointed by the General Student Committee Board from among the advisors.

Section 34
Convocation of the FSRK

- (1) The FSRK is convened by a coordinator elected at the constituent meeting by a simple majority. The coordinator may not be a member of the General Student Committee. He/she is elected and delegated by the faculty student groups.
- (2) A FSRK shall be convened if three members of the FSRK apply to the coordinator for this in writing, stating the topics or topic of discussion.
- (3) As a rule, the notice period is five days.
- (4) Rules of procedure can provide further details in this connection.

Section 35
Tasks of the FSRK

- (1) The FSRK performs the tasks of the student body in accordance with Section 2 of this Statute.
- (2) In particular, the FSRK promotes the exchange of communications between the Faculty Student Group Councils and the General Student Committee.
- (3) The FSRK states its position on the issues concerning the student body and passes on recommendations to the Student Parliament and to the General Student Committee Board.

Section 36
Resolutions of the FSRK

- (1) Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of the members of the FSRK. A simple majority has been achieved if votes in favour of a motion outweigh the votes against it. Abstentions from voting and invalid votes are not counted. In case of a tie in the votes, a motion is rejected.

(2) Resolutions of the FSRK are presented to the Student Parliament and the General Student Committee in writing at the next meeting respectively by the coordinator or by a member of the FSRK appointed by the coordinator.

Section 37

Budget and economic management

The budget and economic management of the student body is governed by the relevant state regulations.

Section 38

Notification of executive body resolutions

The resolutions of the executive bodies of the student body and ballot resolutions shall be published without delay by being put on display for at least eight days on the information boards of the student body. This applies accordingly to resolutions by executive bodies of the faculty student groups.

Section 39

Entry into force

This Statute enters into force on the date of publication in the Official Notices of the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

N.B.: The present version of this Statute entered into force on 15 November 2013.