

ORGANIC STATUTES OF THE UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

Adopted by the Board of Governors at its meeting on 17 October 2013
(Moniteur belge of 20 February 2014).

Amended by the Plenary Assembly on 7 September 2015,
12 October 2015 (Moniteur belge of 30 October 2015),
16 October 2017 (Moniteur belge of 23 October 2018),
5 November 2018 (Addendum to the Moniteur belge of 27 April 2018),
14 October 2019 (Moniteur belge of 24 October 2019),
17 April 2023 (Moniteur belge of 6 June 2023).

CONTENTS:

TITLE I: Principles, mission and organisational structure of the University

TITLE II: Organisation and powers of the central bodies of the University

TITLE III: Specific procedures

TITLE IV: Faculties and teaching and research schools
Academic and scientific staff

TITLE V: The University and its academic hospital

TITLE VI: The Commissioner General

TITLE VII: Miscellaneous provisions

TITLE VIII: Transitional provisions

TITLE I: Principles, mission and organisational structure of the University

Article 1

The Université Libre de Bruxelles bases its teaching and research on the principle of free inquiry, which rejects arguments based on authority and advocates independence of judgement in all matters.

Article 2

The University bases its organisation on internal democracy, independence, autonomy and solidarity.

Internal democracy guarantees fundamental freedoms within the University, and calls on the constituent parts of the university community to participate, with decision-making power, in the management of the University and the oversight of this management.

Article 3

The mission of the University is to:

- ensure the development, transmission and application of knowledge through scientific research and teaching free from any political or ideological constraints;
- provide, through this research, the critical training of those who will enrich knowledge in the interest of the community;
- fulfil a general mission of service to the community and society, including the provision of high-quality medical care in connection with university teaching and research.

In order to carry out this threefold mission, the University establishes such contacts as it deems appropriate with public or private organisations – including academic and higher education institutions – both in Belgium and abroad, subject only to the requirement to report regularly on these contacts to the academic community.

To fulfil its specific mission of providing medical care in connection with university teaching and research, the University also includes an academic and university hospital, the Erasmus Hospital.

Article 4

Section 1.

The University is an institution with legal personality under the law of 12 August 1911. Its administrative headquarters is located in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Section 2.

The central bodies of the University ensure it fulfils its mission in accordance with the principles described above. These bodies are the Plenary Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Office of the Board of Governors, the Academic Council, the Office of the Academic Council, the Chair of the Board of Governors, the Vice-Chair, the Rector, the Vice-Rectors, the Pro-Rector and the Director General.

Section 3.

The academic organisation of the University is decentralised through the faculties and the teaching and research schools, which themselves have faculty or school councils, the offices of these councils, special committees, deans, vice-deans, school chairs, school vice-chairs and examining boards.

Section 4.

The powers, responsibilities, appointment procedures and operation of these bodies are governed by these Statutes and the regulatory provisions adopted by the competent bodies in accordance with the Statutes or made necessary for their proper implementation.

Section 5.

Bodies referred to in this article that consist of several persons act collectively. Unless otherwise specified by law or by a specific derogation in these Statutes or any other University regulation duly adopted to govern the activities of these bodies, their deliberations are valid regardless of the number of their members present, and they adopt their decisions by a simple majority of votes, with abstentions not counted.

Section 6.

If a member of a collegiate, central or faculty body of the University permanently vacates their position during their term of office, this does not prevent that body from continuing to meet and deliberate validly. Where applicable, the internal regulations adopted by the competent bodies set out the principles, conditions and procedures for elections or early partial appointments.

Section 7.

The list of bodies presented in this Article does not prejudice the University's ability to create any advisory council, college, committee or working group in accordance with these Statutes through the competent bodies. Nor does it prejudice the delegation of authority and signature authorisation decided by the bodies in question on limited matters. In these cases, the delegating body retains the right to revoke these delegations at any time, to refer to issues dealt with by the delegated body or person, to substitute its own decision for that of the delegated body or person without prejudice to any rights acquired by third parties, and to issue any useful instructions to the delegated body or person for the performance of their duties.

Section 8.

The Academic Council and the Plenary Assembly act as the Board of Governors whenever they exercise a power that the law or any other applicable regulation assigns to the "board of governors" of a university.

TITLE II: Organisation and powers of the central bodies of the University

Chapter I. The Plenary Assembly

Article 5

Section 1.

The Plenary Assembly has the authority to amend these Statutes in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 50.

Section 2.

It appoints from among its members the members of the Board of Governors and the members of the Academic Council, apart from *ex officio* members and co-opted members, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 12 and 29 and the additional provisions adopted in its internal regulations or the electoral regulations.

Section 3.

It receives the annual activity report prepared by the Board of Governors and the Academic Council for its approval. It also receives the University's strategic plan defining the broad outlines for the University and its development, both in terms of academic policy and infrastructure, from the same bodies for approval.

Section 4.

It is involved in the preparation of the budget in the case provided for in Article 48, and in accordance with the procedure described therein.

Section 5.

It approves the Institution's annual accounts drawn up by the Board of Governors and sends any relevant observations or comments to the Board.

Section 6.

It has the power to dismiss the Chair of the Board of Governors and the Rector in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 49.

Section 7.

It may sit as a forum for debate and conciliation, in accordance with the procedures set out in its internal regulations.

Article 6

Section 1.

The Plenary Assembly consists of:

- a. the Chair of the Board of Governors, who chairs the Assembly;
- b. the Rector;
- c. the Pro-Rector, whose substitute is the most recent predecessor to have completed their term of office; this person bears the title of Former Rector; in the event of the death, resignation or refusal of a former Rector, the most recent predecessor to have completed their term of office replaces them;
- d. the Deans of the faculties;
- dd. a Chair of a teaching and research school independent of the faculties, elected by their peers;
- e. seven members elected by and from among the academic staff. They are elected by list ballot with proportional representation. The electoral regulations stipulate that three of these members must belong to the academic staff of the humanities faculties or teaching and research schools independent of the faculties and four to the academic staff of the other faculties or schools. The electoral regulations specify additional measures to ensure a satisfactory balance between the various faculties and teaching and research schools independent of the faculties;
- f. five members elected by and from among the members of the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff. They are elected by list ballot with proportional representation. The electoral regulations stipulate that at least two of these members must belong to the humanities faculties or teaching and research schools independent of the faculties and at least two to the other faculties or schools. The electoral regulations specify additional measures to ensure a satisfactory balance between the various faculties and teaching and research schools independent of the faculties;
- g. ten student members appointed by the Student Council established in accordance with the relevant legal provisions in force;
- h. five members elected by and from among the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff (PATGS) in two separate ballots:
 - h.1. the members of the University's PATGS elect three representatives from among PATGS members at the University who do not work at the Academic and University Hospital. They are elected by list ballot with proportional representation;
 - h.2. PATGS members at the Academic and University Hospital elect two representatives from among PATGS working at the Academic and University Hospital. They are elected by list ballot with proportional representation;
- i. the two members of the Board of Governors referred to in Article 12, section 1, g (*"internal" co-opted academic members of the Council*);
- j. the three members of the Board of Governors referred to in Article 12, section 1, h (*"external" co-opted members of the Council*);
- k. one member elected by former students, under the conditions determined by the Plenary Assembly.

Section 2. In the absence of the Chair, the Pro-Rector or, in their absence, the oldest member present chairs the Assembly.

Article 7

Section 1.

Without prejudice to the specific procedures for appointing members referred to in Article 6, section 1, paragraph g, members of the Assembly are elected by secret ballot. Electoral regulations are adopted by the Assembly, setting out the electoral arrangements and procedures for the election of the Rector and for the members of the Plenary Assembly referred to in paragraphs e to h of Article 6, section 1. In particular, the electoral regulations determine the rules and procedures to be implemented to ensure gender parity in the presentation of lists of candidates in categories e to h of Article 6, section 1.

Section 2.

Members of the academic body with a reduced workload are not counted for the purposes of calculating the quorum provided for in Article 84, section 2, when electing the members referred to in Article 6, section 1, paragraph e of these Statutes. The electoral regulations specify what is meant by a reduced workload for the purposes of this provision.

Section 3.

Members of the scientific staff who have a reduced workload and who are not part of the academic staff, paid researchers and recipients of grants awarded by funds or organisations outside the University and authorised to carry out their activities there, and researchers who are not paid by the University but who receive a grant awarded by it, regardless of the length of their tenure, are not counted for the purposes of calculating the quorum provided for in Article 84, section 2, when electing the members referred to in Article 6, section 1, paragraph f of these Statutes. The electoral regulations specify what is meant by a reduced workload for the purposes of this provision.

Section 4.

For specific reasons debated by the Plenary Assembly, the electoral regulations may designate categories of voters among the voters recognised by these Statutes who will only be included on the electoral roll at their own request.

Article 8

Section 1.

The category k member referred to in Article 6, section 1 may have a substitute elected jointly with them.

Section 2.

The category e members referred to in Article 6, section 1 may have no more than fourteen substitutes in total elected from a list separate from the full member list, under the procedures laid down in the electoral regulations. Once elected, the substitutes are divided into two groups: a first group of six to substitute for any of the full members in category e of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Board of Governors; and a second group of five to substitute for any of the full members in category e of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Academic Council. The three substitutes who are not included in either of the two groups above are held in reserve and called upon to replace any substitute whose term of office ends for any reason whatsoever.

Section 3.

The category f members referred to in Article 6, section 1 may have no more than ten substitutes in total elected from a list separate from the full member list, under the procedures laid down in the electoral regulations. Once elected, the substitutes are divided into two groups: a first group of no more than four to substitute for any of the full members in category f of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Board of Governors; and a second group of no more than five to substitute for any of the full members in category f of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Academic Council. The substitute who is not included in either of the two groups above is held in reserve and called upon to replace any substitute whose term of office ends for any reason whatsoever.

Section 4.

The category g members referred to in Article 6, section 1 may have no more than fourteen substitutes in total appointed by the Student Council. The substitutes are divided into two groups: a first group of no more than eight to substitute for any of the full members in category g of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Board of Governors; and a second group of no more than six to substitute for any of the full members in category g of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Academic Council.

Section 5.

The category h. 1 members referred to in Article 6, section 1 may have no more than six substitutes in total elected from a separate list of staff members in accordance with the procedures laid down in the electoral regulations. Once elected, the substitutes are divided into two groups: a first group of no more than four to substitute for any of the full members in category h. 1 of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Board of Governors; and a second group of no more than two to substitute for any of the full members in category h. 1 of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Academic Council.

Section 6.

The category h. 2 members referred to in Article 6, section 1 may have no more than four substitutes in total elected from a separate list of staff members in accordance with the procedures laid down in the electoral regulations. Once elected, the substitutes are divided into two groups: a first group of no more than two to substitute for any of the full members in category h. 2 of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Board of Governors; and a second group of no more than two to substitute for any of the full members in category h.2 of Article 6, section 1, appointed to sit on the Academic Council.

Section 7.

If the number of substitute candidates on the electoral lists is below the maximum numbers set out in sections 3 to 6, the distributions provided for in these provisions are adjusted, respecting the proportions set out therein as far as possible, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the electoral regulations.

Section 8.

The substitutes for category d members are the Vice-Deans of the faculties; the substitute for the category dd member is a Chair of a teaching and research school independent of the faculties, appointed by his or her peers and proposed by the category dd member referred to in Article 6, section 1.

Section 9.

Substitutes only sit in the Assembly if the members they replace are absent.

Article 9

Section 1.

Full members and substitutes in categories e to h of Article 6, section 1 are elected for a term of two years. They may serve up to four consecutive terms, of any kind, in the same category, but may not be elected as full members more than twice.

After completing four consecutive terms, they may stand for re-election to any position in the same category after a two-year break. In this case, the new term is considered a first term for the purposes of paragraph 1.

After completing four consecutive terms of office, members who are eligible to stand for election in another category may do so without observing the interruption period provided for in paragraph 2 of this section. In this case, the new term is considered a first term for the purposes of paragraph 1.

Section 2.

The full member and the substitute in category k of Article 6, section 1 are elected for a term of two years. They may serve up to four consecutive terms, of any kind, in the same category. Otherwise, the rules in section 1, paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article apply to them.

Section 3.

The term of office of members in categories i and j of Article 6, section 1 is linked to the term of their office as Governors, as set out in Article 12, sections 4 and 5.

Section 4.

A member of the Plenary Assembly in categories b to i who ceases to belong to the University Community loses their Assembly membership.

Section 5.

Without prejudice to Article 43, section 3, no member of the Plenary Assembly may remain in office beyond the age of seventy.

Article 10

Section 1.

The Plenary Assembly meets at least once a year, convened by its Chair.

Section 2.

It may be convened at any time by the Chair and the Rector acting jointly. It must also be convened by the Chair at the request of at least two-thirds of the full members of the Board of Governors or at least two-thirds of the full members of the Academic Council.

Section 3.

The Assembly adopts internal regulations setting out the conditions under which it operates.

Section 4.

All documents relating to matters submitted to the Assembly are kept at the Chancellery and made available to members from the date on which the notice of the meeting is sent to the Assembly members.

Section 5.

Without prejudice to the specific provisions relating to the reform of these Statutes and the dismissal of the Chair or the Rector, and unless a specific provision adopted in the Assembly's regulations stipulates otherwise, the Assembly's resolutions are taken by a simple majority of the votes cast, with abstentions not counted.

Section 6.

The deliberations of the Plenary Assembly are recorded in minutes. The procedures for the approval of these minutes by the Assembly are set out in its internal regulations. The minutes of the Assembly are signed by the Chair and the University Secretary. No copy or extract of the minutes may be issued without the authorisation of the Chair.

Chapter II. The Board of Governors

Article 11

Section 1.

The Board of Governors is responsible for the general management of the University, its finances and its assets, including all the resources and funds allocated to it. It draws up the University's budget and annual accounts and sets the framework for its academic, scientific, administrative, technical, management and specialist services and staff, after submitting the drafts to the Academic Council for its opinion.

If the Academic Council issues a negative opinion on the budget drawn up by the Board of Governors, the procedure set out in Article 48 is followed.

The annual accounts are submitted to the Plenary Assembly for approval before being sent to the competent minister by the Board of Governors.

Section 2.

The Board of Governors defines and implements the institution's development policy in the areas of investment, infrastructure and shared facilities, without prejudice to the Academic Council's ability to allocate budgets and other funds relating to shared research facilities.

Section 3.

It defines the institution's development policy in terms of personnel management. It adopts the Statutes and regulations applicable to personnel in accordance with the legal provisions and procedures in force. Statutory and regulatory provisions relating to academic and scientific staff members are first submitted to the Academic Council for its opinion.

Section 4.

The Board of Governors determines the policy applicable to the University's peripheral schools and associations, establishes the content of the agreements binding them to the University and takes any decisions necessary in the context of these relationships.

Section 5.

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 77, the Board of Governors exercises all the powers and jurisdiction of the University with regard to the Erasmus Hospital, manages the relations between the University and the hospital, as well as the University's hospital network, and takes any decisions necessary in the context of these relationships.

Section 6.

It appoints administrative, technical, management and specialist staff, without prejudice to any delegations it may grant in this regard in accordance with Article 13, section 2, and decides on the promotion of these staff members, in accordance with the law, these Statutes and the frameworks and regulations it establishes.

Section 7.

The Board of Governors is the body competent to take legal action in all matters, as either plaintiff or defendant, at the instigation of the Chair and the Rector. This provision does not prevent the Board of Governors from granting special delegations in this matter, pursuant to Article 13, section 2.

Section 8.

The Board of Governors has residual jurisdiction.

Article 12

Section 1.

The Board of Governors consists of:

- a. the Chair, elected by the members in categories b to h below, excluding members of the university community employed by the institution on a basis exceeding one-third of full-time hours; furthermore, the Chair may not have served as Rector prior to their election;
- b. the Rector;
- c. four members appointed by the Plenary Assembly from among its members on the academic staff; two of these members must belong to the academic staff of the humanities faculties or teaching and research schools independent of the faculties and two to the academic staff of the other faculties or schools;
- d. two members appointed by the Plenary Assembly from among its members on the scientific staff who are not members of the academic staff; one of these members must belong to the humanities faculties or teaching and research schools independent of the faculties and the other to the other faculties or schools;
- e. three members appointed by the Plenary Assembly from among its members on the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff;
- f. four members appointed by the Plenary Assembly from among its members who are student representatives;
- g. two members elected by the members in categories a to f above from among the academic staff outside the electoral lists for their skills and expertise in the field of institutional management, taking into account the need to maintain a balance between the genders, as well as between the humanities and fields other than the humanities; exceptionally, the required balance between the humanities and fields other than the humanities may be missed during a legislative term, in which case the Board of Governors must ensure that it is met during the following legislative term; the Chair, the Rector and the Pro-Rector are responsible for contacting the prospective candidates in advance to ascertain their interest and availability;
- h. three members elected by the members in categories a to g above from among persons representative of the country's social, political, economic and cultural life who have demonstrated their commitment to the University. The internal regulations referred to in Article 14 determine the procedure for this election, in accordance with the following rules:
 - the Chair, the Rector and the Pro-Rector are responsible for contacting the prospective candidates in advance to ascertain their interest and availability; these candidates may not be members of any of the University bodies represented in the Plenary Assembly;
 - the election takes place during an extraordinary meeting of the Council to which only members of categories a to g above are invited.

Section 2.

The Pro-Rector replaces the Rector on the Board of Governors if the latter is absent.

Section 3.

The term of office of Governors in categories c to f above is linked to their term of office as members of the Plenary Assembly, as set out in Article 9. Their substitutes on the Board of Governors are determined in accordance with Article 8. The substitutes only sit on the Board of Governors if the members they replace are absent.

Section 4.

Members in category h above ("external" co-opted members) are elected for a term of two years, on the understanding that their term of office ends no later than when the newly elected members take office at the end of the procedure referred to in the same article. They may serve up to four consecutive terms in the same category. Otherwise, the rules in section 1, paragraphs 2 and 3 and section 4 of Article 9 apply to them.

Section 5.

Members of category g above ("internal" co-opted academics) are elected for a term of two years, on the understanding that their term of office ends no later than when the newly elected members take office. They may serve up to four consecutive terms in the same category. Otherwise, the rules in section 1, paragraphs 2 and 3 and sections 4 and 5 of Article 9 apply to them.

Article 13

Section 1.

The Board of Governors may take any decentralisation measures it considers necessary to assist with fulfilling its mission.

Section 2.

The Board of Governors may delegate authority and/or signing authorisation as it deems appropriate on precisely defined and limited matters falling within its jurisdiction. It retains the right to revoke these delegations at any time, to refer to issues dealt with by the delegated body or person, to substitute its own decision for that of the delegated body or person without prejudice to any rights acquired by third parties, and to issue any useful instructions to the delegated body or person for the performance of their duties.

Section 3.

It may set up permanent or temporary committees with advisory powers, without prejudice to the specific legal provisions governing certain committees, and determines their composition.

The Board of Governors establishes at least the following permanent committees:

- the Administrative Committee;
- the Student Social Affairs Committee;
- the Cultural Committee;
- the Finance Committee;
- the Planning and Investment Committee;
- the Hospital Committee.

Section 4.

The Board regulates the functioning of each of these committees and the conditions under which the Board may call on experts, whether they belong to the university community or not, to sit on these committees in an advisory capacity.

Section 5.

The Board of Governors may also set up joint committees with the Academic Council, whose powers and composition are approved by both bodies.

Section 6.

In order to reflect regularly on major contextual developments and their consequences for the institution, “strategic council meetings” are held at least once a year, attended by members of the Board of Governors and the Academic Council, as well as Vice-Rectors, other experts (e.g. heads of other universities) and political, economic, social and cultural players. The attendees at the strategic council meetings will depend on the topics discussed; the members taking part are appointed by the Board of Governors and/or the Academic Council.

Article 14

Section 1.

The Board of Governors adopts internal regulations setting out the conditions under which the Board and its Office operate, and how category h members referred to in Article 12, section 1 are elected in accordance with the provisions of that article.

Section 2.

The regulations also determine how the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board and the members of the Office are elected, as well as how it appoints persons to specific functions.

Section 3.

The regulations specify the rules relating to the terms of office of full and substitute members of the Board of Governors, in accordance with the rules set out in Articles 8 and 9 of these Statutes.

Article 15

All documents relating to matters submitted to the Board of Governors are kept at the Chancellery and made available to members from the date on which the notice of the meeting is sent to the Board members.

Article 16

Section 1.

In the absence of a legal provision to the contrary or a specific derogation in these Statutes or in a Board regulation, resolutions of the Board of Governors are adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast, with abstentions not counted. In the event of a tie, the proposal put to the vote is rejected.

Section 2.

Any item on the agenda of a Board meeting can be postponed to the next meeting if at least one third of the Board members request it. The internal regulations specify how this procedure operates.

Article 17

The deliberations of the Board of Governors are recorded in minutes approved by the Board and signed by the Chair and the Secretary.

Copies or extracts to be produced in court or elsewhere are signed by the Chair and the Secretary or, failing that, by two members of the Board of Governors.

No copy or extract may be taken or issued without the authorisation of the Office or the Chair.

Article 18

Each year, the Board of Governors draws up a report on the University's activities and financial management.

These reports are submitted to the Plenary Assembly and published within one year of the end of the year in question.

Chapter III. The Chair of the Board of Governors

Article 19

Section 1.

The Chair is elected for a term of four years, renewable once for the same duration, in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 12, section 1, a and the internal regulations referred to in Article 14.

Section 2.

If the members of the Plenary Assembly are being elected in the same year, the election schedule is set so that the Chair is elected first.

Article 20

The Chair convenes and chairs the Board of Governors and the Office.

The Chair of the Board of Governors may invite any person who can inform the governors about the items on the agenda to attend meetings of the Board and the Office.

Article 21

Apart from the measures provided for in Article 40, section 1, para. 2, the Chair of the Board of Governors takes any necessary steps of extreme urgency on their own authority, and must then report them to the Board at its next meeting.

Article 22

The Chair chairs the social consultation bodies within the Institution, without prejudice to the delegations referred to in Article 4, section 7, the applicable legal provisions and the procedures set out in the internal regulations of those bodies.

Article 23

The Chair may be assisted by three deputies appointed by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Chair to help them fulfil their duties.

Article 24

In the event of the death, resignation or dismissal of the Chair, their duties are fulfilled on a temporary basis by the Vice-Chair. The Chair is replaced as soon as possible for the remainder of their term of office.

Chapter IV. The Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors

Article 25

The Vice-Chair is elected by all the members of the Board of Governors from among the members of categories c to f referred to in Article 12, section 1, for a term of two years, renewable once for the same duration.

The Vice-Chair assists the Chair in the performance of the tasks entrusted to them. They replace the Chair if the latter is unable to perform their duties.

In the event of the death, resignation or dismissal of the Vice-Chair, a replacement is appointed as soon as possible for the remainder of their term of office.

Chapter V. The Office of the Board of Governors

Article 26

The Office exercises the authority delegated to it by the Board of Governors.

It prepares the important debates of the Board of Governors submitted to it by the Chair of the Board of Governors and draws up an employer's proposal in anticipation of debates falling within the jurisdiction of the staff consultation bodies.

The Board of Governors always ratifies the deliberations of the Office at its next meeting.

Article 27

The Office consists of:

- a. the Chair of the Board of Governors, who is automatically Chair of the Office;
- b. the Rector;
- c. a member of the academic staff;
- d. a member of the scientific staff who is not a member of the academic staff;
- e. two students;
- f. a member of the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff.

The Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors is automatically a member of the Office and, depending on the body to which they belong, is one of the members referred to in points c to f.

The members of the Office must be full members of the Board of Governors; their term of office automatically ends if they lose this status.

The members of the Office are elected for two years; they may be re-elected.

The members referred to in paragraphs c to f are elected by the Board of Governors, having been proposed by the bodies to which they belong, except as specified for the Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors in paragraph 2 of this article.

The members referred to in paragraphs c to f may have a substitute, appointed from among the full members of the Board, either jointly with the full member or subsequently, having been proposed by the full member.

If the full member is unable to attend, the substitute takes their place in the Office. They become a full member in the event of the death or resignation of the full member.

If a full member without a substitute is absent, the Board immediately appoints a replacement for the remainder of their term of office.

The Director General attends the Office in an advisory capacity.

Chapter VI. The Academic Council

Article 28

Section 1.

The Academic Council defines and implements the academic and scientific policy of the Institution as described in Article 3 of these Statutes. Without prejudice to the powers assigned to the faculties and teaching and research schools, it has the power to take the initiative, make decisions and take action for all matters relating to teaching, training, including continuing education, research, international relations and academic policy in the broad sense, within the limits of the budget, funding and resources set in accordance with Article 48.

Section 2.

The Academic Council appoints members of the academic and scientific staff on a permanent or temporary basis, without prejudice to the delegations permitted within the limits set out in Article 75 section 2, and decides on the promotion of these staff members, in accordance with the law, the provisions of these Statutes, and the frameworks and regulations established by the Board of Governors.

Section 3.

Any decision by the Academic Council involving expenditure must be approved by the Director General before implementation. The Director General ensures the spending is within the budget adopted by the competent University bodies in accordance with the regulations.

Section 4.

Any decision by the Academic Council requiring expenditure not provided for in the budget, whether it involves a budget overrun or a reallocation of funds initially reserved in the budget for other purposes, is enforceable only with the approval of the Board of Governors. The same applies to any decision by the Academic Council whose effects would extend to matters reserved for the jurisdiction of the Board of Governors.

Article 29

Section 1.

The Academic Council consists of:

- a. the Rector, who chairs it;
- b. the Pro-Rector;
- c. the Deans of the faculties;
- d. the Chair of a teaching or research school referred to in Article 6, section 1, dd;
- e. three members appointed by the Plenary Assembly from among its members on the academic staff;
- f. three members appointed by the Plenary Assembly from among its members on the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff;
- g. two members appointed by the Plenary Assembly from among its members on the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff;
- h. six members appointed by the Plenary Assembly from among its members who are student representatives.

Section 2.

The Pro-Rector chairs the Academic Council in the absence of the Rector.

Section 3.

The term of office of members in categories e to h above is linked to their term of office as members of the Plenary Assembly, as set out in Article 9. Their substitutes on the Academic Council are determined in accordance with Article 8. The substitutes only sit on the Academic Council if the members they replace are absent.

Article 30

Section 1.

The Academic Council may take any decentralisation measures it considers necessary to assist with fulfilling its mission.

Section 2.

The Academic Council may delegate authority and/or signing authorisation as it deems appropriate on precisely defined and limited matters falling within its jurisdiction. It retains the right to revoke these delegations at any time, to refer to issues dealt with by the delegated body or person, to substitute its own decision for that of the delegated body or person without prejudice to any rights acquired by third parties, and to issue any useful instructions to the delegated body or person for the performance of their duties.

Section 3.

It may set up permanent or temporary consultation committees. It determines their composition without prejudice to the specific legal provisions governing certain committees. The Academic Council establishes at least the following committees, which exercise their advisory powers on its behalf:

- the Research Council, in accordance with the relevant legal provisions;
- the Board of Studies;
- the Continuing Education Council.

Section 4.

Where necessary, the Academic Council may also set up joint committees with the Board of Governors, whose powers and composition are approved by both bodies.

Article 31

Section 1.

The Academic Council adopts internal regulations setting out the conditions under which the Council, its Office and, where applicable, its extended Office operate.

Section 2.

The regulations also determine how the members of the Office are elected, as well as how it appoints persons to specific functions.

Section 3.

The regulations specify the rules relating to the terms of office of full and substitute members of the Academic Council, in accordance with the rules set out in Articles 8 and 9 of these Statutes.

Article 32

All documents relating to matters submitted to the Academic Council are kept at the Chancellery and made available to members from the date on which the notice of the meeting is sent to the Council members.

Article 33

Section 1.

In the absence of a legal provision to the contrary or a specific derogation in these Statutes or in a regulation adopted by the Council, resolutions of the Academic Council are adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast, with abstentions not counted. In the event of a tie, the proposal put to the vote is rejected.

Section 2.

Any item on the agenda of a Board meeting can be postponed to the next meeting if at least one third of the Board members request it. The internal regulations specify how this procedure operates.

Article 34

The deliberations of the Academic Council are recorded in minutes approved by the Council and signed by the Rector and the Secretary.

Copies or extracts to be produced in court or elsewhere are signed by the Rector and the Secretary or, failing that, by two members of the Academic Council.

No copy or extract may be taken or issued without the authorisation of the Office or the Rector.

Article 35

Each year, the Academic Council draws up a report on the academic management of the University.

This report is submitted to the Plenary Assembly and published within one year of the end of the year in question.

Chapter VII. The Office of the Academic Council

Article 36

The Office prepares the files submitted to the Academic Council.

It exercises the authority delegated to it by the Academic Council.

The Academic Council always ratifies the deliberations of the Office at its next meeting.

Article 37

The Office consists of:

- a. the Rector, who chairs it;
- b. two Deans, one from a humanities faculty and the other from another faculty;
- c. a member of the academic staff;
- d. a member of the scientific staff who is not a member of the academic staff;
- e. two student representatives;
- f. a member of the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff.

The members of the Office must be full members of the Academic Council; their term of office automatically ends if they lose this status.

The members of the Office are elected for two years; they may be re-elected.

The members referred to in paragraphs c to f are elected by the Academic Council, having been proposed by the bodies to which they belong. The members referred to in paragraph b are elected by the Academic

Council, having been proposed by the Deans and the Chair of the school referred to in Article 29, section 1, c and d.

The members referred to in paragraphs b, c, d and f may have a substitute, appointed from among the full members of the Council, either jointly with the full member or subsequently, having been proposed by the full member.

If the full member is unable to attend, the substitute takes their place in the Office. They become a full member in the event of the death or resignation of the full member.

The members referred to in paragraph e may have a substitute, who is a full member in category h referred to in Article 29 section 1, appointed in accordance with the internal regulations of the Academic Council.

If a full member without a substitute is absent, the Board immediately appoints a replacement for the remainder of their term of office.

Article 38

The Office may sit as an extended Office open to all Deans and the Chair of the teaching and research school referred to in Article 6, section 1, dd, under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures set out in the internal regulations of the Academic Council.

Chapter VIII. The Rector

Article 39

Section 1.

The Rector is elected by secret ballot from among the professors, full professors and adjunct professors within the legal meaning of these titles, as well as from among the C-grade full professors, during the month of May, by the academic staff, the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff, the formally enrolled students and the members of the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff of the University.

To determine the result of the election, the votes cast are weighted as follows:

- For the academic staff: 61%;
- For the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff: 13%;
- For formally enrolled students: 13%;
- For members of the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff: 13%.

The Rector's term of office begins on the first day of the academic year and lasts for four years. It may be renewed once for the same duration.

If a Rector's term of office is cut short due to death, resignation or dismissal, their successor is elected for a new four-year term.

No one may stand as a candidate for election as Rector less than four years before the scheduled date of their retirement, this period being calculated from the first day of the academic year on which their term of office would begin.

Section 2.

The Rector is elected alternately from among professors belonging to humanities faculties and teaching and research schools independent of the faculties, and from among other faculties and schools. This rule applies, in each election, to any candidate other than the Rector standing for re-election.

Section 3.

The Rector may not have served as Chair of the Board of Governors prior to their election.

Article 40

Section 1.

The Rector chairs the Academic Council and its Office. They may invite any person who can inform the members about the items on the agenda to attend meetings of the Council and the Office.

The Rector takes any necessary steps of extreme urgency in academic matters on their own authority, and must then report them to the Academic Council at its next meeting.

Section 2.

The Rector represents the academic staff. They convene and chair its general assemblies.

They have the right to convene and chair faculty councils or the councils of independent schools.

They are the contact person for the staff of the University Community for academic matters.

They ensure cordial relations between the faculties and independent schools.

Section 3.

On an academic level, the Rector ensures the good order of the University, compliance with programmes and timetables and the implementation of the decisions of the Academic Council and, where applicable, the Board of Governors. They exercise administrative authority for this purpose over the authorities of the faculties and the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties.

They are the disciplinary authority for the academic, scientific and student bodies, without prejudice to the disciplinary powers assigned to the bodies designated by the Board of Governors.

Section 4.

With the assistance of the relevant committees, they ensure regular progress in teaching and the development of scientific research.

Section 5.

They may request any documents relating to the management of the University and directly obtain any information, of any nature, from the administration.

Section 6.

In agreement with the Academic Council, they oversee the planning of facilities and the allocation of academic space in anticipation of requirements related to the organisation of teaching and research and the evolution of the student population. They submit these proposals to the Board of Governors for budgeting purposes.

Section 7.

They may be substituted or assisted by the two most recent Rectors who have completed their terms of office.

The Rector may be assisted by the Deans of the faculties in carrying out the duties that come with the role.

For the same purposes, they may obtain the assistance of a deputy for cultural affairs proposed from among the student body by the Board of Governors. The deputy's term of office is two years. It is renewable. In the event of the death or resignation of the deputy, their successor, proposed by the Rector and appointed by the Board of Governors, completes their term of office.

Chapter IX. The Vice-Rectors

Article 41

The Rector may be assisted by up to seven Vice-Rectors, proposed by the Rector and appointed by the Academic Council. Vice-Rectors are elected in accordance with the procedure set out in the internal regulations of the Academic Council, taking the following principles into account:

- First, the Rector submits the list and description of the areas of responsibility for which they intend to be assisted by Vice-Rectors to the Academic Council for approval.
- Secondly, the Rector submits the names of the Vice-Rectors proposed for these areas of responsibility to the Council for approval.

The Rector may delegate their authority to their Vice-Rectors, as well as the related signature authorisation, in the areas of responsibility assigned to them on their appointment, subject to the approval of the Academic Council. This delegation may be revoked at any time, temporarily or permanently, by the Rector, without necessarily terminating the Vice-Rector's role as an assistant to the Rector.

Article 42

The term of office of a Vice-Rector is two years, renewable for up to five successive terms for the same or different areas of responsibility.

The term of office is renewed by the Academic Council on the recommendation of the Rector, after the Vice-Rector has reported on their activities.

The Vice-Rector's term of office automatically expires in any case with the Rector's term of office, without prejudice to the new Rector's ability to ask the Academic Council to renew the Vice-Rector's term of office.

In the event of the death or resignation of the Vice-Rector, their successor, proposed by the Rector and appointed by the Academic Council, completes their term of office.

Vice-Rectors who are assigned teaching, research and international relations in their areas of responsibility are permanent invited members of the Academic Council. They have an advisory role on issues relating to these areas within their responsibility. Other Vice-Rectors are invited to attend Academic Council meetings in an advisory capacity for areas within their responsibility.

The Vice-Rectors attend the Office of the Academic Council in an advisory capacity at the invitation of the Rector.

Chapter X. The Pro-Rector

Article 43**Section 1.**

If the Rector is unable to perform their duties, their role is temporarily filled by the last Rector to have completed their term of office. This person bears the title of Pro-Rector.

Section 2.

In the event of the death, resignation or dismissal of the Rector, their duties are temporarily performed by the Pro-Rector. In addition, the deceased, resigning or dismissed Rector is replaced as soon as possible.

Section 3.

The Pro-Rector may exercise their duties until retirement age, plus twice four years if the Rector who succeeds them is elected for two successive terms of office.

Section 4.

If the position of Pro-Rector is vacant for any reason and cannot be filled under the conditions provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article of the Statutes, the Rector's duties are temporarily performed by the Vice-Rector with this responsibility under Article 41.

Chapter XI. The Director General

Article 44**Section 1.**

The Director General is responsible for the management of the Institution. They are its hierarchical authority.

Section 2.

In this capacity, they ensure the administrative implementation, both by the general administration and by the faculty administrations, of the decisions taken by the Plenary Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Academic Council, their respective Offices, the Rector and the Chair, and any other competent body of the institution.

Section 3.

The Director General ensures the general coordination of the general administration departments between themselves, the coordination of these departments with those of the faculty administrations, and the coordination between the faculty administrations. For this purpose, the Director General chairs the College of Department Directors and the College of Faculty Administration Directors, whose missions, operation and composition are subject to regulations approved by the Board of Governors after consultation with the Academic Council.

Section 4.

The Director General attends meetings of the Plenary Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Academic Council and the Office of the Board of Governors in an advisory capacity. They attend meetings of the Office of the Academic Council in an advisory capacity when invited to do so by the Rector.

Section 5.

They have disciplinary authority over all administrative, technical, management and specialist staff, without prejudice to the powers conferred in this regard on the bodies designated by employment regulations.

Section 6.

They are under the joint hierarchical and disciplinary authority of the Chair of the Board of Governors and the Rector.

Section 7.

The Director General is appointed by the Board of Governors for a renewable temporary term of office, the duration and conditions of which are determined by the Board, including the procedure for evaluating the person concerned. The Director General may not have held the position of Rector or Chair of the Board of Governors prior to their appointment.

Chapter XII. The University Secretary

Article 45

The Secretary is appointed by the Board of Governors.

The Secretary is responsible for drafting reports and minutes and for keeping the archives.

Chapter XIII. Representation of the University in relations with third parties

Article 46

Without prejudice to specific delegations of authority, all documents binding on the University are signed by the Chair of the Board of Governors and the Rector. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair or a member of the Office of the Board of Governors signs the document. In the absence of the Rector, the Pro-Rector or a member of the Office of the Academic Council signs the document.

They are not required to justify any prior decision by any body whatsoever to third parties.

Chapter XIV. The Government Delegate

Article 47

The French Community Government Delegate attends meetings of the Plenary Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Academic Council and their respective Offices, as well as meetings of other bodies dealing with matters within their responsibility.

The same applies to the Delegate of the French Community Government Budget Minister for the examination of matters with a budgetary or financial impact.

TITLE III: Specific procedures

Chapter I. Adoption of the University budget

Article 48

The University budget is set by the Board of Governors.

It is then submitted to the Academic Council for its opinion.

If the Academic Council issues a favourable opinion or does not issue an opinion within the time allowed for this purpose, or issues a negative opinion within the time limit without proposing any amendments, the Board of Governors definitively adopts the budget and communicates it to the relevant Minister.

If the Academic Council sends the Board of Governors a negative opinion with proposed amendments to the budget within the time allowed, the Board of Governors is required to discuss them. If it accepts them, it definitively approves the amended budget and communicates it to the relevant Minister. If it rejects them in whole or in part, it forwards its reasoned decision to the Academic Council, which issues a final decision.

If the Academic Council does not issue its opinion within the time allowed, or its opinion agrees with the decision of the Board of Governors, the Board of Governors definitively adopts the budget and forwards it to the relevant Minister. If the Academic Council, acting by a two-thirds majority of the members present, submits proposed amendments, modified where applicable, to the Board of Governors, the Board of Governors is required to discuss them again. If it accepts them, it definitively approves the amended budget and communicates it to the relevant Minister. If it rejects them in whole or in part, the Chair of the Board of Governors convenes the Plenary Assembly, which makes a final decision. The Board of Governors communicates the approved budget to the relevant Minister.

The internal regulations of the Board of Governors set out the additional details of this procedure. In particular, they set the deadlines referred to, taking into account the legal deadlines imposed on the University for communicating the budget to the relevant Minister.

Chapter II. Dismissal of the Chair of the Board of Governors, the Rector and the Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors

Article 49

Section 1.

The Plenary Assembly may dismiss the Chair of the Board of Governors by passing a motion of no confidence. It may dismiss the Rector in the same way.

The motion is only included on the agenda of the Plenary Assembly if it is countersigned by more than half of the full members of the Assembly in office at the time of its submission, and by at least one third of the members of each of the categories referred to in paragraphs d (including dd, counted together for the calculation), e, f, g and h of Article 6, section 1.

If the motion seeks the dismissal of the Rector, it is addressed to the Chair. If the motion seeks the dismissal of the Chair, it is addressed to the Rector, who convenes and chairs the Assembly in place of the Chair. If it seeks the simultaneous dismissal of the Chair and the Rector, a motion for each must be submitted to the Pro-Rector, who convenes and chairs the Assembly in place of the Chair.

The person targeted by the motion of no confidence must be given a hearing by the Assembly before any deliberation on the motion. They leave the room immediately after their hearing. The motion is deliberated in their absence and is only adopted if it receives at least three-quarters of the votes of the members present at the meeting.

The dismissed Chair is replaced as soon as possible for the remainder of their term of office in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 12, section 1 of these Statutes and the provisions of the internal regulations of the Plenary Assembly or the Board of Governors.

If the Rector is dismissed, the procedure set out in Article 43, section 2 is followed.

Section 2.

The Board of Governors may dismiss its Vice-Chair by passing a motion of no confidence.

The motion is only included on the agenda of the Board of Governors if it is countersigned by more than half of the full members of the Board in office at the time of its submission.

The Vice-Chair must be given a hearing by the Board of Governors before any deliberation on the motion. They leave the room immediately after their hearing. The motion is deliberated in their absence and is only adopted if it receives at least three-quarters of the votes of the members present at the meeting.

The dismissed Vice-Chair is replaced as soon as possible for the remainder of their term of office in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 25 of these Statutes and the provisions of the internal regulations of the Board of Governors.

However, they retain their position as a governor.

Chapter III. Revision of the Organic Statutes

Article 50

The Statutes may only be revised following consultation with the university community, in accordance with the procedures determined by the Plenary Assembly. Any proposal to revise the Statutes must be brought to the attention of the members of the Plenary Assembly at least fifteen days before being deliberated.

The Plenary Assembly may only rule on the proposal if at least two-thirds of its members are present, and the proposed amendment is only adopted if it receives at least two thirds of the votes cast, with abstentions not counted.

TITLE IV: Faculties and teaching and research schools

Chapter I. The academic organisation of the University into faculties and teaching and research schools, and their areas of responsibility

Article 51

Section 1.

The Université libre de Bruxelles consists of nine faculties:

- the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences;
- the Faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication;
- the Faculty of Law and Criminology;
- the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management;
- the Faculty of Psychology, Educational Sciences and Speech and Language Therapy;
- the Faculty of Architecture;
- the Faculty of Sciences;
- the Faculty of Medicine;
- the Ecole polytechnique de Bruxelles.

The first five are referred to as the humanities faculties.

Section 2.

The University also has additional teaching and research schools.

These are either independent of the faculties or integrated into a faculty. The Academic Council approves their internal regulations, draws up a list of them and indicates which of them fall within the humanities.

For the purposes of these Statutes, schools that have bodies listed in this title and are authorised, under their own internal regulations approved by the Academic Council, to submit proposals to the Academic Council on the matters referred to in Article 52 are deemed to be independent of the faculties.

The designation of the schools referred to in this section is determined by the Academic Council.

The independent schools referred to in paragraph 3 of this section may be authorised by the Academic Council to bear the title of "Faculty". If this title is allocated, it in no way alters the rights, obligations or prerogatives of the schools benefiting from it. The term "Faculty" used in these Statutes or in the University's internal regulations without further qualification applies exclusively to the faculties referred to in section 1 of this Article.

Article 52**Section 1.**

Subject to more extensive decentralisation measures adopted by the Academic Council in the form of delegations in accordance with Article 30, section 2, decentralisation takes place as follows at the level of the faculties and the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties.

Section 2.

These faculties and schools have the authority to take the initiative in:

1. organising and disseminating teaching, revising programmes and assessing knowledge;
2. appointing and promoting members of the academic staff and of the scientific staff who do not belong to the academic staff, in accordance with the procedures set out in Chapters VI and VII of this title;
3. appointing and promoting the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff of these faculties and schools;
4. using the buildings and premises made available to these faculties and schools;
5. distributing the funds allocated to these faculties and schools within the limits determined by the competent authorities.

Section 3.

These faculties and schools submit their proposals, with reasons, to the Academic Council with regard to points 1, 2, 4 and 5 of section 2, and to the Board of Governors with regard to point 3 of section 2.

Section 4.

These faculties and schools have decision-making authority in relation to:

1. teaching and research methods and partial programme reforms, in consultation with the tenured professors; decisions on these matters must be taken within the limits of the budgets of these faculties and schools and the available staff;
2. changes in the assignments of scientific staff who are not part of the academic, administrative, technical, management and specialist staff, within the limits of the frameworks and regulations approved by the Board of Governors;
3. the implementation of the ordinary budget;
4. granting leave of absence to members of the academic and scientific staff for no more than one month;
5. all matters for which the Academic Council has expressly delegated authority to them.

Section 5.

These faculties and schools draw up an activity report and submit it to the Academic Council, which determines the frequency of these reports.

Chapter II. Teaching staff, scientific staff and academic staff

Article 53

The teaching staff consists of full professors ("professeurs ordinaires"), C-grade full professors ("professeurs ordinaires C"), adjunct professors ("professeurs extraordinaires"), professors ("professeurs"), associate professors ("chargés de cours") and holders of future legal titles.

Substitutes, bearing the title of substitute ("suppléant"), lecturers ("maîtres de conférences"), teaching assistants ("chargés d'enseignement") and volunteer lecturers ("maîtres d'enseignement") are also part of the teaching staff, as are retired members of the teaching staff who are authorised to continue certain teaching, research and community service activities in accordance with the law.

Similarly, for the exercise of the rights expressly granted to them by the Board of Governors, the following are considered equivalent to members of the teaching staff:

- assistant substitutes ("suppléants associés");
- assistant lecturers ("maîtres de conférences associés");
- assistant associate professors ("chargés de cours associés").

Article 54

The scientific staff consists of faculty associates ("agrégés de faculté"), associate curators ("conservateurs-agrégés"), the head librarian ("bibliothécaire en chef"), senior researchers ("chefs de travaux"), curators ("conservateurs"), tutors ("répétiteurs"), chief assistants ("premiers assistants"), librarians ("bibliothécaires"), assistants ("assistants"), assistants authorised to use the title of post-doctoral researcher, attachés ("attachés"), assistant lecturers ("assistants-chargés d'exercices"), readers ("lecteurs"), research logisticians ("logisticiens de recherche"), senior research logisticians ("premiers logisticiens de recherche"), principal research logisticians ("logisticiens de recherche principaux"), chief research logisticians ("logisticiens de recherche en chef"), research logistics directors ("directeurs logisticiens de recherche"), and holders of future legal titles.

Similarly, for the exercise of the rights expressly granted to them by the Board of Governors, the following are considered equivalent to members of the scientific staff:

- modern language teachers ("enseignants de langues vivantes");
- teaching assistants ("assistants pédagogiques");
- architectural project assistants ("assistants en projet d'architecture");
- volunteer assistants ("assistants volontaires");
- volunteer hospital assistants ("assistants volontaires hospitaliers") working at the Academic and University Hospital;
- paid researchers and recipients of grants awarded by funds or organisations outside the University and authorised to carry out their activities there;
- researchers who are not paid by the University but who receive a grant awarded by it, except those who are considered equivalent to members of the teaching staff;

- associate chief assistants (“premiers assistants associés”);
- associate assistants (“assistants associés”);
- associate assistant lecturers (“assistants-chargés d'exercices associés”);
- guest experts.

Article 55

The academic staff consists of all the members of the teaching staff. At ULB, faculty associates (“agrégés de facultés”), senior researchers (“chefs de travaux”) and chief assistants (“premiers assistants”) are also part of the academic staff.

Similarly, for the exercise of the rights expressly granted to them by the Board of Governors, the following are considered equivalent to members of the academic staff:

- qualified researchers (“chercheurs qualifiés”), research supervisors (“maîtres de recherches”) and research directors (“directeurs de recherches”) from the FRS-FNRS carrying out their activities at the University;
- researchers paid by funds or organisations outside the University and authorised to carry out their activities there, who have been awarded the honorary title of ULB researcher by the Academic Council;
- volunteer hospital assistants working at the Academic and University Hospital who are authorised to bear the title of senior hospital assistant (“maître assistant hospitalier”) and who hold the academic degree of doctor or “agrégé” conferred after the defence of a thesis;
- modern language teachers who are authorised to bear the title of senior language teacher (“maître de langues principal”) and chief language teacher (“premier maître de langues”) and who hold the academic degree of doctor conferred after the defence of a thesis;
- senior and chief teaching assistants (“maîtres” and “premiers maîtres assistants pédagogiques”) who hold the academic degree of doctor conferred after defending a thesis;
- senior and chief architectural project assistants (“maîtres” and “premiers maîtres assistants en projet d'architecture”) who hold the academic degree of doctorate conferred after defending a thesis;
- associate chief assistants (“premiers assistants associés”);
- members of the teaching staff under special conditions (“cadre d'extinction”) at educational establishments integrated with the University, except those who are temporarily considered equivalent to members of the scientific staff.

Article 56

Members of the academic staff and members of the scientific staff who do not belong to the academic staff are appointed and their titles and duties are conferred by the Academic Council, in accordance with the procedures and subject to the delegations provided for in Chapters VI and VII of this title. The conditions for access to titles listed in Articles 54 and 55 that are not provided for by law are set by the Board of Governors in accordance with procedures it determines.

Terms of office are permanent or temporary, as provided for by law, the equivalent status of the teaching staff and the scientific staff, or the regulations governing honorary titles for each of them.

Article 57

Examining boards are composed and organised in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.

The academic staff, meeting as a faculty or school examining board, adopt examination regulations, which may include provisions specific to individual groups or sections.

These regulations are submitted to the Academic Council, which may only refuse to approve them if they contain provisions contrary to the rules imposed on or adopted by the University, and may not amend them. These regulations are sent to the Faculty Council or the teaching and research school independent of the faculties for information.

Article 58

Members of the teaching staff and the scientific staff lose their title and the rights that go with it on the day they leave their role.

They are granted the honorary title of their position, unless there are serious grounds for not doing so.

Members of the teaching staff who have retired and are authorised to continue certain activities in accordance with the law bear the title of Professor of the University ("Professeur de l'Université"). Once they have reached the age of seventy, they lose all rights to sit on the University's bodies, except as provided for in Article 43, section 3.

Chapter III. Faculty Councils and Councils of teaching and research schools independent of the faculties

Article 59

The faculties and the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties are managed by Councils, within the limits of the authority allocated to them.

Each Council is required to comply with the general guidelines and budgetary requirements assigned by the relevant authorities, based on proposals by the competent committees.

The faculties and the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties establish their internal regulations and submit them to the Academic Council for approval.

The regulations of teaching and research schools that are integrated with a faculty are submitted to the Academic Council through the faculties responsible for the teaching or research areas of the school concerned, after consultation with these faculties.

Article 60

The Council consists of:

- a. at the discretion of the members of the academic staff, either all or some of the members of the academic staff of the faculty or the independent teaching and research school, delegated by their peers;
- b. delegates representing the members of the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff, the students and the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff of the faculty or school.

The number of these delegates is set for each faculty or independent teaching and research school by the Board of Governors on the recommendation of the Faculty Council or the Council of the independent school.

The number of student delegates with voting rights may never be less than twenty per cent of the total number of members of the Council. Members of the Student Council who belong to the faculty or school are automatically included.

The composition of the Faculty Council or the Council of the independent school is communicated to the Academic Council whenever it is renewed.

Article 61

At the discretion of the faculties or the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties, the Council may be supplemented by up to six co-opted members from outside the faculty or school concerned, who may be former students or members of the university community.

The number of co-opted members may be increased to a maximum of twelve for the Faculty of Medicine.

The Council of the faculty or independent school may grant them voting rights. They are elected in equal numbers by the academic staff or its delegates, on one hand, and by the delegates of other staff groups, on the other.

For the Faculty of Medicine, however, they are elected by a two-thirds majority on presentation by the nursing and paramedic staff of the Academic and University Hospital, internship supervisors at the intern hospitals, general medicine internship supervisors and former students.

Article 62

All delegates and co-opted members are elected by secret ballot; their term of office is two years and is renewable.

At the discretion of the faculties or the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties, and if proposed by the delegates elected to the Council of the faculty or independent school representing the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff, the term of office of the scientific staff delegates may nevertheless be one or two years; their internal regulations specify this term.

At the discretion of the faculties or the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties, the term of office of student delegates may nevertheless be one or two years; their internal regulations specify this term.

Delegates may have a substitute, elected jointly with the incumbent. The substitute replaces the incumbent if the latter is unable to attend.

In an exception to the previous paragraph, student representatives may have two substitutes if their term of office is two years, elected jointly with the incumbent. In this case, the student representatives' substitutes are called first substitute and second substitute. They replace the incumbent in this order if the latter is unable to attend.

In the absence of a legal provision to the contrary or a specific derogation in these Statutes or in any other internal regulations adopted by a competent body, decisions of the Council of the faculty or the independent school are taken by a simple majority of the members present, with abstentions not counted. However, if the number of members of the academic staff present at the vote exceeds the total number of seats allocated to delegates from other staff groups, the votes of the members of the academic staff or their delegates are reduced to that number.

Article 63

The rules governing the constitution and voting of the Council of the faculty or independent school apply *mutatis mutandis* to any sections, departments or other internal organisational structures that may be created within the faculties and teaching and research schools independent of the faculties.

Chapter IV. The Dean, Vice-Dean and Secretary of the faculties and the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties

Article 64

The Faculty Council elects its Dean, Vice-Dean and Secretary from among its members.

The Dean and Vice-Dean of a faculty are drawn from the academic staff. Unless an exception is authorised by the Rector prior to the submission of candidacies, they are chosen from among the full professors, C-grade full professors, adjunct professors and professors belonging primarily to that faculty, and on the recommendation of the academic staff.

They are elected separately, by simple majority and by secret ballot. Their term of office begins on the first day of the academic year. It lasts for two years. They are eligible for re-election once. After completing their second term, they may only stand for re-election to the same position after an interruption of at least two years.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, in exceptional circumstances and on the basis of a reasoned proposal from the Rector to the Faculty Council, the Council may elect the Dean for a third consecutive two-year term by a two-thirds majority of the members present. This possibility extends to the Vice-Dean, under the same conditions.

The Secretary of a faculty is chosen from among the members of the academic staff belonging primarily to that faculty. Their term of office is two years and is renewable.

Article 65

Section 1.

At the discretion of the faculties, in accordance with the provisions adopted in the internal regulations, the Dean may be authorised to appoint functional Vice-Deans who meet the conditions for appointment set out in Article 64 for the Dean and Vice-Dean. The functional Vice-Deans, numbering no more than three, are elected by the Faculty Council on the recommendation of the Dean for specific areas of responsibility. They may, where appropriate, replace the Dean in the areas of responsibility allocated to them and sit in the Faculty Office in accordance with the procedures set out in the internal regulations. Their term of office ends in any event at the same time as the Dean's.

Section 2.

If the Dean wishes to appoint two or three functional Vice-Deans under the terms of section 1, they must ensure that their proposed appointments are not all of the same gender.

Article 66

Members of the academic staff of faculties only participate in the election of the Dean, Vice-Dean, functional Vice-Deans and Faculty Secretary in the faculty to which they primarily belong.

Article 67

Within the limits of the faculty's jurisdiction, the Dean of the faculty is responsible for the immediate supervision of teaching, research and administration, and for the implementation of the prerogatives conferred on the faculties by Article 52, section 4.

If the Dean is unavailable, the Vice-Dean performs all the functions of the Dean.

Article 68

The Council of a teaching and research school independent of the faculties elects its Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary from among its members by simple majority and by secret ballot,

The Chair and Vice-Chair of an independent teaching and research school are drawn from the academic staff. Unless an exception is authorised by the Rector prior to the submission of candidacies, they are chosen from among the full professors, C-grade full professors, adjunct professors and professors.

They are elected separately, by simple majority and by secret ballot. Their term of office begins on the first day of the academic year. It lasts two years and is renewable once.

After completing their second term, they may only stand for re-election to the same position after an interruption of at least two years.

Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, in exceptional circumstances and on the basis of a reasoned proposal from the Rector to the Council of the teaching and research school, the Council may elect the Chair of the school for a third consecutive two-year term by a two-thirds majority of the members present. This possibility extends to the Vice-Chair, under the same conditions.

Within the limits of the school's jurisdiction, the Chair of a teaching and research school independent of the faculties is responsible for the immediate supervision of teaching, research and administration, and for the implementation of the prerogatives conferred on teaching and research schools by Article 52 section 4.

If the Chair is unavailable, the Vice-Chair performs all the functions of the Chair.

The Secretary of a research and teaching school is chosen from among the members of the academic staff attached to the school. Their term of office is two years and is renewable.

At the discretion of the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties, in accordance with the provisions adopted in the internal regulations, the Chair may be authorised to appoint functional Vice-Chairs who meet the conditions for appointment set out in this Article for the Chair and Vice-Chair. The

functional Vice-Chairs, numbering no more than three, are elected by the Council of the teaching and research school on the recommendation of the Chair for specific areas of responsibility. They may, where appropriate, replace the Chair in the areas of responsibility allocated to them and sit in the Office of the teaching and research school in accordance with the procedures set out in the internal regulations. Their term of office ends in any event at the same time as the Chair's.

If the Chair wishes to appoint two or three functional Vice-Chairs, they must ensure that their proposed appointments are not all of the same gender.

Chapter V. The Offices of the faculties and the teaching and research schools independent of the faculties

Article 69

The Office of the faculty or independent teaching and research school is composed as follows:

- a. the Dean or, in schools, the Chair;
- b. the Vice-Dean or, in schools, the Vice-Chair;
- c. a delegate representing the academic staff;
- d. a delegate representing the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff;
- e. two delegates representing students;
- f. a delegate representing the administrative, technical, management and specialist staff;
- g. the Academic Secretary.

All the members of the Office have voting rights. They must be members of the Faculty Council or the Council of the teaching and research school independent of the faculties.

The Office members referred to in paragraphs c to f are elected by the Council of the faculty or the independent school on the recommendation of the bodies to which they belong.

On the recommendation of the Faculty Council or the Council of the independent school, the Academic Council may decide to add advisory members to the Office. These members attend meetings of the Faculty Council or the Council of the independent school.

Article 70

The Office prepares the meetings of the Council. It rules in the first instance on academic disputes. In urgent cases, it acts on behalf of the Council, in which case it refers any decisions taken to the Council at its next meeting. The Council always ratifies the deliberations of the Office at its next meeting.

Chapter VI. The Special Committee

Article 71

A Special Committee is created within each faculty and each teaching and research school independent of the faculties. It has exclusive jurisdiction at faculty level over the appointment, promotion and renewal of appointments of the academic staff. Its jurisdiction also extends to changes in the allocation and withdrawal of teaching duties for members of the same staff.

Article 72

The Special Committee consists of the following persons, who have voting rights:

- members of the academic staff of the faculty or the independent teaching and research school;
- the delegates to the Plenary Assembly – full members or, failing that, substitutes – representing members of the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff and who belong to the faculty or school;
- the members of the Student Council who belong to the faculty or school.

The representatives of the student body and the scientific staff in the Office of the faculty or teaching school substitute for the delegates of their respective bodies to the Special Committee referred to above, with voting rights, in the event of their absence.

If members of the scientific staff who are not part of the academic staff of a faculty or school do not have representatives in the Plenary Assembly, this body is represented on the Special Committee by its representatives in the Office of the faculty or school. They also have voting rights.

The Special Committee may also co-opt members of the Faculty Council or the Council of the independent school, with advisory status.

Article 73

The Special Committee rules on the basis of reports by a scientific committee consisting of members of the academic staff of the faculty or school and, where appropriate, individuals chosen for their particular expertise.

If it is called upon to decide on the appointment, promotion, renewal or change of role of a member already belonging to the University, it also rules on the basis of a report by the teaching assessment committee as provided for in Article 74.

The members of the Scientific Committee are appointed by the Special Committee.

The members of the Teaching Assessment Committee are appointed by the Faculty Council or the Council of the independent school.

Article 74

Without prejudice to the provisions above, the Faculty Council or the Council of the independent school may establish permanent or temporary advisory committees. It determines their purpose and composition.

A teaching assessment committee is established within each faculty and teaching and research school independent of the faculties as a permanent committee of the Faculty Council or the Council of the independent school. It consists of four members of the academic staff, four members of the scientific staff who do not belong to the academic staff, and eight student members. The committee rules on the teaching abilities of members of the academic staff and members of the scientific staff who do not belong to the academic staff when a request for renewal of an appointment or for promotion is made, as well as when a member already belonging to the University is appointed. The procedures for appointing committee members and the functioning of this committee are defined in regulations approved by the Academic Council.

Chapter VII. Method of appointment of members of the scientific staff who do not belong to the academic staff

Article 75

Section 1.

Appointments of members of the scientific staff who do not belong to the academic staff, as well as renewals of appointments, are proposed by the Faculty Council or the Council of the teaching and research school independent of the faculties.

Appointment and renewal proposals are accompanied by a scientific report. Renewal proposals are also accompanied by a report drawn up by the teaching assessment committee as provided for in Article 74.

These reports are sent to the Academic Council at the same time as the proposal.

Section 2.

The Academic Council may delegate the authority to appoint members of the scientific staff referred to in Article 1, and to renew their appointments, to the Faculty Council or the Council of the teaching and research school independent of the faculties, under the terms of a delegation granted in accordance with Article 30, section 2. In such cases, the Academic Council specifies the terms of this delegation.

Article 76

If educational institutions that were previously legally separate are integrated into the University, the Board of Governors is empowered to authorise derogations from Articles 53 to 55 and 59 to 73 of these Statutes for a period it determines, to the extent necessary for the gradual adaptation of the organisational structures of the institutions in question to the statutory requirements in force at the University. Such a measure requires a decision by the Board of Governors taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present, with abstentions not counted.

In the same scenario, the students and staff members of the institutions to be integrated into the University may be authorised, by a decision of the Board of Governors taken by a simple majority of the members present, with abstentions not counted, to participate in advance in the elections of the central and faculty bodies, provided that these take place in the year preceding the effective integration of the students and staff members concerned.

If this integration involves the creation of new faculties and/or the division, merger or major reorganisation of existing faculties, the Board of Governors may, in accordance with procedures it determines by a simple majority of members present, with abstentions not counted, carry out these reforms through constituent faculty or departmental assemblies, whose work, proposals and regulations are then submitted to the competent bodies for approval and appropriate action.

TITLE V: The University and its academic hospital

Article 77

The University also includes an academic and university hospital, the Erasmus Hospital, whose mission and management are governed by the “Statutes of the university clinics of Brussels – Erasmus Hospital”. Any amendment to these Statutes requires a majority vote of the Board of Governors and a majority vote of the Hospital Management Board.

The Board of Governors establishes a permanent hospital committee and determines its mission, composition and functioning. This committee is responsible in particular for overseeing the University's relations with the Hospital, examining matters involving these relations and preparing items for the Board of Governors' agenda concerning the Hospital. It has full discretion to propose reforms to the functioning and structure of the Hospital's governing bodies. It is also responsible for considering the policy of the ULB hospital network and formulating any useful proposals in this regard. It reports regularly to the Board of Governors.

TITLE VI: The Commissioner General

Article 78

The Commissioner General has the authority to receive any complaint from a member of the university community against an academic or administrative authority of the University for irregularity, delay or failure to examine a matter concerning them directly and personally.

The Commissioner General has sole discretion to decide whether to take such a complaint into consideration and, if so, the authority to obtain any verbal or written information and to consult, without leaving their office, any document or piece of evidence in order to form an opinion and report without delay to the Board of Governors or the Academic Council, depending on whether the matter falls within the jurisdiction of one or the other of these bodies as determined by these Statutes. The body to which the matter is referred has the final say.

Article 79

If the Commissioner General finds an irregularity, delay or failure by an academic or administrative authority of the University in examining a matter concerning a member of the University community directly and personally, they may also act ex officio and, after investigation, report to the Board of Governors or the Academic Council, depending on whether the matter falls within the jurisdiction of one or the other of these bodies as determined by these Statutes. The body to which the matter is referred has the final say on the Commissioner General's conclusions.

Article 80

The Commissioner General is appointed by the Board of Governors from among the non-Board members of the University community, based on a proposal from the Office of the Board of Governors, deciding by a five-sixths majority of the members present. Their term of office is four years and is not renewable.

Article 81

In order to carry out their duties, the Commissioner General is assisted by three deputies, appointed by the Board of Governors based on the recommendations of the Commissioner General.

One of these deputies is chosen from each of the staff groups to which the Commissioner General does not belong.

TITLE VII: Miscellaneous provisions

Article 82

A commitment to comply with these Statutes and adherence to the principles set out in Articles 1 and 2 are a condition of eligibility and co-opting to the Plenary Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Academic Council, a Faculty Council or the Council of a teaching and research school independent of the faculties, and to all the permanent committees of the Board of Governors and the Academic Council.

Article 83

Following a proposal from a faculty or a teaching and research school independent of the faculties, or on its own initiative, the Academic Council may confer the title of Doctor Honoris Causa on persons who have rendered services to science, society or the University.

Article 84

Section 1.

Voting for all elected roles is a moral obligation.

Section 2.

In the elections for members of the Plenary Assembly referred to in Article 6, section 1, paragraphs e, f and h of these Statutes, as well as in elections for members of the Student Council established in accordance with the relevant legal provisions in force, the election is only valid if the participants in the ballot, including those whose ballot papers are blank or spoiled, represent at least one third of the electorate, except for student electoral colleges, where the quorum is one fifth. If this condition is not met, a new election must be held no later than three months after the first ballot, under the same quorum conditions, except for student electoral colleges, where the quorum is reduced to 15%.

In the absence of an election fulfilling the quorum, the representative(s) on the body concerned elected in the previous election remain in office until new representatives have been validly elected, provided that they still satisfy the eligibility conditions.

Delegates elected to the various representative bodies of the University are required to convene a general meeting of their constituents if one fifth of them request it.

Section 3.

In the election for the Rector, the election is only valid:

- a. if the participants in the ballot, including those whose ballot papers are blank or spoiled, represent at least one third of the electoral college of the academic staff.
- and
- b. if two of the following three conditions are met: at least 20% of the scientific staff electoral college, at least 10% of the student electoral college and at least 20% of the electoral college of the University's administrative, technical, management and specialist staff.

The conditions set out in a. and b. are cumulative. If they are not met, a new election must be held within ten days.

TITLE VIII: Transitional provisions

- A. The transitional provisions in force since the adoption of the reformed Statutes on 17 October 2013 are maintained in the following terms.

Article 85 – No longer applicable

Article 86 – No longer applicable

Article 87

In calculating the maximum number of terms of office that members of the Plenary Assembly may serve pursuant to Article 9, sections 1 and 2 of these Statutes, the terms of office served by the persons concerned as members of the Board of Governors prior to the entry into force of these Statutes are taken into account. The same applies when calculating the maximum number of terms of office as a governor referred to in Article 12, section 4 (external co-opted members).

Article 88

Pending any necessary coordination or adjustments, the University's current internal regulations remain applicable *mutatis mutandis*, taking into account, in particular, the new distribution of powers between the University's organisational bodies as set out in these Statutes.

Article 89

Subject to the provisions of Article 90, these Statutes enter into force on the day of their adoption by the Board of Governors to the extent necessary for the organisation of the December 2013 elections under their authority.

For other matters, these Statutes enter into force on 1 January 2014, without prejudice to the transitional provisions set out in Articles 85 to 88.

The new provisions will be applied progressively as the new bodies they provide for are established. Subject to this reservation, they apply immediately to procedures and situations arising before their entry into force, insofar as they do not call into question any acquired rights.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, disciplinary proceedings or investigations initiated before 1 January 2014 remain entirely subject to the regulations applicable when they began, and the appeal body referred to in those regulations (the Office of the Board of Governors) remains competent in all cases, in its renewed composition following the elections, notwithstanding any regulatory changes that may have been adopted on this point by the new authorities.

- B. The amendments made to Articles 7, section 2, 39, section 1, 68, 84 and 91 of these Statutes by the Plenary Assembly of 17 April 2023 enter into force on 18 April 2023, and the amendment made to Article 51, section 1 on 14 September 2023.

Article 90 – No longer applicable

Article 91 – No longer applicable

Article 92

Notwithstanding Article 51, section 1, the name “Faculty of Psychological Sciences and Education” remains in use in place of “Faculty of Psychology, Educational Sciences and Speech and Language Therapy” until the last day of the 2022–2023 academic year.

*

Université Libre de Bruxelles – Chancellery – Registry

Comments: greffe@ulb.be