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Regulations for the Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences, Biophysics, and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB) of the Georg-August University Göttingen

Preamble

The Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences, Biophysics, and Molecular Biosciences (GGNB) of the Georg-August University Göttingen is an organized collaborative entity between the doctoral programs in the areas of molecular biosciences, neurosciences, physics of biological and complex systems, and bioorganic chemistry, which is incorporated in the Graduate School for Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the Georg-August University Göttingen (Georg-August University School of Science, abbreviated to GAUSS). The activities of the participating doctoral programmes are coordinated through the organizational units of the GGNB where required to achieve the common objectives. In an extension of the Framework Doctoral Degree Regulations of GAUSS (*Rahmenpromotionsordnung*), the Doctoral Degree Regulations for the doctoral programs of the GGNB will be enacted by the faculty's Advisory Board of the respective Faculty involved in the GGNB and are then to be approved by the Managing Board of GAUSS.

REGULATION 1

Position within the University of Göttingen

In accordance with section 22, para. 2 and 5 of the Basic Regulations of the University and within the organizational framework provided by the Georg-August University School of Science (hereinafter referred to as GAUSS), the graduate school forms an interdisciplinary scientific institution of the University of Göttingen, named Göttingen Graduate School for Neurosciences, Biophysics, and Molecular Biosciences (hereinafter referred to as GGNB). In addition to the University of Göttingen (Faculty of Biology, Faculty of Chemistry, Faculty of Physics, Faculty of Medicine), the following non-university institutions are involved in the GGNB:

- Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry (MPI-bpc)
- Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine (MPI-em)
- Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization (MPI-ds)
- German Primate Center (DPZ)

Details regarding the cooperation with the non-university institutions are regulated in separate cooperation agreements with the University of Göttingen.

REGULATION 2

Aims and Responsibilities

(1) The GGNB has the objective of promoting excellent research in the areas of molecular biosciences, neurosciences, physics of biological and complex systems, and bioorganic chemistry at the participating institutions by means of providing a coordinated and interdisciplinary training program for young researchers. In order to achieve this objective, strict quality criteria according to internationally recognized standards are applied in the selection of students and teaching staff for the program. Research projects and the training program conducted within the framework of the GGNB need to comply with similarly strict quality standards. The GGNB will establish special measures to maintain and regularly control the quality standards and to ensure good scientific practice.

(2) Doctoral students at the GGNB, who have been recruited internationally and who fulfil the quality requirements, are to be provided with the optimal conditions to successfully complete an excellent dissertation. For each doctoral student, this includes membership in a doctoral program and individual supervision by a Thesis Committee comprising at least three members. In addition, the GGNB offers a broad spectrum of subject-specific and interdisciplinary courses and seminars, and further training in key skills. The GGNB aims to prepare its doctoral students in the best possible way for a career in scientific research, industry, research administration, or similar career options either in Germany or abroad.

(3) The GGNB is committed to promoting equal opportunities and to implementing appropriate measures to promote career development for women.

REGULATION 3

Structure

(1) The GGNB forms part of the GAUSS graduate school and includes the doctoral programs listed in Appendix 6 of the Doctoral Degree Regulations for the Doctoral Programs of the GGNB. In agreement with the Managing Board of GAUSS, the Managing Board of GGNB may incorporate further doctoral programs within the framework of these regulations.

(2) The GGNB Office provides a central administration and service unit for the GGNB and supports all activities of the GGNB Managing Board. The office is responsible for organizing application and selection procedures, doctoral examinations, quality assurance, financial management of the GGNB, the course and events program, counselling offered by the graduate school, as well as for reporting, alumni and public relations activities (Regulation 13).

REGULATION 4

Organizational Units; Service Units

(1) The organizational units of the GGNB comprise the Managing Board, the spokesperson, the Assembly of Delegates and the Scientific Advisory Board.

(2) The organizational units of the GGNB doctoral programs comprise the General Assembly of the doctoral programs and the respective Program Committees.

(3) The organizational units of the GGNB, in particular the spokesperson, are supported by the staff of the GGNB Office.

REGULATION 5

Members; Associate Members

(1) The members of the GGNB are

- a) all personnel assigned to the GGNB,
- b) all faculty members involved in the GGNB, and
- c) the doctoral students.

(2) Associate members of the GGNB are researchers who have been approved as such by the GGNB and who participate in the responsibilities outlined in Regulation 2 without being a mem-

ber in accordance with para. 1. This applies in particular to members of a Thesis Committee who are not faculty members.

(3) Faculty members of the GGNB must fulfil the following conditions:

- a) must be researchers who spend at least 50% of their working time or, alternatively, 50% of the average responsibilities and duties of a full-time employee dedicated to working in the research areas of the GGNB, and who have shown the capability to conduct independent scientific work; this can generally be demonstrated by the successful completion of doctoral studies in the natural sciences,
- b) must be a member of one of the research institutions involved in the GGNB in accordance with Regulation 1,
- c) must be able to demonstrate through their scientific work that they fulfil the GGNB's requirements for highly qualified scientific training for doctoral students, and
- d) must be researchers who fulfil the requirements for membership in GAUSS (Regulation 7, Regulations of the Mathematical and Natural Science Graduate School at the Georg-August University Göttingen (Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)) in the currently effective version) and who fulfil the requirements to become a faculty member in GAUSS (Regulation 11, Framework Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Mathematical and Natural Science Graduate School at the Georg-August University Göttingen (Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS)) in the currently effective version).

(4) Associate members of the GGNB must fulfil the following conditions:

- a) must be researchers who spend at least 50% of their working time or, alternatively, 50% of the average responsibilities and duties of a full-time employee dedicated to working in the research areas of the GGNB, and who have shown the capability to conduct independent scientific work; this can generally be demonstrated by the successful completion of doctoral studies in the natural sciences,
- b) must be a member of one of the research institutions involved in the GGNB in accordance with Regulation 1,
- c) must be able to demonstrate their scientific excellence through publications in recognized peer-reviewed journals, and
- d) must be actively involved in the supervision of a doctoral student at the GGNB.

(5) The admission of faculty members and associate members requires a written application based on the suggestion of the responsible Program Committee, which is decided upon by the GGNB Managing Board in agreement with the GAUSS Managing Board. The provisions of para. 1 remain unaffected. It is possible to hold faculty or associate membership in more than one GGNB doctoral program.

(6) Doctoral students in the GGNB include those who have been accepted as a doctoral student in one of the GGNB doctoral programs by the responsible GGNB Program Committee.

(7) The membership of faculty members is limited to five years and can be repeatedly extended for a further five year period; para. 5 applies accordingly. The status as associate member is limited to the duration of the active involvement in the supervision of an individual doctoral student at the GGNB.

(8) Faculty membership and the associate member status in the GGNB are terminated when there is no further involvement in the tasks of the GGNB, in particular in the case of the end of an employment contract. Faculty membership and the associate member status are also terminated when faculty members or associate members inform the GGNB Managing Board of their withdrawal within a notice period of six weeks to the end of a given month.

(9) The GGNB Managing Board may decide on the exclusion of a faculty member or associate member if there is a good cause to do so. This is generally the case if the responsibilities as outlined in Regulation 6 or other duties have repeatedly failed to be fulfilled or have not been fulfilled to a considerable extent, or if the scientific achievements do not fulfil the standards set by the GGNB. The affected party must be given the opportunity to appeal the decision within a reasonable grace period. The affected party is to be informed of the decision in writing and with appropriate justification.

REGULATION 6

Rights and Duties of Members

(1) Members are required to support the aims and tasks of the GGNB in accordance with Regulation 2 and to participate in the organization of the GGNB. The rights and responsibilities of the doctoral students and supervisors are outlined in detail in the Doctoral Degree Regulations for the doctoral programs of the GGNB and the individual supervision agreements. All members are obliged to ensure that the doctoral examination procedures are conducted in a timely and efficient manner in line with the aims and objectives of the graduate school.

(2) Members of the GGNB may submit suggestions for activities to be carried out within the doctoral program or the graduate school at any time, addressed to the responsible Program Committee or the Managing Board.

(3) Members are entitled to use the infrastructure and resources of the GGNB for any business in accordance with the GGNB goals. They may avail of the funding available to the GGNB in accordance with the procedure outlined under Regulation 18.

(4) Members are required to report regularly to the GGNB, in particular in the case where the GGNB is required to report to third parties. For doctoral students, reports may be conducted in the framework of the quality assurance procedure outlined in Regulation 15. Members should also participate in the preparation of grant proposals as required.

(5) Members are obliged to comply with the regulations set by funding agencies for the GGNB for the duration of the funding period, in particular with regard to any requirements concerning publications and commercial exploitation.

(6) If a member leaves the GGNB due to relocation, the Managing Board may extend funding provided to the member for maximally six additional months as transitional funding measure (*Auslaufffinanzierung*). Equipment may not be transferred to the new place of employment; any exceptions in this regard are to be decided on by the GGNB Managing Board and the Presidential Board of the University of Göttingen.

REGULATION 7

Assembly of Delegates

(1) The following are members of the Assembly of Delegates:

- a) The spokesperson of the GGNB;
- b) Representatives of the non-university members of the GGNB doctoral programs;
- c) Representatives of the doctoral students of the GGNB doctoral programs;
- d) Members of the GGNB Office whose responsibilities lie predominantly in management or coordination.

(2) Each of the GGNB doctoral programs is to designate as voting members in the Assembly of Delegates (i) a non-university member as representative of non-university faculty members, if the program spokesperson is not a non-university member, and (ii) a doctoral student. Voting members also include the members of the GGNB Office according to para. 1 d).

(3) The GGNB Assembly of Delegates meets at least once annually. An assembly meeting may also be called on the request of the Managing Board or by one third of the voting members. The request to call an assembly meeting must include a proposal for an agenda.

(4) The Assembly of Delegates

a) elects the members of the Managing Board in accordance with Regulation 8, para. 1 c) – e) and according to the provisions of Regulation 8, para. 2;

b) can vote out the members of the Managing Board in accordance with Regulation 8, para. 1 c) – e) and according to the provisions of Regulation 8, para. 2.

(5) The Assembly of Delegates is convened and chaired by the spokesperson of GGNB or his/her representative. The assembly constitutes a quorum when the meeting has been convened according to the appropriate procedures and the majority of the members are present. The appropriate procedures are fulfilled when a written invitation including the provisional agenda is circulated by the spokesperson of GGNB or, should he/she be unavailable, by his/her representative with a week's notice. Faculty members and associate members of the GGNB may attend the Assembly of Delegates in an advisory function.

REGULATION 8

Managing Board

(1) The GGNB Managing Board comprises:

a) the spokesperson (executive director) for the GGNB,

b) the spokespersons of each of the GGNB doctoral programs,

c) a representative of the non-university institutions if these are not already represented in the Managing Board under a) or b),

d) a member of the GGNB Office whose responsibilities lie predominantly in management or coordination,

e) a doctoral student from the GGNB.

(2) The members of the Managing Board as outlined in para. 1 c) – e) are elected by the respective group members of the GGNB represented in the Assembly of Delegates. The members as outlined in para. 1 c) – e) can be voted out of the Managing Board by the respective group

members of the GGNB by the nomination of a new representative by a majority of two-thirds of the voting members of the respective group.

(3) Members of the Managing Board are elected for a period of two years and, in the case of the doctoral students, a period of one year. Re-election is possible.

(4) The Managing Board is responsible for the management of affairs of the GGNB and all its duties and responsibilities. In particular, it is responsible for the following tasks:

- a) Further development and, if necessary, adaptation of the scientific concept and the training program including the dissemination of the rules of good scientific practice.
- b) Conception, implementation and monitoring of all training elements of the GGNB.
- c) Integration of non-university partners.
- d) Preparation and adoption of all GGNB reports to the responsible university committees, the DFG (German Science Foundation) and to the external Scientific Advisory Board.
- e) Admission or exclusion of members.
- f) Admission or exclusion of doctoral programs. Doctoral programs must be approved by GAUSS before they can be admitted to the GGNB.
- g) Approval of the budget and all additional personnel or non-personnel expenditure of the GGNB. All budget-relevant decisions entailing follow-up costs which cannot be solely financed by the GGNB require the decision of the Presidential Board. The provisions of Regulation 17 remain unaffected.
- h) Administration of infrastructure, such as equipment, work space, scientific workshops and collections. The Managing Board is authorized to issue regulations governing the usage of such infrastructure.
- i) Special measures to promote equal opportunities for female scientists.
- j) Implementation of internal quality assurance procedures within the GGNB and the GGNB doctoral programs and the monitoring of these procedures.
- k) Approval and monitoring of all other activities of the GGNB.

(5) The Managing Board meets at least twice annually.

(6) The Managing Board will adopt a set of rules and procedures for its governance.

REGULATION 9

Spokesperson for the Graduate School (Executive Director)

(1) The spokesperson represents the interests of the GGNB within the framework of the Basic Regulations and is fully responsible for the operational business of the GGNB. The spokesperson is the chair of the GGNB Managing Board, prepares its decisions and implements these. In urgent cases when it is not possible to obtain a decision by the Managing Board due to time constraints, the spokesperson may decide on the necessary measures to be taken. The Managing Board is to be informed of the measures taken immediately and can reverse the decision if necessary. Any rights of third parties arising from the measures will remain unaffected.

(2) The spokesperson of the GGNB and his/her authorized representative are to be elected for a period of five years from the group of professors who are faculty members at the GGNB, and are appointed by the Presidential Board. The vote and appointment require further confirmation by the Managing Board or the Presidential Board after a period of two years. Re-election is possible. In such cases, the spokesperson does not participate in the meetings of the Managing Board.

(3) The responsibilities of the spokesperson include in particular

- a) responsibility for the appropriate distribution of funding and for the overall budget of the GGNB. In the case of the purchase of equipment whose use or follow-up costs cannot be fully financed by the GGNB, the decision must be approved by the GGNB Managing Board and the Presidential Board,
- b) convening and chairing of the meetings of the Managing Board,
- c) reporting to GAUSS on the decisions of the Managing Board,
- d) briefing members and employees,
- e) external representation of the GGNB.

(4) If the spokesperson resigns before the end of his/her period in office or can no longer fulfil his/her function as spokesperson, his/her authorized representative convenes a meeting of the Managing Board immediately to elect a new spokesperson who must then be appointed by the Presidential Board. Until the election of a new spokesperson, the spokesperson continues to hold the office as acting spokesperson. If this is not possible, the Managing Board in liaison with the university management nominates a member of the Managing Board to act as spokesperson until the election can be held.

(5) The Managing Board may vote the spokesperson out of office by the election of a successor according to para. 2 through an absolute majority of votes. The new spokesperson must then be appointed by the Presidential Board.

REGULATION 10

General Assembly of the GGNB doctoral programs

(1) Meetings of the General Assembly of the individual GGNB doctoral programs are held at least once annually. They are convened by the spokesperson for the program by means of a written invitation to be issued at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. The agenda is to be sent to all members at least seven days before the meeting is held.

(2) An assembly meeting must be held within four weeks if requested by one third of the voting members. The request to call an assembly meeting must include the proposal for an agenda.

(3) The spokesperson for the program or his/her authorized representative chairs the meetings.

(4) The General Assembly has the following responsibilities:

- a) election of and voting out of the representatives in the Program Committee,
- b) acceptance of the report provided by the spokesperson for the program,
- c) consultation in all significant matters and provision of statements for the Program Committee,
- d) issuing the recommendation to close a GGNB doctoral program, if required

The recommendation to close a doctoral program requires a majority vote by the eligible voting members of the General Assembly and the majority of the group of professors in the General Assembly.

REGULATION 11

Program Committees

(1) Each GGNB doctoral program is headed by its own Program Committee.

(2) The Program Committee comprises:

- a) the spokesperson for the program,
- b) four faculty members from the GGNB doctoral program,
- c) a faculty member from the non-university institutions involved in the program in the case that these institutions are not already represented in the Program Committee by a member according to a) – b),
- d) a doctoral student.

In justified cases, the composition of the Program Committee can vary from that outlined in 1) by the decision of the GGNB Managing Board.

- (3) The members according to para. 2 b) – d) are elected by the respective group members in the General Assembly. The members according to para. 2 b) – d) can be voted out by the respective group members in the General Assembly by the nomination of a new representative by a two-thirds majority of eligible voting members of the respective group. Members of the Program Committee are elected for a period of two years and, in the case of the doctoral students, a period of one year.
- (4) The spokesperson for the GGNB doctoral program and his/her representative are to be elected for a period of two years from the group of professors who are faculty members at the GGNB by the Program Committee. Re-election is possible.
- (5) The Program Committee is responsible for all the tasks of the program, in particular the following:
 - a) coordination of the respective doctoral program,
 - b) responsibility for the program-specific aspects of the training concept,
 - c) nomination of delegates for the Assembly of Delegates,
 - d) distribution of the allocated funding among the according activities within the doctoral program,
 - e) organization of the application and selection procedures for the doctoral program,
 - f) appointment of the Thesis Committees for the doctoral students in the doctoral program,
 - g) acceptance of the annual progress reports and oversight of the courses completed by the doctoral students in the doctoral program,
 - h) nomination of faculty members for approval by the GGNB Managing Board,
 - i) admission of associate members to the doctoral program,

- j) contribution of the doctoral program to the courses offered by the GGNB (e.g. methods courses),
- k) organization of program specific activities (e.g. PhD seminars or scientific retreats),
- l) reporting to the GGNB Managing Board, the GAUSS Managing Board and the General Assembly of the doctoral program.

REGULATION 12

Scientific Advisory Board

- (1) The Presidential Board of the University of Göttingen will appoint a Scientific Advisory Board for the GGNB based on the nominations made by the GGNB Managing Board.
- (2) The Scientific Advisory Board must include at least eight members. Members of the Scientific Advisory Board shall include researchers who are internationally recognized in the research fields covered by the GGNB and who are, due to their expertise, in the position to evaluate the development of the GGNB and to monitor its quality. Members of the institutions involved in the GGNB are excluded as members of the Scientific Advisory Board.
- (3) The members of the Scientific Advisory Board are appointed for a period of six years. Re-appointment is possible. In the event of the resignation of a member before the end of the six-year period, a replacement will be appointed for the remainder of the period. In the nomination of the members of the Scientific Advisory Board, half of the members to be nominated for the next period should already have served as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board.
- (4) The Scientific Advisory Board is responsible for the following tasks in particular:
 - a) evaluation and recommendations on the training of the GGNB,
 - b) evaluation and recommendations on the scientific and/or structural development of the GGNB,
 - c) comments on the activity reports of the GGNB Managing Board.
- (5) The Scientific Advisory Board elects a chairperson and a vice-chair from among its members. The chairperson is responsible for issuing the suggestions and decisions of the Scientific Advisory Board to the GGNB Managing Board. The Scientific Advisory Board is usually to be convened every two years by the chairperson in liaison with the GGNB spokesperson. The chairperson is responsible for preparing and holding the meeting, in liaison with the GGNB spokesperson. He/she chairs the meeting and forwards the report to the Presidential Board. The re-

sponsible members of the Presidential Board and the members of the GGNB Managing Board may participate in the meeting. The subsequent discussion of the Scientific Advisory Board's report is a closed session.

(6) The Scientific Advisory Board will adopt a set of rules and procedures for its governance.

REGULATION 13

GGNB Office

(1) The GGNB is supported by an office, the structure and organization of which is to be decided upon by the GGNB Managing Board.

(2) The office is responsible for:

- a) the organization and further development of the structures and tasks of the GGNB,
- b) support for the organization units of the GGNB, in particular for the GGNB spokesperson,
- c) preparation of the meetings of the GGNB Managing Board and the Scientific Advisory Board,
- d) preparation of the reports of the GGNB Managing Board,
- e) support for the GGNB doctoral programs in the organization of the application and selection procedures,
- f) support in the implementation of examination procedures,
- g) implementation of quality assurance measures within the graduate school,
- h) coordination of the courses and events offered throughout the graduate school,
- i) support and advisory services in particular for international doctoral students of GGNB in administrative matters,
- j) organization of equal opportunity measures within the GGNB in coordination with the Department for Equal Opportunities and the equal opportunities representatives in the participating institutions,
- k) public relations for the GGNB in coordination with the press offices of the institutions involved,
- l) human resources and financial management within the GGNB,
- m) correspondence.

REGULATION 14

Decision-making, Voting, Minutes

- (1) The organization units of the GGNB constitute a quorum when more than half of the eligible voting members are present following proper notification. Votes cannot be transferred to another person. If a quorum is not reached in a particular meeting, a quorum will be constituted at the next meeting independently of the number of participants if this has been explicitly referred to in the invitation.
- (2) If not otherwise stipulated in these regulations, decisions within the organization units of the GGNB will be taken based on the majority yes/no votes (simple majority). In the event of a tied vote, the vote of the GGNB spokesperson or the program spokesperson or, in the absence, their representatives will be decisive. Abstained votes count as votes not cast. A decision cannot be taken if more than half of the eligible voting members present cast an invalid vote or abstain from voting. The vote must be taken by secret ballot if so requested by an eligible voting member.
- (3) The members of the Managing Board and the Program Committees may agree in their rules and procedures on the possibility to take decisions by written consent in lieu of a meeting.
- (4) Meetings of the various organizational units of the GGNB are to be documented in decision minutes which are to be made available at the latest in the invitation to the next meeting. The minutes are deemed to be accepted if no objections or requests for changes are submitted within 14 days of their availability.
- (5) Meetings of the organizational units of the GGNB are not open to the public unless otherwise regulated in these regulations. Faculty members or associate members of the GGNB may be invited to meetings in an advisory function in individual cases.
- (6) The provisions of the Basic Regulations of the Georg-August University Göttingen with regard to decisions apply.

REGULATION 15

Training Concept / Doctoral Studies

- (1) The GGNB offers students a training program designed in compliance with the aims of the graduate school. The organization and quality assurance of this training concept lies with the Managing Board, the Program Committees and the GGNB Office according to the area of responsibility.

(2) The (subject-specific) supervision of the dissertation projects and the doctoral students is the responsibility of a Thesis Committee which is appointed by the Program Committee following a discussion of the suggestions by the doctoral student and the supervisors. The Program Committee can amend the composition of the Thesis Committee upon request by one of the Thesis Committee members or by the doctoral student.

(3) In addition to the subject-specific supervision, the GGNB also offers special career promotion activities. Particular attention is given to equal opportunities activities.

(4) The doctoral degree regulations of the GGNB doctoral program and the individual supervision agreement regulate the doctoral examination procedures.

REGULATION 16

Scholarships

(1) The GGNB awards scholarships for doctoral students. The maximum period over which these scholarships can be awarded is three years.

(2) Doctoral students holding scholarships may have the possibility to extend the scholarship in the case of parental leave within the framework of the legal conditions attached to the funding.

(3) Doctoral students holding scholarships may have the possibility to extend the scholarship in the case of hardship (e.g. serious illness, pregnancy) within the framework of the legal conditions attached to the funding.

(4) The GGNB Managing Board decides on the allocation of scholarships and the extension of the funding period as outlined in 2) and 3).

REGULATION 17

Appointments

(1) For professorial appointments (W2, W3) where membership in the GGNB is foreseen or possible, the GGNB is to be involved in the appointment procedure via the nomination of at least one third or, in the case of financing, at least half of the voting members of the appointment committee which is to be organised by the Faculty.

(2) The chairperson of the appointment committee is proposed by the Faculty under which the newly appointed professor is to be appointed. The Dean of the Faculty presents the suggested appointment in the Senate.

(3) The GGNB Managing Board can submit a position statement to the Presidential Board and to the Senate of the University of Göttingen on all suggested appointments which it views as being relevant to the GGNB. The Scientific Advisory Board is consulted by the GGNB Managing Board on the suggested appointments and can issue recommendations.

(4) The regulations are also applicable for the appointment of junior professors who are to be financed by the GGNB.

REGULATION 18

Internal Financial Distribution

(1) The GGNB decides on the budget for the graduate school.

(2) The GGNB Managing Board is accountable to both the Presidential Board of the University of Göttingen and the respective funding agency with regard to the use of resources.

(3) The financial accounts are an integral part of the report of the GGNB Managing Board to the GAUSS Managing Board, the President of the University of Göttingen and the Scientific Advisory Board.

(6) The GGNB Managing Board can allocate part of the funding for the graduate school to the GGNB doctoral programs. The respective Program Committee then decides on the allocation of this funding.

(7) For the award of performance-related funding (e.g. doctoral scholarships) the GGNB Managing Board or the respective Program Committee will enact an award procedure with selection criteria that are to be communicated to the members of the graduate school.

(8) Financial support for activities within the graduate school can be applied for by all members of the GGNB from the funding budgeted for the graduate school. Applications should be submitted in writing via the spokesperson of the respective Program Committee.

REGULATION 19

Inventions/ Patentable Results

If inventions or other patentable results arise from the work conducted in the GGNB, the institutions involved commit to inform each other of such results without delay. A separate agreement

on the further procedures will be agreed and concluded jointly between the institutions involved in each individual case.

REGULATION 20

Rights of Use

(1) As far as required for the purposes of cooperation within the GGNB and in particular for the realization of the aims and objectives outlined in Regulation 2, the institutions involved and the members of the GGNB will grant each other non-exclusive and non-transferable rights of use to information and results arising from the work carried out in the GGNB, in as far as the institutions involved and the members of the GGNB avail of the possibility to grant this right at the respective time. The same applies for information and results which did not arise from work carried out in the GGNB, but which are related to the aims and objectives of the GGNB, as long as this does not give rise to a conflict with the interests of any third parties which need to be considered.

(2) For the duration of the cooperation within the GGNB, the concession for the right of use as outlined in para. 1 is free of charge. Following the end of the cooperation within the GGNB or for objectives not mentioned in para. 1, the institutions involved and the members of the GGNB are free to negotiate an appropriate charge for the concession of rights of use. This is to be agreed on and negotiated for each individual case.

(3) Para. 1 and 2 also apply for inventions or other patentable results unless other arrangements have been made in accordance with Regulation 19.

REGULATION 21

Publications

(1) The results arising from the scientific research conducted by members of the GGNB are to be published in suitable form in accordance with the regulations for the publication of scientific results according to section 7) of the DFG Regulations for Institutions funded under the Excellence Initiative (DFG/WR form ExIn 10 – 10/07). Each publication should contain a reference to the funding received within the graduate school, together with a reference to the funding of the project through the Excellence Initiative (see 7 d of the Regulations for Institutions funded under the Excellence Initiative).

(2) Joint results are to be published only with the consent of all contributors.

(3) For all publications, it should be ensured that intellectual property rights (IPR) and the possibility to file for patents are not negatively affected by the publication of results.

REGULATION 22

Warranty / Liability

(1) The institutions involved in the GGNB and its members are obliged to conduct their work within the GGNB appropriately and, to the best of their knowledge, according to the current state-of-the-art in science and technology. Beyond this, there are generally no warranty requirements, in particular when there is no negative effect on IPR arising from results generated in the work at the GGNB. However, as soon as there is notice of such IPR issues, the institutions are required to inform each other in this regard.

(2) Claims of the institutions involved in the GGNB against each other for the reimbursement of any damages are excluded, as long as these damages are not caused deliberately or through gross negligence. The reimbursement of follow-up damages (e.g. lost profit) is excluded.

(3) The institutions involved in the GGNB and its members are obliged to treat the transfer of information within the work conducted in the GGNB with appropriate accuracy and care. The institutions involved in the GGNB and its members are not liable for the accuracy and completeness of information provided to them in the framework of this agreement or for damages of any kind which may result from the use of this information. The provisions outlined in para. 1 and 2 remain unaffected.

REGULATION 23

Final Provisions and Entry into Force

Any amendments to these regulations are to be agreed with the DFG. Heads of the institutions involved are to be informed of any such changes immediately. Any amendments or additions to the provisions under Regulations 14, 19 – 21 require the prior approval of the heads of all institutions involved.

These regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in the official bulletin (*Amtliche Mitteilungen*) of the Georg-August University Göttingen.