

Bylaws of the Georg August University of Göttingen

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Table of Contents

I. Basic concepts

- Section 1 Legal status, name, seal and bodies
- Section 2 Tasks and goals
- Section 3 Organisation
- Section 4 Cooperation with non-University research facilities
- Section 5 Members
- Section 6 Affiliates

II. Bodies of the University and their tasks

- Section 7 The Presidential Board
- Section 8 The Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen
- Section 9 The Structural and Innovation Fund
- Section 10 The Senate
- Section 11 The tasks of the Senate
- Section 12 The Dean's Office
- Section 13 The Faculty Council

III. Special bodies and commissions, commissioners, as well as initiatives of the University

- Section 14 Councils
- Section 15 Commissions
- Section 16 Study Commissions
- Section 17 Commissioner for the Interests of Students with Disabilities or Chronic Diseases
- Section 18 Students' initiative
- Section 19 Representation of post-doctoral students
- Section 20 Ombudspersons and ombuds body for science
- Section 21 Investigation commission to ensure good research practice
- Section 22 Ethical commissions

IV. The Equal Opportunities Officer

- Section 23 Equal Opportunities Officer, Equality Council

V. Faculties and facilities of the University

- Section 24 Faculties and other organisational units
- Section 25 Facilities
- Section 26 Research facilities
- Section 27 Infrastructural facilities; facilities for special tasks
- Section 28 Administration
- Section 29 Affiliated institutes

VI. Appointments of professors

Section 30 Establishment and occupation of professorships

Section 31 Special appointment procedures

Section 32 Appointment of junior professors

Section 33 Joint appointment procedure

VII. Self-regulation

Section 34 The principles of self-regulation

Section 35 Office and functions

Section 36 Public meetings

Section 37 Resolutions

Section 38 Procedural provisions

Section 39 Procedure to award study quality funds

Section 40 Approval, coming into force, transitional provisions

VIII. Other

Section 41 Approval, coming into force, transitional provisions

Annex

I. Basic concepts

Section 1 Legal status, name, seal and bodies

(1) The University of Göttingen (below: University) is subject to the state responsibility of the *Land* Lower Saxony, and is a public law corporation entitled to self-regulation.

(2) ¹The University bears the name “Georg August University Göttingen” after its founder, as well as its historical name “Georgia Augusta”, and a seal the words and image of which are depicted in the Annex. ²A faculty of the University may use a faculty seal in addition to the seal of the University. ³This faculty seal shall be determined by the Faculty Council, and shall require the approval of the Presidential Board. ⁴It shall be published in the University’s Official Announcements I (*Amtliche Mitteilungen I*). ⁵The University’s central administration shall keep a list of the faculty seals.

(3) ¹The central bodies of the University shall be the Presidential Board, the Senate and the Board of Göttingen University Medical Centre. ²The Dean’s Offices and faculty councils shall be bodies of the faculties.

Section 2 Tasks and goals

(1) ¹The University is aware of its connection with the internationally-significant research Universities within the scientific community. ²It shall serve the following goals in research and teaching, studies and further training

- to retain traditional knowledge with a critical outlook, to render it useful and hand it on to coming generations through excellent teaching,
- to obtain new knowledge in all disciplines, including beyond their traditional boundaries,
- to enable students to act responsibly in the sciences, as well as in all fields of cultural, political and economic life.

(2) ¹The University shall also promote international, national and regional cooperation through research, teaching, studies, further training and services, in particular with other scientific facilities. ²It considers itself to be furthermore obliged to help shape its regional environment and to help disseminate and use the results of its work.

(3) ¹The University shall make an active contribution within the areas in which it operates towards bringing about equality between all people, and shall contribute towards students’ social advancement. ²It shall particularly promote the implementation of the equal rights of women and men, shall take precautions to avoid breaches of the General Equal Treatment Act (*Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz*), and shall ensure that the teaching provided by the University can be taken up barrier-free to the greatest possible extent.

(4) The University shall oblige its members and affiliates to adhere to the rules of good academic practice, and shall take precautions to avoid violations.

(5) The University shall inform the public of the execution and performance of its tasks, and shall endeavour to enter into an open dialogue with all groups within society.

Section 3 Organisation

(1) The University to which the present Bylaws apply shall be organised by the “Georg August University Göttingen, Foundation under Public Law” (hereinafter: Foundation), and shall perform its tasks in close cooperation with the latter.

(2) The bodies of the Foundation shall be the Foundation Council, the University Foundation Committee and the University Medical Centre Foundation Committee, the Presidential Board and the Board of the University Medical Centre.

Section 4 Cooperation with non-University research facilities

(1) The University shall work together closely with non-University facilities at the Göttingen location (Göttingen Campus); the Göttingen Campus Council (GCC) in particular has been established for this purpose.

(2) The GCC shall be composed of an equal number of University members and members of the non-University research institutions at the Göttingen location.

(3) The tasks of the GCC within joint interests and projects shall consist:

- a) of drawing up proposals to develop the research structures of the research institutions present at the Göttingen location and involved in the GCC, including their infrastructure;
- b) of advising the Presidential Board, the Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen and the Senate of the University of Göttingen, including its commissions, the faculties as well as other research facilities at the Göttingen location which are involved in the GCC;
- c) of developing proposals for new research initiatives and research associations;
- d) of initiating and preparing joint research applications (University and non-University research facilities);
- e) of developing proposals and advice on the internationalisation of the Göttingen Campus;
- f) of developing proposals and advice for the public relations work of the Göttingen Campus;
- g) of designing the Göttingen Campus.

(4) The goal of the GCC shall be to combine specialist skills all over the campus, to create synergies and to help ensure quality in research.

(5) The details shall be governed by Statutes, which shall require the approval of the Senate.

(6) ¹In addition to cooperation in the GCC, the University shall work together closely with other strategic partners, who can be included as associated partners of the Göttingen Campus with the consent of the members of the GCC. ²A joint meeting of the members and associated partners of the Göttingen Campus shall be held once per year with the aim in mind of informing one another and of coordinating in matters of fundamental significance.

Section 5 Members

(1) ¹Members shall be deemed to be the individuals working at the University on a full-time basis, not only temporarily or as guests, the students who are enrolled at the University, as well as the doctoral students who have been accepted. ²Professors and junior professors who perform official duties at the University after being nominated jointly with a research facility outside the University field or in the context of cooperation agreements without being employed by the University on a full-time basis shall additionally be deemed to be members. ³The same shall apply to individuals who satisfy the prerequisites for appointment as professors and who have been nominated in a joint appointment procedure in accordance with section 26 subsection (8), sentence 2, of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (*NHG*).

(2) ¹The members of the University shall have the right and the obligation to take part in the self-regulation and in the performance of the tasks of the University, in particular in bodies, advisory bodies, committees and commissions with special tasks (hereinafter together: Bodies). ²They shall not be bound by mandates and instructions in so doing.

(3) ¹Staff shall be allocated to a faculty, to a cross-faculty facility or to the Presidential Board. ²The particularities of the organisation of the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall remain unaffected thereby.

(4) ¹An employee can be a member of several faculties or facilities. ²Secondary memberships shall be decided at faculty level by the faculty councils of the faculties involved, and in other cases by the management of the receiving facility; the Dean's Offices of the faculties involved, in the case of a cross-faculty facility only the Dean's Office of the main faculty, as well as with a first or secondary membership at central level the Presidential Board, shall be informed accordingly in text form without delay. ³When it comes to secondary memberships at faculty level, the person shall only be entitled to vote in one faculty; the faculties can permit an exception to this restriction in individual cases, and shall inform the central administration thereof without delay. ⁴The tasks in teaching and examinations incumbent vis-à-vis the faculty or facility of the first membership shall remain unaffected by a secondary membership.

(5) In derogation from subsection (4), the secondary membership of a facility shall exist without there being a need for a resolution on the part of the management if the secondary membership emerges from an order or from the employment relationship, in particular when the employee is obliged to perform official tasks at the facility to a not inconsiderable extent.

(6) The receiving faculty or facility shall keep a list of secondary memberships.

Section 6 Affiliates

(1) Affiliates shall be deemed to be individuals working at the University who – without being

members – regularly perform tasks of the University to a not inconsiderable extent, in particular

- retired and released professors,
- visiting professors,
- guest researchers,
- contract lecturers,
- assisting lecturers,
- adjunct professors,
- guest students,
- those working in a special field of research,
- individuals who were honoured on the basis of a Regulation of the University to issue their distinctions and awards,
- scholarship holders if they are not in a further legal relationship with the University giving rise to membership, and
- registered alumni.

(2) The Senate can declare further individuals who have rendered particular services to the University to be affiliates.

(3) ¹Self-regulation tasks and other tasks of the University may be assigned to affiliates of the University by the competent body in individual cases. ²Such assignments shall be ruled out with regard to tasks

- a) involving responsibility for human resources or budget unless they relate to third-party funding acquired by them,
- b) in the management body of a facility,
- c) in a commission of the Senate or of the Faculty Council,
- d) in a standing administrative commission for a course of studies;

any contribution on the basis of derogating provisions contained in the present Bylaws or in other legal provisions shall remain unaffected thereby.

(4) The provisions contained in section 5 subsections (3) to (6), with the exception of subsection (4), sentence 3, shall apply mutatis mutandis to affiliates.

II. Bodies of the University and their tasks

Section 7 The Presidential Board

(1) The University shall be managed by a Presidential Board on its own responsibility.

(2) ¹As well as the President, five Vice Presidents shall belong to the Presidential Board, two of whom shall be full-time and three part-time. ²The divisions “Finance and Human Resources” and “Infrastructures” shall be exercised on a full-time basis, and the others on a part-time basis. ³The Presidential Board shall regulate the further details regarding the divisions, as well as the competences for faculties and facilities, in a schedule of responsibilities that is to be published.

(3) ¹The President shall represent the University externally, shall chair the Presidential Board, and shall stipulate the guidelines for the Presidential Board. ²The rules of representation of the members of the Presidential Board shall be determined by the schedule of responsibilities.

(4) Various specialist cultures are to be represented in the Presidential Board; the part-time Vice Presidents are to belong to different faculties or facilities.

(5) ¹The term of office of a part-time Vice President shall be two years, and four years should he/she be re-elected. ²Re-election shall be possible twice. ³If a part-time Vice President leaves the Presidential Board, or if his/her term of office is terminated in accordance with section 39 subsection (3), sentence 6, second clause of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act, he/she shall continue the business until a successor has been appointed. ⁴The previous part-time Vice President may also be appointed as successor within the meaning of sentence 3; such appointment shall not be regarded as constituting a re-election within the meaning of sentence 2, and shall not affect the term of office in accordance with sentence 1.

Section 8 The Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen

¹The University Medical Centre Göttingen shall be headed by a Board made up of three members as a body of the University. ²The Board shall represent the Presidential Board in matters relating to the University Medical Centre Göttingen. ³The spokesperson of the Board shall represent the University at the University of Göttingen in matters relating to the University Medical Centre.

Section 9 The Structural and Innovation Fund

(1) The University (not including the University Medical Centre Göttingen) shall establish a Structural and Innovation Fund in accordance with the budget responsibility of the Presidential Board. It shall constitute part of the basis for the autonomous management of the University's structural development and research innovation.

(2) The details regarding the cash inflow/outflow shall be governed by a guideline of the Presidential Board, on which it shall resolve once the Senate has made a statement.

Section 10 The Senate

(1) ¹The Senate is the highest elected body of the University. ²It shall in particular be the advocate of its goals.

(2) 13 voting members shall belong to the Senate. ²They shall be directly elected according to groups. ³The term of office shall be two years, and one year with the students' group. ⁴The voting members of the Senate shall be:

- seven members of the university lecturers' group,
- two members of the staff group,

- two members of the students' group, and
- two members of the technical and administrative staff group.

(2) The President shall convene the meetings of the Senate and shall chair the meetings.

(3) ¹The Presidential Board, the Deans, the full-time Equal Opportunities Officers of the University and of the University Medical Centre, one member each of the Staff Council of the University and of the University Medical Centre Göttingen, the Director of the SUB, as well as a member of the representation of post-doctoral students, shall attend the meetings of the Senate as non-voting members. ²The member of the representation of post-doctoral students shall not attend meetings of the Senate relating to personnel matters, or where participation is exceptionally precluded by other specific interests. ³Members of the Foundation Council, of the Foundation Committee of the University or of the Foundation Committee of the University Medical Centre can attend meetings of the Senate without a voting right. ⁴Should they be unable to attend, the Deans, the full-time Equal Opportunities Officers of the University and of the University Medical Centre, the member of a Staff Council, the Director of the SUB and the member of the representation of post-doctoral students may be represented by designated deputies, in the case of the Dean only by a member of the Dean's Office within the meaning of section 12 subsection (1).

(5) The Presidential Board shall implement the resolutions of the Senate.

Section 11 The tasks of the Senate

(1) The Senate shall propose the members of the Presidential Board for nomination or appointment in accordance with the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act.

(2) The Senate shall submit a statement prior to the decision of the Presidential Board on all and any matters of fundamental importance related to self-regulation which in particular may be contained in the following decision-making competences of the Presidential Board:

1. agreement of goals with the *Land* Lower Saxony,
2. budget,
3. task and performance-orientated resource management in the University,
4. a) establishment, alteration and dissolution of faculties and other organisational units,
b) structuring of a faculty at the proposal of the respective Dean's Office,
5. a) introduction, fundamental alteration and closure of courses of study, as well as
b) approval of examination regulations,
6. proposals for the appointment of university lecturers, and
7. the essential interests of the Göttingen Campus.

(3) ¹The Senate shall ensure compensation between the faculties in the achievement of the goals of the University. ²It shall resolve on:

- the Bylaws and amendments of same with a majority of two-thirds of its members,
- the Regulations of the University, insofar as their application is not restricted to faculties, to their sub-units or to comparable units,
- the Development Plan, in agreement with the Presidential Board,
- the Equality Framework Plan, in agreement with the Presidential Board,
- the Regulation on a special research area or of a graduate school, in agreement with

the Presidential Board.

(4) ¹The Senate can resolve on examination regulations for cross-faculty courses of study, as well as on amendments of same; the faculties involved shall previously be granted the opportunity to make a statement. ²In the case of a course of studies comprised of several sub-courses, the subject-specific provisions shall be resolved on by the respective Faculty Council; the other faculties involved shall be informed accordingly.

(5) It shall be incumbent on the Senate to elect a member of the University of Göttingen to the Foundation Committee of the University, and to elect a member of the University of Göttingen to the Foundation Committee of the University Medical Centre, as well as to bring about agreement with regard to the members of the Foundation Committee of the University in accordance with sections 60 subsection (1), sentence 2, No. 1 and 60 a subsection (1), sentence 2, of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act.

(6) ¹The Presidential Board shall be accountable to the Senate in all self-regulation matters within its decision-making remit. ²The Senate shall have a comprehensive right of information vis-à-vis the Presidential Board. ³The Senate shall be regularly informed by the Presidential Board regarding the occurrences which are significant to the development of the University, in particular from the following areas:

- goal agreements with the *Land* Lower Saxony,
- planning and state of development of the faculties; in particular the denomination of and award of professorships,
- the economic situation and development of the University, including its administration.

(7) ¹The Senate can formally express its disapproval of the exercise of the office of the Presidential Board, or of individual members of the Presidential Board, with a majority of two-thirds of its voting members, or may remove individual members with a majority of three-quarters of its voting members, and hence propose their dismissal. ²If the Foundation Committee of the University does not confirm the Senate's proposal, and if the Senate's attempt to reach an agreement with the Foundation Committee of the University in a joint meeting is unsuccessful, the Senate shall rule on the proposal with final effect with a majority of three-quarters of the members.

(8) ¹The Faculty Council of the Medical Center shall replace the Senate in matters related to the University Medical Centre Göttingen. ²The Senate shall make a statement irrespective of sentence 1 with regard to proposals for appointment and on matters related to self-regulation which are of fundamental importance. ³The Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall be accountable to the Senate and the Faculty Council regarding the processing of personal data, and shall inform both the Faculty Council and the Senate of the conclusion of agreed goals.

Section 12 The Dean's Office

(1) ¹The Dean's Office shall head the faculty. ²It shall be responsible in all matters relating to the faculty unless provided otherwise. ³The Dean's Office shall inform the Faculty Council of its decisions. ⁴The Dean's Office shall include the Dean and at least one Dean of Studies. ⁵The Faculty Council can resolve at the proposal of the Dean's Office with a majority of two-thirds of its members that the Dean's Office is to include up to three further members; the

proposal must include information on the intended divisions.

(2) ¹The Dean shall head the Dean's Office, represent the faculty within the University and stipulate the guidelines for the Dean's Office; the other members of the Dean's Office shall independently perform the tasks in their divisions. ²Details, in particular deputation between the members of the Dean's Office and the determination of the divisions in detail, shall be governed by Rules of Procedure to be adopted and published by the Dean's Office.

(3) ¹The Faculty Council shall elect the members of the Dean's Office. ²On proviso of subsection (4), professors of the faculty can be elected as the Dean and as further members. ³The election of the members of the Dean's Office shall require confirmation by the Presidential Board.

(4) The Faculty Study Commission shall propose to the Faculty Council a member of the group of university lecturers, or in exceptional cases a teaching member of the staff group, for election as a Dean of Studies.

(5) ¹The term of office of the members of the Dean's Office shall be two years, and that of the Dean of Studies shall be three years. ²Re-election shall be possible. ³The term of office can be suspended for the duration of two years at most in order to perform another office within the Dean's Office. ⁴On request by the Faculty Council, the Dean, and/or the members of the Dean's Office, can be released by the Presidential Board for the duration of the term of office, in full or in part, from the obligation to teach. ⁵The overall extent of the releases may not exceed the scope of a person's official tasks; the release of the Dean of Studies in accordance with section 43 subsection (3), sentence 5, No. 2 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act and section 7 subsection (1), sentence 1, No. 3 of the Ordinance on Teaching Obligations (*LVVO*) shall remain unaffected thereby.

(6) ¹A deputy may be elected for a member of the Dean's Office, for the duration of one semester at most, insofar as

- a) an important reason applies, and
- b) the permanent deputation of the member is not acceptable for the other members of the Dean's Office.

²An important reason may apply

- a) in case of a long-term illness,
- b) in case of pregnancy, or
- c) if they are released for research or artistic development projects.

³The provisions contained in subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5), sentences 4 and 5, shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. ⁴Because of the special circumstances, the Faculty Council may select the permanent deputation between the respective Dean, as well as the permanent deputation of the Dean of Studies at the University Medical Centre Göttingen, in each case for the duration of the respective term of office.

(7) Special legal stipulations for the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall remain unaffected.

Section 13 The Faculty Council

(1) ¹The Faculty Council shall decide on matters that are of fundamental significance related to the faculty regarding research and teaching. ²It shall resolve on the Regulations of the faculty to be approved by the Presidential Board, in particular the Institutes' Regulations, the study regulations and the examination regulations, and shall make a statement vis-à-vis the Presidential Board and the Senate on the introduction of, major changes to and closure of courses of study. ³The examination regulations for a cross-faculty course of study shall be resolved on jointly by the faculty councils of the faculties concerned if they are not resolved on by the Senate. ⁴It shall adopt the faculty development plan on the basis and within the framework of the University development plan.

(2) ¹The Faculty Council shall adopt the faculty's Equality Plan on the basis of the University's Equality Framework Plan. ²The Equality Plan of a faculty (not including the Medical Center) shall be submitted to the Senate for a statement and to the Presidential Board for approval. ³The Equality Plan of the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall be resolved on at the University Medical Centre Göttingen by the Faculty Council and submitted to the Senate for a statement and to the Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen for approval.

(3) ¹The Faculty Council shall include 13 voting members. ²They shall be directly elected according to groups. ³The term of office shall be two years, and one year with the students' group. ⁴The voting members of the Faculty Council shall be:

- seven members of the university lecturers' group,
- two members of the staff group,
- two members of the students' group, and
- two members of the technical and administrative staff group.

(4) The Dean shall convene the meetings of the Faculty Council, and shall act as chair.

(5) ¹The Dean, the local Equal Opportunities Officer and, subject to the provision in accordance with sentence 2, a member of the representation of post-doctoral students, shall attend the meetings of the Faculty Council as non-voting members. ²The member of the representation of post-doctoral students shall not attend meetings of the Faculty Council relating to personnel matters or where participation is exceptionally precluded by other specific interests. ³Should they be unable to attend, the Deans, the Equal Opportunities Officer and the member of the representation of post-doctoral students may be represented by designated deputies, in the case of the Dean only by a member of the Dean's Office within the meaning of section 12 subsection (1).

(6) If a resolution of the Faculty Council has been adopted on a matter relating to teaching and studies against all the votes of the students' group and the vote of the Faculty Study Commission, the matter shall be deliberated on once more on request; if the Study Commission has not previously been addressed with the matter, its statement shall be obtained prior to a renewed deliberation.

(7) The Dean's Office shall implement the resolutions of the Faculty, and shall be responsible to it.

(8) Particular legal stipulations for the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall remain unaffected.

III. Special bodies and commissions, commissioners, as well as initiatives of the University

Section 14 Councils

(1) A Council of Deans and a Council of Deans of Studies have been established at the University.

(2) The Council of Deans shall be composed of:

- the Deans,
- the members of the Presidential Board,
- the spokesperson of the University Medical Centre Göttingen,
- the Director of the Lower Saxony State and University Library.

(3) The Council of Deans of Studies shall be composed of the Deans of Studies, of the head of the Central Facility for Languages and Key Qualifications and of the member of the Presidential Board responsible for studies and teaching.

(4) The Councils shall serve the purpose of informing one another and coordinating on matters of fundamental significance, in particular the uniform management of cross-faculty matters.

(5) The details regarding the meetings can be governed via the Rules of Procedure.

Section 15 Commissions

(1) ¹A commission shall have the task of preparing decisions or statements on the part of the body establishing it by means of recommendations. ²The body establishing a commission can transfer decision-making competences to it. ³Anyone who is a member of several faculties can be appointed as a member of the commissions of these faculties, regardless of whether or not he/she is entitled to vote. ⁴Insofar as the body establishing the commission is composed according to groups, the members of a commission that is composed according to groups can be nominated by the corresponding representations of the groups in the body; if the nomination takes place neither within a meeting nor by way of circulation, the nomination is to be notified at the next meeting of the body following the nomination and noted in the record. ⁵The nomination can be revoked for the future without stating reasons by nominating a successor.

(2) ¹The term of office of the members of commissions shall end at the latest with the term of office of the members of the body establishing the commission. ²The members of the commission shall continue the business until a successor has been appointed.

- (3) ¹The Senate shall establish the following commissions:
1. the Senate Commission for Development and Financial Planning (KEF),
 2. the Research Commission of the Senate,
 3. the Senate Commission for Information Management (KIM),
 4. the Senate Commission for Equality and Diversity (KfGD),
 5. the Central Senate Commission for Teaching and Studies (zKLS).

²The commissions in accordance with sentence 1 Nos. 1-5 shall be composed of the member groups unless provided otherwise below.

(4) Members of the technical and administrative staff group shall not be included in the central Senate Commission for Teaching and Studies; the number of the members of the students' group shall be increased accordingly.

(5) ¹The full-time Equal Opportunities Officer of the University shall attend the Senate Commission for Equality and Diversity in an advisory capacity. ²The full-time Equal Opportunities Officer of the University Medical Centre Göttingen can attend the meetings of the Senate Commission in an advisory capacity.

(6) ¹The members of the Presidential Board and, unless they have been appointed as voting members of the respective Senate Commission, the members of the Senate may attend the meetings of the Senate Commissions in an advisory capacity. ²The management of the Senate Commissions (in particular the composition of the relevant material, sending the invitations, keeping the records) shall be incumbent on the central administration.

(7) ¹The Faculty Council of the Medical Center shall establish a structural commission, a research commission, a commission for research ethics and a commission for staff development. ²It shall establish its own commissions in matters which relate exclusively to the University Medical Centre Göttingen which shall substitute the Senate Commissions, in particular the Study Commission. ³The Faculty Council of the Medical Center shall establish an Equality Commission in agreement with the clinic conference. ⁴The details, in particular the composition and the tasking of the commissions of the Medical Center, shall be governed by a Regulation.

Section 16 Study Commissions

(1) ¹The University shall form standing commissions for teaching and studies (Faculty Study Commissions). ²The Presidential Board shall determine the number and size of the Faculty Study Commissions, their competence for individual courses of study and their attribution to one or more faculties. ³When it comes to cross-faculty Study Commissions, the member of the Presidential Board responsible for teaching shall determine who chairs the meeting. ⁴At the University Medical Centre Göttingen, the Board shall determine the size and number of the Study Commissions which are formed at the Medical Center. ⁵Students of all subjects represented at the Medical Center are to be considered when appointing the members of the students' group.

(2) ¹The Faculty Study Commissions are composed in equal halves of members of the students' group and of the group of teachers. ²At least one member must belong to the university lecturers' group, and at least one member must belong to the staff group.

(3) ¹The competent Faculty Study Commissions shall be heard prior to decisions of the Faculty Council on all matters relating to teaching and studies. ²They can independently address questions from their area of competence and submit proposals to the Faculty Council. ³The Faculty Council shall assess its recommendations and proposals and document its statement.

Section 17 Commissioner for the Interests of Students with Disabilities or Chronic Diseases

The office of the commissioner to defend the interests of students with disabilities or chronic diseases shall be performed free of instructions by an individual from the central administration who is tasked to do so.

Section 18 Students' initiative

¹Insofar as at least three percent of all students of the University so demand, a body of the University must deliberate and decide on a specific matter for which it is responsible (students' initiative). ²A collection of signatures with which the quorum for an application is determined may not be carried out at the same time as the elections to the collegiate bodies or to the student bodies. ³The students who are enrolled at the University when the collection of signatures commences shall be entitled to initiate and take part in the corresponding collection of signatures. ⁴The collection of signatures shall take place with regard to a matter that is to be precisely referred to, and must be implemented and completed in writing within a period of four weeks at most on the premises or in the buildings of the University, whereby data protection shall be complied with. ⁵The repeat of a collection of signatures regarding the same matter, or one closely related to it, may take place at the earliest six months after its conclusion. ⁶The details on the collection of signatures shall be governed by a Regulation. ⁷The possibility of students approaching a body on a matter directly, in particular its student members, shall remain unaffected.

Section 19 Representation of post-doctoral students

¹The representation of post-doctoral students shall deliberate on matters concerning the doctoral students, and to this end shall submit recommendations to the bodies of the University. ²The details shall be governed by a Regulation, in particular the composition, election and tasks. ³The interests of the Medical Center shall be suitably taken into account here.

Section 20 Ombudspersons and ombuds body for science

(1) ¹The Senate shall establish three members of the university lecturers' group to deliberate on and support in matters related to good research practice and its violation by scientific dishonesty as "ombuds persons for research", including one person each from the following

areas

- a) the humanities and theology,
- b) legal, social and economic science,
- c) natural science as well as mathematics and computer science.

²The ombuds persons shall together form the ombuds body.

(2) ¹In matters relating to the University Medical Centre, in derogation from subsection (1), the ombudspersons of the University Medical Centre shall be competent who together form the ombuds body of the University Medical Centre. ²The Faculty Council shall designate as ombuds persons of the University Medical Centre five members of the university lecturers' group of the University Medical Centre.

(3) The details shall be governed by a Regulation.

Section 21 Investigation commission to ensure good research practice

¹The Senate shall establish an investigation commission which is composed of five suitable personalities, including

- a) a person who possesses the qualification for judicial office,
- b) at least one person who is a member of the University Medical Centre Göttingen;

at least two persons are not to be members of the University. ²It shall have the task of examining the existence of misconduct in research insofar as there is sufficient suspicion and the matter is not negligible. ³The details shall be governed by a Regulation.

Section 22 Ethical commissions

(1) The University shall establish ethical commissions to provide advice and assess ethical aspects.

(2) ¹The ethical commission of the University shall be competent to provide advice and assess ethical aspects of research and teaching within the University, not including the areas of psychology and medicine. ²The details shall be governed by a Regulation, which the Senate and the Presidential Board shall adopt in agreement.

(3) ¹The ethical commission of the Georg Elias Müller Institute for Psychology shall be competent to provide advice and assess ethical aspects of research and teaching in psychology. ²The details shall be governed by a Regulation, which the Faculty Council and the Dean's Office of the Faculty for Biology and Psychology shall adopt in agreement; the Regulation shall require the approval of the Presidential Board.

(4) ¹The Medical Center shall establish an Ethical Commission to Assess Ethical and Legal Aspects of Research on Humans in accordance with section 10 of the Lower Saxon Act on Chambers for the Medical Professions (*Niedersächsisches Kammergesetz für Heilberufe*). ²The details shall be governed by a Regulation, which the Faculty Council and the Board shall adopt in agreement.

IV. The Equal Opportunities Officer

Section 23 Equal Opportunities Officer, Equality Council

(1) ¹The post of the University's full-time Equal Opportunities Officer shall be advertised publicly. ²The Presidential Board shall propose the text of the advertisement to the Senate for a resolution. ³The Senate Commission for Equality and Diversity shall submit to the Senate a proposal on the election of the University's full-time Equal Opportunities Officer. ⁴Two members of the Equality Council can work in an advisory capacity on drawing up this proposal. ⁵The Senate Commission shall elect two members, who shall explain the proposal to the Senate. ⁶The Senate shall elect the University's full-time Equal Opportunities Officer at the proposal of the Senate Commission for Equality and Diversity. ⁷The term of office shall be six years, and in the case of re-election eight years. ⁸With the approval of the Senate, the appointment may take place for each further term of office without an advertisement. ⁹The University's full-time Equal Opportunities Officer can appoint suitable individuals as deputies should they be absent; the appointment as well as the order of deputisation shall be documented in text form.

(2) ¹Local Equal Opportunities Officers shall be elected or appointed in the faculties, as well as in the central facilities and the central administration, taking a proposal of the respective equality assembly into account. ²Local Equal Opportunities Officers can be elected in cross-faculty research facilities or other research associations. ³The elections in the faculties shall be carried out by the Faculty Council; the appointment in the central facilities and the central administration shall be effected by the Presidential Board. ⁴Re-election or re-appointment shall be possible. ⁵The term of office shall be two years, and four years in the case of the re-election or re-appointment of full-time local Equal Opportunities Officers. ⁶With regard to full-time local Equal Opportunities Officers, the election or the appointment may take place with the consent of the equality assembly for a further term of office, in each case without any advertisement.

(3) ¹Local Equal Opportunities Officers shall perform equality-related tasks for their area on their own responsibility, and shall in particular contribute towards personnel-related decisions. ²Section 42 subsections (2) and (3) of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act shall apply mutatis mutandis. ³The rights of the University's full-time Equal Opportunities Officers shall remain unaffected. ⁴The local Equal Opportunities Officers shall each be supported by a member of the university lecturers' group appointed by the Faculty Council. ⁵Deputies may be elected or appointed for a local Equal Opportunities Officer.

(4) ¹The Faculty Council of the Medical Center shall elect an Equal Opportunities Officer for the University Medical Centre at the proposal of the Commission for Equality. ²Section 42 subsection (1), sentences 2 to 7, and subsections (2) to (4), of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act shall apply mutatis mutandis on proviso that the Faculty Council replaces the Senate and the Board replaces the Presidential Board. ³It shall replace the full-time Equal Opportunities Officer of the University in accordance with subsection (1) in matters related to the University Medical Centre Göttingen. ⁴The term of office shall be six years, and in the case of re-election eight years. ⁵The full-time Equal Opportunities Officer of the University Medical Centre Göttingen may appoint suitable persons to represent her in the event of her absence in agreement with the Faculty Council of the Medical Center; the appointment shall be documented in text form.

(5) ¹The Equal Opportunities Officers shall form the Equality Council in order to coordinate with and support one another. ²The full-time Equal Opportunities Officer of the University shall convene the Equality Council and chair its meetings.

V. Faculties and facilities of the University

Section 24 Faculties and other organisational units

(1) ¹The basic organisational unit of the University is the faculty. ²The following faculties currently exist for the tasks in research and teaching:

- the Faculty of Theology,
- the Faculty of Law,
- the Medical Center,
- the Faculty of Philosophy,
- the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science,
- the Faculty of Physics,
- the Faculty of Chemistry,
- the Faculty of Geoscience and Geography,
- the Faculty of Biology and Psychology,
- the Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology,
- the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences,
- the Faculty of Economic Sciences,
- the Faculty of Social Sciences.

(2) ¹The faculties are subdivided into research facilities, and can form infrastructural facilities. ²The Presidential Board shall decide on the structure of a faculty at the proposal of the respective Dean's Office, once the Faculty Council and the Senate have made a statement. ³The facilities may be sub-divided.

(3) The Presidential Board shall decide on the establishment, alteration and dissolution of faculties and other organisational units to which individual tasks can be assigned, once the Senate has made a statement.

(4) ¹Particular legal stipulations for the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall remain unaffected. ²Centres may be formed both as research facilities of the University Medical Centre Göttingen, and as body- or disease-related medical centres of the University Medical Centre Göttingen. ³Centres at the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall serve to institutionalise the interdisciplinary cooperation of various clinics and institutes of the University Medical Centre Göttingen or of their sub-areas in research, teaching and healthcare. ⁴Centres can also be formed jointly with non-University facilities. ⁵Centres shall

not constitute an organisational level at the University Medical Centre Göttingen. ⁶It shall be possible for centres of excellence in clinical research, medical centres of excellence, preclinical centres, interdisciplinary research facilities and institutes, as well as cross-faculty centres, to be formed at the University Medical Centre Göttingen. ⁷Furthermore, the Medical Center, clinics and institutes shall form the basic organisational units at the University Medical Centre Göttingen; clinics and institutes may be involved in several centres in accordance with sentence 6. ⁸The details shall be governed by a Regulation.

Section 25 Facilities

(1) ¹Facilities may be established as research facilities and as infrastructural facilities within a faculty, cross-faculty or at central level. ²Central facilities shall be assigned to the Presidential Board.

(2) ¹The Presidential Board shall decide on the establishment, alteration and dissolution of facilities. ²With regard to facilities of the faculties, the Presidential Board shall take the decision in agreement with the respective Dean's Office, or in the case of cross-faculty facilities in agreement with the respective Dean's Offices, and with cross-faculty or central facilities after the Senate has made a statement. ³In the University Medical Centre Göttingen, the Board shall decide in agreement with the Faculty Council and, if healthcare is concerned, additionally in agreement with the Clinic Conference.

Section 26 Research facilities

(1) ¹Research facilities at faculty level shall be departments, institutes, seminars and departments, as well as in well-founded exceptional cases centres. ²The scope and the specialist affiliation of the work areas, the extent of the long-term tasks and the basic staffing needed therefor, and premises as well as laboratory, workshop and technical equipment, shall be taken into account on their establishment.

(2) ¹Cross-faculty and central research facilities shall be in particular centres. ²They shall perform interdisciplinary tasks in research and teaching, as well as in studies, equality and further training. ³Cross-faculty research facilities shall be formed on request by the Dean's Offices of the faculties in question. ⁴The faculties involved (organising faculties) shall agree on the basic equipment, funding and organisation, as well as on the competences with appointments and matters related to studies, and shall determine the managing faculty; if no agreement is reached, the Presidential Board shall decide in agreement with the Senate. ⁵The provisions contained in subsection (1), sentence 2, and section 24 subsection (2), sentence 3, shall apply mutatis mutandis.

(3) The structural features of centres shall be determined in a guideline of the Presidential Board, which it shall adopt once the Senate has made a statement.

(4) ¹The management of the research facilities shall be incumbent on a Board. ²The management (e.g. Director, spokesperson) shall be incumbent on a member of the university lecturers' group, who shall be elected by the members of the Board or of the members' assembly; in the case of a cross-faculty or central research facility, election and removal shall

require the unanimous approval of the Presidential Board. ³The other groups are to be involved in the management in accordance with the tasks to be performed. ⁴The term of office of a member of the Board shall be two years, and one year with members of the students' group. ⁵Arrangements derogating from sentences 1 to 4 can be reached in well-founded cases; this shall also concern the involvement of affiliates. ⁶The details shall be governed by a Regulation in accordance with subsection (6).

(5) ¹Non-University facilities, in particular research facilities, other Universities and commercial enterprises, may be involved in research facilities. ²In this process, the non-University facilities may be awarded the right to second voting members to the Board, to whom the management may also be assigned. ³The details shall be governed by a Regulation in accordance with subsection (6), which shall also require the agreement of the competent bodies of the non-University facilities involved.

(6) ¹Tasks as well as questions related to the organisation, resources and utilisation of the research facilities shall be stipulated in a Regulation. ²The Regulations on the faculties' research facilities shall be adopted by the Faculty Council in agreement with the Dean's Office. ³The Regulations of the cross-faculty and central research facilities shall be adopted by the Senate in agreement with the Presidential Board. ⁴The Regulations in accordance with sentences 2 and 3 shall require the approval of the Foundation Council, and of the Foundation Committee of the University or of the Foundation Committee of the University Medical Centre in cases falling under subsection (5).

(7) Special legal stipulations for the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall remain unaffected.

Section 27 Infrastructural facilities; facilities for special tasks

(1) ¹Infrastructural facilities (e.g. libraries, computer centres, operating units, laboratories, workshops, collections and similar service facilities) may be established if it is necessary to continually provide a considerable amount of staff and material resources for certain services. ²Infrastructural facilities may be established as facilities of a faculty or of several faculties, or as central facilities. ³If several faculties (organising faculties) are involved, interdisciplinary tasks shall be performed in the infrastructural facility, in particular in the service area. ⁴The faculties involved shall reach agreement on the basic equipment, funding and organisation, and shall determine the managing faculty; if no agreement is reached, the Presidential Board shall decide. ⁵The Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen may reach arrangements derogating from this in accordance with subsection (5).

(2) ¹Tasks as well as matters of the organisation, resources and utilisation of the infrastructural facilities shall be established in a guideline. ²The guidelines of the faculty and cross-faculty infrastructural facilities shall be adopted by the Dean's Office or by the Dean's Offices of the organising faculties, and by the Presidential Board in cases coming under subsection (1), sentence 4, second clause; the guidelines of the faculty and of cross-faculty infrastructural facilities shall require the approval of the Presidential Board. ³The guidelines of the central infrastructural facilities shall be adopted by the Presidential Board. ⁴The competence to issue a guideline can be assigned to other bodies via Statutes; the details shall be regulated in the Statutes, which shall always require the approval of the Presidential Board.

(3) ¹The Lower Saxony State and University Library (SUB) shall be the central service-provider for furnishing the University with printed and digital media. ²It shall make its stocks available for research and teaching, and shall take all the necessary precautions for their maintenance. ³As a State Library, it shall make a major contribution towards the information infrastructure, including in the *Land* Lower Saxony and beyond. ⁴It shall contribute towards a sustainable information structure through research and development.

(4) ¹In exceptional cases, the Presidential Board may establish facilities at faculty level for special tasks, in agreement with the Dean's Office, at cross-faculty or central level after a statement from the Senate. ²Tasks as well as questions related to the organisation, resources and utilisation of the facility shall be recorded in a Regulation, which shall be adopted in agreement by the Senate and the Presidential Board.

(5) ¹Central service facilities for special research services may be established at the University Medical Centre Göttingen, and these must be connected to a research facility of the University Medical Centre Göttingen. ²Modes of access and utilisation of the respective central service facility shall be regulated in a guideline for utilisation, which shall be adopted by the Board.

Section 28 Administration

(1) The central administration of the University (not including the University Medical Centre Göttingen) shall perform the central administrative tasks for its field.

(2) ¹The central administration shall be assigned to the Presidential Board. ²The assignment of an administration unit to a division within the Presidential Board shall be effected by the Rules of Procedure of the Presidential Board. ³The details shall emerge from the schedule of responsibilities of the central administration.

(3) ¹The management of the departments and staff units of the central administration (ASL) shall meet on a regular basis. ²The ASL shall coordinate the activities of the science administration in coordination with the Presidential Board.

(4) Matters related to the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall be performed by their administration; the Board shall represent the Presidential Board.

(5) The Presidential Board and the Board may form joint administrative units.

Section 29 Affiliated institutes

(1) ¹At the request of a Faculty Council, and once the Senate has made a statement, the Presidential Board may recognise a non-university institute at the University which is at least largely a research facility (affiliated institute) insofar as it is comparable to a research facility of the University, freedom of research is guaranteed and it promotes the performance of the University's tasks. ²The facility shall be entitled to use the designation "Institute at the Georg August University" for the duration of the recognition. ³The Presidential Board is to revoke

recognition as an affiliated institute in particular if the preconditions in accordance with sentence 1 no longer apply; the Faculty Council and the Senate shall be afforded the opportunity to make a statement prior to the decision being taken. ⁴The Presidential Board and the Board may regulate the details in cooperation with affiliated institutes in agreement in a guideline; the Senate and the Faculty Council of the Medical Center shall be afforded the prior opportunity to make a statement.

(2) The details of the cooperation shall be regulated in a cooperation agreement between the University and the organisation of the affiliated institute.

(3) The Board shall replace the Presidential Board in matters related to the University Medical Centre Göttingen.

VI. Appointments of professors

Section 30 Establishment and occupation of professorships

(1) ¹Professorships shall be established and approved by means of a resolution of the Presidential Board, taking account of the development planning of the University and of the faculties. ²Initiatives may emanate from the Presidential Board or the faculties.

(2) ¹As a matter of principle, professorships shall be advertised publicly; the Presidential Board shall be competent therefor. ²The Faculty Council shall submit a draft thereof to the Presidential Board.

(3) ¹The proposal for appointment shall be prepared by an appointments commission, which shall be formed by the Faculty Council in agreement with the Presidential Board. ²The appointments commission shall be composed

- as a rule of five members of the university lecturers' group and two members each of the students', staff and technical and administrative staff groups,
- and otherwise of three members of the university lecturers' group and one member each of the students', staff and technical and administrative staff groups;

in place of members, persons may be appointed who because of the existence of an important reason, in particular because of taking parental leave, are temporarily not members during a specific period, but in fact affiliates. ³The representation of the technical and administrative staff group shall act in an advisory role in matters related to appointment. ⁴The involvement of two external university lecturers in the appointments commission shall be guaranteed. ⁵The group representatives in the Faculty Council shall nominate the members; if the nomination takes place neither at a meeting nor by way of circulation, the nomination shall be notified at the next meeting of the body following the nomination and noted in the record. ⁶The local Equal Opportunities Officer shall attend in an advisory capacity.

(4) The Senate shall resolve in agreement with the Presidential Board on a Regulation on Quality Assurance in Appointment Procedures.

(5) ¹If the specialist area of the post that is to be occupied affects other specialist areas, in particular those of another faculty, to a considerable degree, this is to be taken into account when drawing up the proposal for an appointment. ²The number of voting members of the

university lecturers' group in the appointments commission may be increased in such cases.

(6) No one may belong to an appointments commission who has to make proposals regarding his/her own successor.

(7) The Dean shall be informed of the meeting of the appointments commission which he or she can attend with a right to file motions and to speak.

(8) ¹The Presidential Board shall be informed of the meetings of the appointments commission; members of the Presidential Board may attend the meetings of the appointments commission in an advisory capacity insofar as they are not already voting members of the appointments commission. ²If an appointments commission is permanently unable to establish a quorate, it may be dissolved by the Presidential Board and an order given for it to be re-established.

(9) ¹Each member of the appointments commission shall be entitled to present a minority proposal. ²A minority proposal may only contain persons who have been heard.

(10) ¹The Faculty Council shall adopt the appointment proposal. ²The Senate shall make a statement regarding the proposal for an appointment; in particular at the proposal of the faculty, it shall have the possibility to refer this proposal for an appointment, or parts of this appointment proposal, to the faculty once for a renewed resolution.

(11) ¹The Presidential Board shall decide on the appointment proposal, and shall make appointments in agreement with the Foundation Committee of the University. ²If the Presidential Board does not wish to comply with the statement of the Senate, it must afford the Senate a second opportunity to make a statement, citing the reasons for the intended derogation; this shall not apply if the Senate has availed itself of its right in accordance with subsection (10), sentence 2, 2nd clause, or waives making a renewed statement. ³The appointment proposal is to be referred by the Presidential Board back to the faculty if a violation of the equality commission is asserted. ⁴A violation of the equality commission may only be asserted once in the same matter; the full-time Equal Opportunities Officer of the University, or in appointment procedure of the University Medical Centre Göttingen the full-time Equal Opportunities Officer of the University Medical Centre, shall be exclusively competent for asserting the violation; the local Equal Opportunities Officers shall be afforded the opportunity to make a statement in advance.

(12) ¹The Board shall replace the Presidential Board in the University Medical Centre Göttingen. ²Professorships shall be established and approved by a resolution of the Board, taking the development planning of the University Medical Centre Göttingen into account. ³Decisions on appointment proposals shall be taken by the Board in agreement with the Presidential Board. ⁴If agreement is given, the Board shall appoint the Professor in agreement with the Foundation Committee of the University Medical Centre. ⁵If no agreement has been reached, the President shall submit the appointment proposal of the Board to the Foundation Council with the statement of the Presidential Board. ⁶If the latter agrees, the Board may appoint the Professor. ⁷If the Foundation Council does not consent to the appointment proposal, the Board shall submit a new appointment proposal to the Presidential Board in order to bring about the agreement in accordance with sentence 3, or shall discontinue the appointment procedure.

(13) A junior professor is only to be involved in the appointment procedure in an appointments commission as a member of the university lecturers' group in the event of a successful interim evaluation.

Section 31 Special appointment procedures

(1) ¹In order to fill professorships, joint appointment procedures may be implemented with research facilities which do not belong to a University, and with other Universities. ²The advertisement shall indicate the joint appointment procedure. The research facility shall be involved in the appointments commission. ⁴If a joint appointment is effected in accordance with section 26 subsection (8), sentence 2, of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act, the person appointed shall perform a teaching obligation as a rule amounting to at least two class hours per semester. ⁵The rights and obligations of the member appointed in accordance with section 26 subsection (8), sentence 2, of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act shall expire if he or she

a) is no longer working at the research facility, or

b) is working in a different post at the research facility which is not at least equivalent.

⁶In cases falling under sentence 5 (b), the Faculty Council of the relevant subject area is to examine whether the preconditions apply to the initiation of proceedings to award the title "adjunct professor" or "adjunct visiting professor". ⁷The details regarding the provisions in accordance with sentences 1-5 shall be finally regulated by a cooperation agreement to be concluded in writing by a member of the Presidential Board. ⁸The cooperation agreement may derogate from the provisions contained in the present Bylaws and the Regulations based thereon, whilst adhering to its principles.

(2) If no advertisement is required, the appointment procedure may be otherwise governed by a Regulation.

Section 32 Appointment of junior professors

(1) The procedure for the appointment of junior professors shall be governed by a Regulation, which shall be adopted by the Senate.

(2) The procedure to award a professorship for life in the "tenure-track procedure" shall be governed by a Regulation, which shall be adopted by the Senate.

(3) A junior professor is only to be involved in the appointment procedure in the procedure to occupy a junior professorship as a member of the university lecturers' group in a selection commission in the event of passing the interim evaluation.

Section 33 Joint appointment procedure

¹Joint appointment procedures may be carried out with research facilities which do not belong to a University, and with other Universities, for the appointment of junior professors.

²The advertisement shall indicate the joint appointment procedure. ³The research facility shall be involved in the selection commission. ⁴The details shall be regulated in a cooperation agreement that is to be concluded by the Presidential Board. ⁵The cooperation agreement

may derogate from the provisions contained in the present Bylaws and from the underlining Regulations, whilst adhering to their principles.

VII. Self-regulation

Section 34 The principles of self-regulation

- (1) Members and affiliates of the University shall have the right and the obligation to contribute towards self-regulation in accordance with the statutory provisions.
- (2) No one may be placed at an advantage or disadvantage because of his or her activity in self-regulation.
- (3) ¹Elections shall be free, equal and secret. ²The details shall be governed by election regulations.
- (4) The University shall endeavour to ensure that bodies will be occupied with the respective share of the genders, the goal being to attain a share of women of at least 40 %.

Section 35 Office and functions

- (1) ¹An office or a function of self-regulation may only be rejected for an important reason. ²Whether an important reason exists shall be decided by the management of the body in question. ³If the decision is contradicted, the President or the spokesperson of the Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall decide thereon. ⁴The same shall apply to withdrawal from an office or from a function in self-regulation. ⁵If the legal relationship underlying an election or the assignment of a function expires or is suspended, the mandate or the assignment of the function shall expire or be suspended.
- (2) During the performance of an office or of a function of self-regulation, a suitable release from the other official tasks can be granted by the President on request in the context of the statutory possibilities, in the University Medical Centre Göttingen by the spokesperson of the Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen, if this is not precluded by any official reasons.
- (3) On expiry of a term of office, the business shall be continued until the beginning of a new term of office.
- (4) ¹A person belonging to a body ex officio as a member in an advisory capacity, or in accordance with the present Bylaws, or with a Regulation of the University, with the right to attend the meetings in an advisory capacity may not at the same time belong to the body as a voting member; this shall not apply to the membership of a member
 - a) of the Presidential Board (with the exception of the full-time members) or of the Dean's Office (with the exception of the Dean) in a commission that is to be established by the Faculty Council, in particular in an appointments commission,
 - b) of the Dean's Office (with the exception of the Dean) in the Faculty Council,
 - c) of the Presidential Board or of the Dean's Office in a standing administrative body for a

course of study or in an examination body as a voting examiner,

d) of the Senate or of the Faculty Council in a commission which it has established.

²A member of the Presidential Board or of the Dean's Office who is at the same time a voting member of an appointments commission or of a commission established by a Faculty Council may only take part in a decision which was prepared by these commissions in an advisory capacity. ³No more than two members of the Dean's Office may belong to a Faculty Council as a voting member; if after an election more than two members of the Dean's Office are entitled to a seat on the Faculty Council as voting members, and if those concerned are unable to agree who takes up this place, it shall be decided by lots to be drawn by the Dean.

⁴When exercising the control rights of the Faculty Council vis-à-vis the Dean's Office, in particular when advising and deciding on the removal of a member of the Dean's Office or the advising and assertion of information rights, a member of the Dean's Office shall be replaced on the Faculty Council by the deputy Faculty Council member.

(5) ¹Those attending the meeting of a body shall be obliged to observe confidentiality as to all matters not dealt with in public. ²The obligation to observe confidentiality shall include the advice documents; it shall also continue to exist after termination of the membership of the body, or after the involvement has been terminated. ³The obligation to observe confidentiality shall not apply if the body resolves otherwise or the further procedure absolutely requires the documents on the resolution to be forwarded.

Section 36 Public meetings

(1) ¹Meetings of the Senate, the faculty councils and the members' assemblies of a research facility shall be open to internal university members unless statutes or the present Bylaws provide otherwise. ²The public may be extended to include others in order to perform the tasks of the University by a resolution of a body, in particular representatives of the press. ³With a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes cast, the public may be excluded on the request of a voting member with regard to individual items of the agenda, the motion then being deliberated on in camera.

(2) ¹Matters related to personnel and examinations shall be deliberated and decided on in camera. ²Economic matters, including matters related to plots of land, shall be deliberated and decided on in camera if addressing them in a public session might pose a disadvantage to the University, the funding foundation, the *Land* Lower Saxony or the natural or legal entities involved in or affected by this matter.

(3) The other bodies shall meet in camera; internal university members may be admitted by means of a resolution in individual cases if an important reason applies.

(4) Only invited guests may be permitted to speak apart from the members of a body.

(5) ¹A body may involve members or affiliates of the University, employees of the administration, as well as third parties, in an advisory or supportive capacity. ²Should there be a pertinent reason, permanent guests may be invited; the competent administrative unit shall maintain a list thereof.

Section 37 Resolutions

(1) ¹Bodies shall be quorate when a majority of voting members is present having been properly convened; it shall be possible to derogate therefrom by means of a Regulation in the case of members' assemblies. ²They shall also be quorate if the number of voting members present falls during the meeting unless a voting member claims that they are not quorate; this member shall be counted among those who are present. ³Meetings of a body may be held completely or partly via image and/or sound transmission, those present also being counted among the members who take part using electronic services; implementation via image and/or sound transmission shall be ruled out for meetings of the Senate, faculty councils and, insofar as shortlisted applicants appear in person, of appointment commissions. ⁴The decision in accordance with sentence 3 shall be taken by the chair of the meeting on request by a member, which must have been received at least one day before the meeting is held, at least in electronic form; a different deadline period may be set in a regulation or guideline.

(2) ¹Should the chair of the meeting find that it is not quorate, he/she may convene a second meeting to address the agenda items which have not yet been dealt with. ²This meeting shall be deemed quorate regardless of the number of voting members present if this has been explicitly indicated in the invitation to attend the second meeting.

(3) ¹Unless provided otherwise by a law or ordinance, or in the present Bylaws, resolutions shall be taken with a majority of the valid votes cast (simple majority). ²Regulations and statutes of the University may provide for decisions with a qualified majority or a different quorum. ³Abstentions shall not be permissible in the case of decisions on examinations. ⁴The outcome of the ballot shall be recorded in minutes, broken down according to Yes and No votes, as well as abstentions; in the case of separate voting rules for a status group, this shall also apply to the outcome of the ballot within this status group.

(4) ¹Decisions on human resources-related matters shall be adopted in a secret ballot. ²All other resolutions shall be adopted in a secret ballot at the request of a voting member.

(5) ¹Abstentions shall be deemed to be votes that were not cast. ²A resolution shall not be passed if more than half the voting members present has cast an invalid vote or abstained.

(6) ¹Resolutions shall be taken within meetings or by way of circulation (in writing, by fax, telephone or electronic means). ²The deadline for the circulation period must be at least one week; a secret ballot shall be ensured in case of elections and in human resources-related matters. ³A resolution shall only be passed in ballots that are carried out by way of circulation if it was adopted with the majority of the votes of all voting members and the management has not received an objection to this procedure during the deadline period for the circulation procedure from a member who belongs to the body as a voting member, even if this specific individual member is not a voting member; otherwise, the resolution may only be taken within a meeting. ⁴The right of objection shall be ruled out insofar as implementation by way of circulation was decided within the previous meeting. ⁵The taking of a resolution by way of circulation shall be recorded in a note by the managing chair.

(7) The votes of the members of the students' group shall count double in Senate and Faculty Council resolutions relating to the evaluation of teaching; the members of the technical and administrative staff shall not have a voting right in such matters.

(8) Resolutions directly concerning research, an appointment procedure, a procedure to appoint a junior professor or to extend their employment relationship, and a “tenure-track” procedure, shall require both a majority of voting members of the body and a majority of the members of the university lecturers’ group belonging to the body (double absolute majority).

(9) The vote of a minority shall be added to the resolution on request.

(10) ¹Those members and affiliates shall be excluded from deliberations and decisions who can obtain thereby a direct personal advantage or disadvantage for themselves or for a person close to them within the meaning of section 20 subsection (5) of the respectively valid version of the Administrative Procedure Act (*Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz*); this shall not apply within the framework of self-regulation to elections and resolutions on statutes. ²If a reason applies which is suited to justify mistrust in terms of the impartial exercise of an office or factual assessment, or if the existence of such a reason is asserted by a person attending (concerns regarding impartiality), the person concerned shall not attend the deliberations and decisions in question. ³The Presidential Board shall regulate the details in a guideline once the Senate has made a statement.

Section 38 Procedural provisions

(1) Insofar as further procedural provisions are necessary beyond the provisions contained in the present Bylaws, these shall be adopted by means of a Regulation or Rules of Procedure.

(2) The Presidential Board and the Board of the University Medical Centre Göttingen can derogate in their Rules of Procedure from the provisions contained in section 37 subsections (1)-(2) and (3), sentences 1 and 4, as well as subsections (4)-(6) and (8).

Section 39 Official Announcements

(1) ¹Legal provisions and announcements by the University shall be published in the “Official Announcements I” (*Amtliche Mitteilungen I*). ²The permanent provision of an electronic version on the Internet shall be sufficient.

(2) The digital list of modules shall be exclusively announced in an electronic version in the “Official Announcements II” (*Amtliche Mitteilungen II*).

Section 40 Procedure to award study quality funds

(1) The University shall establish the study quality funds in accordance with the statutory provisions to ensure and improve the quality of teaching and the conditions for study, and shall make the utilisation transparent on the Internet.

(2) ¹The Presidential Board shall decide on the utilisation of the study quality funds in agreement with the study quality commission. ²The study quality commission shall be composed of

- a) eight members of the students' group,
- b) six members of the university lecturers' group, and
- c) two members of the staff group.

³The nomination of the members and deputies shall be effected in the Senate by the members of the respective member group for a term of office of two years, in the case of the students' group for a term of office of one year. ⁴The study quality commission shall select from its midst a chairperson and his or her deputy. ⁵Insofar as study quality funds are spread universally among faculties and comparable organisational units (local study quality funds), the study quality commission shall be replaced by the faculty study commission. ⁶The members of the Presidential Board may attend the meeting of the study quality commission or of the faculty study commission in an advisory capacity.

(3) The decision on utilisation shall be taken with central study quality funds once the Senate has made a statement, with local study quality funds once the Faculty Council has made a statement.

(4) The details on the utilisation shall be regulated in a guideline, which shall be adopted by the Presidential Board once the Senate has made a statement in agreement with the study quality commission.

(5) The Board shall decide on the utilisation of the study quality funds in the University Medical Centre Göttingen in agreement with the Study Commission, and once the Faculty Council of the Medical Center has made a statement.

VIII. Other

Section 41 Approval, coming into force, transitional provisions

- (1) The present Bylaws shall come into force on the day after their publication, after they have been approved by the Foundation Council.
- (2) The Presidential Board is herewith empowered to effect the new announcement and number the paragraphs, and to correct obvious inaccuracies.
- (3) ¹The Bylaws in the version of the promulgation of 20 December 2010 (Official Announcements 58/2010 p. 6374), most recently amended by the resolution of the Senate of 14 May 2014 (Official Announcements I No. 27/2014 p. 824 and Official Announcements I No. 24/2015 p. 477) shall cease to apply at the same time, but not the resolutions taken on their basis. ²In derogation from sentence 1, section 7 subsection (5) of the Bylaws shall continue to apply in the previously applicable version to the auxiliary members of the Presidential Board who have served more than one term of office by 1 October 2016.
- (4) The previous departments of the University Medical Centre Göttingen shall retain their status and the designation of “department” until such time as a decision is taken on a final allocation to other organisational units.

Annex

¹The University shall use the seal depicted below in accordance with section 1 subsection (2). ²It shall contain the text “SIGILLUM UNIVERSITATIS REGIAE GEORGIAE AUGUSTAE”, and shall depict George II, King of England and Elector of the Duchy of Braunschweig and Lüneburg, seated on the throne with the ruling insignia, and above his head the crest of the Kings of England.


