

Readers should be aware that only the Dutch version of this Regulation has legal force. This English translation is strictly for reference and cannot be invoked as a legal tool.

Student Statute – UAntwerp

(approved by the Board of Governors – 1st session dated 01/10/2003, amended on the 9th session dated 16/09/2004, 20th session dated 30/05/2006, 29th session dated 25/09/2007, 42nd session dated 26/05/2009, 80th session dated 21/01/2014, 136th session dated 11/05/2021 and 150th session dated 9/05/2023)

I. Preamble

The University of Antwerp is an open, student-centred, democratic and pluralistic university. It aims to play a meaningful role in the realisation of an open, democratic and multicultural society through scientific research, academic education, and academic services and services to society.

Through an education in intellectual competence, social commitment and cultural work, it aims to give everyone who has the aptitudes to do so the opportunity to acquire scientific knowledge, attitudes and skills to fulfil their role and commitment in society. Against this background, the University of Antwerp wants to ensure that every study programme pays attention to the social and ethical consequences of the practice of science and later professional life and sustainable development.

The University of Antwerp is a modern learning organisation that pays constant attention to the evolving needs of students. It pays special attention to the reception and guidance of first-year students, students with migration backgrounds, students with limited socio-economic capacity, differently-abled students and students from developing countries.

The University of Antwerp acknowledges the student as a full partner. It aims to shape its students into critical and independent thinkers who are equipped to find their own way in society. A constant focus on educational innovation, promoting self-reliance and the educational professionalisation of its academic corps guarantee this. Together with the academic study programme, the University of Antwerp wishes to contribute to the personal development of students by having a comprehensive approach to their reception and guidance, with an eye for both academic as well as social and material aspects.

The realisation of the mission described above is a joint responsibility. This common character entails both obligations (the common mission) and rights (participation, for example) for all actors and levels of the university.

These principles lead to the following fundamental conclusions and practical provisions for the student community.

a. for students individually:

1. The right to pedagogically and scientifically sound education.
2. The right to information.
3. The right to tutoring and the infrastructure required for the study programme.
4. The right to psychosocial counselling; socio-financial interventions; cheap and healthy food; social housing policy; affordable physical development; cultural, social and philosophical counselling.
5. The University of Antwerp expects students to respect the declaration of principles and, in the spirit of cooperation, to show respect for members of the university community and for the material facilities provided by the community. To this end, the Deontological Committee was established.
6. The right to receive course books and/or other relevant study materials and to have these made available for each programme component through official communication channels.
7. The installation of an independent ombudsperson responsible for education and examination issues.

b. for students as a community:

8. The right to participation and representation in the **decision-making and advisory bodies of the University of Antwerp**. This right is guaranteed by the following articles of the decree establishing the University of Antwerp: Art. 7 § 1, 8° and Art. 8 § 1, 4°.
9. To establish a **Student Consultation Committee** to be convened by the rector in consultation with the Student Council, A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac at least twice a year.
10. To establish a **student council** (the University of Antwerp Student Council), as the legitimate representative of students at the University of Antwerp, in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Code.
11. The recognition of faculty consultation bodies, consisting of the student representatives within a faculty, which are coordinated by the Student Council and act as an advisory body to the Student Council. Faculty consultation bodies may appoint a spokesperson and a vice-spokesperson per study programme. These spokespersons hold the status of student representative.
12. The right to co-administration in the development and management of student social services in the **Stuvo Council (Stuvoraad)**, in which students are represented on an equal basis with the academic authorities.
13. The recognition of the General Student Assembly (*Algemene Studentenvergadering*), A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac, which are responsible for facilitating student life at the University of Antwerp and supporting affiliated student associations.
14. The establishment of a **deontological committee**.
15. The right to the status of **student representative**.
16. The designation of a **student mediator**.

II. Practical provisions

Article 1

The rector oversees the application of this statute.

1) THE ENROLMENT

Article 2

The student enrolment procedure is stipulated in the Appendix of the Education and Examination Regulations.

Article 3

Once their enrolment has been finalised, the student enjoys and subscribes to the rights and obligations outlined in this Statute.

2) THE STUDENT BODIES

Article 4

The proper functioning of student life at the University of Antwerp is ensured by the following student bodies:

- The General Student Assembly (*Algemene Studentenvergadering*; the Office of the Student Council (*het Bureau van de Studentenraad*), A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac)
- Two umbrella bodies:
 - A.S.K.-Stuwer (Campus Drie Eiken, Campus Groenenborger and Campus Middelheim)
 - Unifac (Stadscampus)
- The campus-related and university-wide student associations
- The Student Consultation Committee (*Studentenoverlegcomité*)
- The Student Council (*Studentenraad*)
- The Stuvo Council (*Stuvoraad*)
- The Deontological Committee (*Deontologische Commissie*)

3) THE GENERAL STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Article 5

The General Student Assembly (*Algemene Studentenvergadering*) aims to coordinate all student affairs and to ensure good cooperation between the Student Council, A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac. It is an assembly of students that is responsible for discussing the facilitation of student life at the University of Antwerp and for coordinating the recognised campus-related and university-wide student associations. As such, the General Student Assembly is entitled to various types of facilities and administrative support from the university.

Duration, objective and members of the General Student Assembly.

Article 6

In the spirit of active pluralism, the General Student Assembly represents – from an independent position – the rights and interests of all students at the University of Antwerp, both internally and externally.

The General Student Assembly endorses respect for diversity: in its role as a representative, the Assembly does not discriminate on the basis of culture, origin, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, world view or disability. In addition, it is vigilant against prejudice and does not tolerate any form of discrimination.

Article 7

The General Student Assembly pays attention to all aspects of student life at the University of Antwerp. This includes the student's cultural, academic and social well-being. However, this cannot be considered an exhaustive list.

Article 8

The General Student Assembly is composed on an equal representation basis with members from A.S.K.-Stuwer, the Office of the Student Council and Unifac.

Article 9

The mandate of the General Student Assembly commences on 1 July and ends on 30 June of the following calendar year.

Once the new composition for the next academic year is announced, the competence of the current composition is limited to ongoing matters only in terms of planned activities and necessary representation of student interests. The new composition of the General Student Assembly may already make the necessary preparations for the next academic year.

Article 10

The Regulations of the General Student Assembly are determined by the members of the Assembly in consultation with Student Services Department and should be in accordance with this UAntwerp Student Statute. The members of the Assembly shall provide a copy of the Regulations and any amendments to the Regulations to the Student Services Department. These Regulations are also publicly available on the website of the University of Antwerp.

Article 11

The form and frequency of meetings, the method of voting and the establishment of committees are determined in the Regulations of the General Student Assembly.

Article 12

On the basis of a proposal from the General Student Assembly and in consultation with Student Services Department, the Student Council determines the procedure and conditions for the recognition of university-wide student associations.

Article 13

Should the General Student Assembly fail to exercise the competences granted to it, the Board of Governors is authorised to take initiative to assume these tasks and/or use any means necessary to continue the proper functioning of the institution and its bodies, after which it undertakes to ensure the functioning of the General Student Assembly again as soon as possible.

4) THE UMBRELLA BODIES (A.S.K.-STUWER AND UNIFAC)

Article 14

Unifac is the umbrella student association of the Stadscampus and A.S.K.-Stuwer is the umbrella student association of Campus Drie Eiken, Campus Groenenborger and Campus Middelheim. A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac coordinate the activities of campus-related student clubs and student groups under their umbrella. They are the point of contact for exchanging questions and information between the university and the student clubs and student groups. They also organise activities to bring together all students from the various faculties of their respective campuses.

Article 15

The campus-related student associations are divided into two '*Kringraden*' (a type of council): one '*Kringraad*' for the student associations related to the Stadscampus and one '*Kringraad*' for the student associations related to Campus Drie Eiken, Campus Groenenborger and Campus Middelheim. Both '*Kringraden*' are convened in a meeting at least three times per semester. This meeting is called the '*Kringraadvergadering*' and is chaired by Unifac for student associations related to the Stadscampus and by A.S.K.-Stuwer for student associations related to Campus Drie Eiken, Campus Groenenborger and Campus Middelheim.

Article 16

A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac determine the procedure and conditions for membership to the '*Kringraad*' of a campus-related student association in joint umbrella regulations and in the '*Kringraad*' Regulations for campus-related articles. The internal functioning of A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac is determined in regulations specific to the umbrella association.

Article 17

Unifac and A.S.K.-Stuwer can claim a direct grant from the university, within the social sector and taking into account the financial possibilities. This grant distribution is always submitted to the Stuvo Council (*Stuvoraad*).

Article 18

The high boards of A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac meet at least three times per semester for an umbrella meeting, the main topics of which are the grant distribution for the '*Kringraad*' clubs, the organisation of university-wide initiatives (including the Orientation Days), the exchange of experience and information, and the drafting and updating of joint umbrella regulations.

5) PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE AND ADVISORY BODIES

Article 19

Students have a say in the policies of the University of Antwerp through students elected by them in the central, intermediary and decentralised decision-making and advisory bodies in accordance with the Basic Memorandum on Academic Structure. In this, the Student Council plays a pivotal role and reasonable representation is guaranteed.

A standing item 'Student Affairs' is always listed at the top and treated as a priority item on the meeting agenda of the central, intermediary and decentralised administrative and advisory bodies responsible for educational and student affairs.

In addition, student participation implies that the bodies and authorities provide information and that student representatives regularly inform and consult with students.

Article 20

Students enrolled in the academic bachelor/master programmes, the bridging and preparatory programmes, the advanced master programmes of the University of Antwerp, as well as PhD students who are not affiliated to the University of Antwerp as a member of staff and students of a postgraduate programme with a certificate are entitled to vote and stand for election.

6) ELECTIONS OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ACADEMIC BODIES

Article 21

In cooperation with the Student Council, the University of Antwerp organises elections among students, as detailed in the election regulations. The university provides a list of all student representative mandates.

Article 22

Upon enrolling as a student at the University of Antwerp, the university provides students with comprehensive information on all bodies in which students are represented. Every year, the Student Council determines the timing of elections in its election regulations. The Student Council lists the vacant mandates.

The mandates of student representatives in the various faculty councils and committees that remain unfilled after these elections (due to a lack of candidates) can be filled by interested students throughout the academic year, according to the Participation and Operational Regulations of the Student Council. However, the mandate only becomes official after notification to and registration by the Student Council.

Article 23

Student representatives assume their responsibilities in the context of the institution's efforts to ensure a diverse composition of the Board of Governors, the various governing bodies that can make enforceable decisions, the various advisory councils and selection committees. The measures taken to this end are described in the election regulations.

Article 24

The Student Council, with the support of the university, communicates the names of elected representatives to the bodies in which they sit, in accordance with the election regulations.

7) ELECTIONS OF STUDENT MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Article 25

The elections of the student members on the Board of Governors are conducted in accordance with the election regulations of the Board of Governors. The Student Council aims for a balanced distribution between the three areas of science as described in the *Basic Memorandum on Academic Structure*. No more than two-thirds of the student representatives appointed may be of the same sex.

8) THE STUVO COUNCIL

Article 26

The Stuvo Council (*Stuvoraad*) is composed each year in accordance with Art. II.342 to 347 of the Higher Education Code.

After approval of the report by the Stuvo Council, the Stuvo Council announces the conclusions of its meetings to the students at the University of Antwerp on the UAntwerp website.

Article 27

The Stuvo Council (*Stuvoraad*) is composed of the following voting members on an equal representation basis:

- eight student representatives, elected in the annual student elections
- eight representatives appointed by the Executive Board

Advisory members are appointed by the Executive Board. These members always participate in the meeting in an advisory capacity.

At the invitation of the chair, the meeting may also be attended by a minute-taker and/or persons for advice. These invitees are not entitled to vote.

As stipulated in the Internal Regulations of the Stuvo Council, the Stuvo Council meets at least twice a year in order to discuss the decree provisions – namely with regard to the budget, whether or not alongside the five-year policy plan, and the annual report – and other concerns.

The rector chairs the Stuvo Council by statute. The chair convenes the meeting. The vice-chair is elected from the student members at the first meeting of the academic year. In the absence of the chair, the meeting is chaired by the vice-chair.

9) THE STUDENT CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Article 28

In consultation with the General Student Assembly, the rector organises a meeting between the student community and the rector at least once per semester. These meetings take place in the Student Consultation Committee, which consists of students at the University of Antwerp on the one hand and representatives of the academic authorities – appointed by the rector – on the other hand. The purpose of this body is to check the institution's policies against the students' vision on a regular basis.

This meeting is convened by the rector and chaired by the presidents of the Student Council, A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac.

The Student Consultation Committee is incorporated into the academic structure of the University of Antwerp.

Both students and academic authorities can add items to the agenda.

10) THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Article 29

The Student Council is composed each year in accordance with Art. II.314 to 334 of the Higher Education Code. The Student Council acts as the legitimate representative of the students at the University of Antwerp.

The Student Council will be composed as follows:

- The faculty representatives elected among and by the students of the respective faculty.
- The elected students for the Education Board by faculty.
- Five freely elected students among all students.
- The students delegated from the Stuvo Council to the Student Council.
- The three students who are members on the Board of Governors and who are elected for that purpose by the General Assembly.
- The members of the Office of the Student Council appointed according to the procedure in Art. III.2.5 and III.2.6 of the Participation and Operational Regulations of the Student Council.

A member can only be a member of the General Assembly in one capacity. The accumulation of mandates is excluded, substitute mandates and mandates in the Board of Governors are not considered. In these cases, when a representative holds two mandates, their voting right is limited to one vote.

The Student Council determines its Participation and Operational Regulations. Reports are made of the General Meetings of the Student Council, which are made public.

In accordance with Article II.331 of the Higher Education Code, the Participation and Operational Regulations are adopted on the basis of an absolute majority of votes within the Student Council and submitted to the Board of Governors for notice.

The Participation Regulations shall include at least the rules of procedure and dispute settlement for exercising the participation rights of the student council and participation committees as referred to in Art. 332 of the Higher Education Code. The Participation Regulations may grant additional competences to the Student Council.

11) STATUS OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN ACADEMIC BODIES

Article 30

In exercising a mandate as a student representative, the student representative fully enjoys the right to free speech. This is separate from the student's academic or disciplinary assessment. The university considers the capacity as student and the capacity as student representative to be separate capacities.

The student representative can be absent from official meetings for a valid reason, as determined by the Student Council. If possible, students' educational activities are always taken into account when drawing up the meeting calendar of the various councils and bodies on which students serve. No meetings are scheduled during the examination periods unless absolutely necessary. If a meeting is scheduled during the examination period, no items deemed student-related by the student representatives are placed on the agenda of the meeting in question.

If the student representative nevertheless deems it necessary, the examination schedule, deadlines, mid-term assessments or assessments of the person concerned will be adjusted, at the request of the student representative.

Costs associated with the reasonable execution of the student representative mandate shall always be reimbursed by the university within a reasonable period of time.

Student representatives are invited to attend related events of a mandate, equivalent to any other member.

Student representatives who travel to meetings outside the campuses as part of their mandate are always insured by the University of Antwerp.

Missing a lab or practical because of an official meeting, can never result in a student representative not being allowed to take the examination linked to these labs or practicals.

The Executive Board appoints an ombudsperson specifically authorised to act as a contact person and mediator in disputes with student representatives. The term of the mandate is four years and it is renewable.

12) THE DEONTOLOGICAL COMMITTEE – DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

Article 31

Through their behaviour, language and attitude, students have a duty to show respect for people and for society and its goods, both within and outside the university community.

In line with the Well-being Act applicable to staff at the University of Antwerp, students and student associations should contribute positively to the protection of students from violence, bullying and sexual harassment on campus or outside, and furthermore refrain from any act of violence, bullying or sexual harassment on campus or outside.

Students may only participate in student initiation activities organised by student associations that have acknowledged the applicable student initiation charters. The list of these associations is announced to all students every year at the beginning of the academic year. All student initiation activities should always take place in areas accessible at least by members of the university community and emergency services.

If a student violates these provisions in a serious manner that could harm the university and/or a member of the university community, the procedure described below will be applied.

Article 32

The student mediator is appointed within the university community by the Executive Board and on the basis of a proposal from the Student Council. The term of the mandate is for four years and it is indefinitely renewable. Their identity is announced annually, including on the University of Antwerp website.

Article 33

The following may lodge a complaint with student mediator:

- Any member of the university community who can demonstrate a personal and current interest in doing so.
- The student associations recognised by the A.S.K.-Stuwer, Unifac and the University of Antwerp, and the Student Council, when they believe that their interests have been harmed.
- The rector and deans or persons to whom they give proxy.

Article 34

If the student mediator considers the complaint admissible, they will hear the accused student and the person who lodged the complaint, and if necessary, other parties involved. The student mediator shall inform the accused student in advance of their rights and obligations as stipulated in this Statute. If possible, the student mediator can end the dispute by reconciling the parties involved. In case the complaint requires further action, the student mediator will refer the matter to the Deontological Committee.

If the student mediator considers the complaint inadmissible or considers that the complaint does not require further review, the person who lodged the complaint may appeal to the rector. The rector hears the student mediator, the accused student, the person who lodged the complaint and, if necessary, other parties involved, after which the rector may still decide to refer the case to the Deontological Committee. If the rector is the person who lodged the complaint and appeals against the decision of the student mediator, the matter will be referred to the Deontological Committee.

Provided they respect the discretion of the case, the person who lodged the complaint, the victim and other stakeholders may, upon their request, be informed of the status of the mediation as well as the outcome of the mediation. The student mediator makes a discretionary decision, taking into account the gravity of the case and the sensitivity of certain information, whether to inform the person who lodged the complaint, the victim and/or other stakeholders only of the tenor of the mediation or to provide a copy of the agreements made or decision taken with the accused student.

Article 35

The Deontological Committee is composed of three representatives from the A.S.K.-Stuwer and Unifac representatives from the General Student Assembly and three representatives from the Student Council; only they are entitled to vote. The Deontological Committee may seek assistance from a minute-taker and one or more internal or external legal advisers. The Deontological Committee is free to invite the central ombudsperson.

Membership on the Executive Board is not compatible with membership on the Deontological Committee. If a member on the Deontological Committee has a personal interest in a case pending before the Deontological Committee, the body that appointed them shall immediately appoint a substitute.

Article 36

§1 After referral in accordance with Art. 34, the Deontological Committee may take one of the following disciplinary actions or a combination thereof:

- (a) an admonition. This sanction can be imposed only once for an analogous offence. A subsequent sanction will automatically be more severe.
- (b) a ban on using certain services/facilities or on attending certain educational and learning activities;
- (c) an individually adapted remedial or behavioural-remedial disciplinary measure;
- (d) a ban on participating in one or more examination activities or one or more programme components;
- (e) a suspension for a specified period, in whole or in part;
- (f) an exclusion from the current and/or one or more subsequent academic years;
- (g) a permanent exclusion.

The Deontological Committee may set additional conditions if necessary.

The distinction between disciplinary actions and academic assessments should be preserved.

§2 The suspension referred to in §1 e) implies that the execution of the contract with the student is suspended in full or in part for the period determined, with the exception of the student's obligations under the Student Statute – UAntwerp. The suspension does not lead to the suspension of deadlines or ongoing time frames. The suspension includes a general ban on using the university's services and on participating in educational, learning and examination activities during the suspension.

The exclusion as referred to in §1 f) and g) leads to the loss of the status as UAntwerp student and a ban on re-enrolling during the period of the exclusion.

§3 The sanction as mentioned in §1 b), d) or e) is pronounced for the duration of the current academic year at the most.

The exclusion shall be treated as a suspension until the appeal period expires.

§4 In all cases where a sanction is issued, it will be recorded in the internal student file.

§5 The imposition of the disciplinary sanctions mentioned in §1 cannot give rise to a reimbursement of tuition fees owed to UAntwerp and/or fees for study materials, study activities and/or rental fees. Any unpaid fees remain due.

§6 Unless there are new elements that justify reopening the case, no one can be subjected to disciplinary proceedings for facts that have previously been the subject of disciplinary proceedings.

The Deontological Committee and the Executive Board may seek assistance from internal or external jurists or other experts. These parties only play an advisory role and do not participate in voting.

Article 37

If the Deontological Committee is called, as soon as possible it invites both the accused student and the person who lodged the complaint by registered mail to hear them, and notifies the dean of the faculty concerned that proceedings have been initiated against the accused student. The student may call witnesses and seek assistance from the person of their choice. The Deontological Committee also hears the student mediator and may hear witnesses. An official report will be drawn up of this session or these sessions.

If the summoned student fails to appear, an official report of non-appearance will be drawn up. Any absence of any of the other summoned persons (such as the person who lodged the complaint, the victim, the student mediator) shall be explicitly mentioned in the official report.

The reasoned decision of the Deontological Committee shall be communicated to the accused student by registered mail within a week. The rector, the dean of the faculty concerned and the student mediator will receive a copy of the letter containing the decision of the Deontological Committee.

The person who lodged the complaint and the victim and other stakeholders may, at their request, be informed of the status of the proceedings. However, the Deontological Committee makes a discretionary decision, taking into account the gravity of the case and the sensitivity of certain information, whether to inform the person who lodged the complaint, the victim and/or other stakeholders, at their request or otherwise, of the tenor of the decision or to inform them of the content of the decision and/or the reasons behind it.

After receiving the registered letter, the accused student has one week to file an appeal by registered mail to the rector as chair of the Executive Board. The Executive Board acts as the Appeal Body, assesses the merits of the case and may confirm, reduce, increase or remit the sanction. The rector is responsible for executing the possible sanction.

Article 38

If the accused student submits an appeal in accordance with Art. 37, paragraph 3, they will be summoned to be heard at the next Executive Board and present their defence.

The Executive Board may also hear the person who lodged the complaint, the student mediator and any other stakeholder or witness.

The Executive Board may adjourn the case in order to have a new summons sent or to give the defence more time.

An official report will be drawn up of this hearing. If the summoned student fails to appear, an official report of non-appearance will be drawn up.

The appeal hearing will take place behind closed doors. The student may seek assistance from a person of their choice. The vote is done in secret and in writing. The Executive Board reaches a decision by a simple majority vote.

The appeal is suspensive until the Executive Board reaches a final decision.

The decision of the Executive Board is communicated to the student by the rector by registered mail. A copy of this letter will be delivered to the dean of faculty concerned.

The rector is responsible for executing the possible sanction.

13) ORDER MEASURES

Article 39

The rector and the deans or persons to whom they give proxy have the right, in all circumstances – including outside a disciplinary case – to take with immediate effect all urgent and necessary protective measures to safeguard the order and safety of the university.

Article 40

Without prejudice to the complaints procedure initiated in accordance with Art. 33, the rector may preventively suspend a student as a protective order measure if there are serious indications that the student has violated their obligations referred to in Art. 31, paragraph 1, 2 and 3.

A preventive suspension as an order measure means that for the duration of the suspension, the student will be denied access, in whole or in part, to the campus and/or to the university's electronic platforms.

The student will be informed of the decision of suspension by registered mail. The measure taken by the rector as well as its duration shall be justified in this registered letter.

Unless urgency prevents it, the rector shall, prior to taking the order measure, hear the student concerned as well as the student mediator. If the rector subsequently decides not to suspend the student concerned, the rector shall report this to the Deontological Committee and the Executive Board. If, on the other hand, the rector decides to suspend the student concerned, the rector shall

immediately refer the matter to the Deontological Committee for disciplinary proceedings on the merits.

If the matter is urgent and the rector has not heard the student prior to taking the order measure, the rector shall in any case hear the student concerned no later than five calendar days after sending the registered letter referred to in the paragraph 3. The written invitation to this interview will justify the urgency. If the rector subsequently decides to withdraw the order measure taken, the rector shall report this to the Deontological Committee and the Executive Board. On the other hand, if the rector decides to retain the measure in question, with or without adjustment, the rector shall immediately refer the matter to the Deontological Committee for disciplinary proceedings on the merits.

The preventive suspension shall not exceed six months. However, the duration of the order measure may exceed six months if the student concerned is the subject of a criminal investigation or prosecution.

Article 41

After receiving the registered letter about their preventive suspension, or after being heard by the rector if this was not done beforehand, the student has seven calendar days to appeal against the decision of preventive suspension by registered mail to the rector as chair of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board acts as the Appeal Body and may confirm, lift, reduce in duration or extend the preventive suspension.

If the student submits an appeal, they will be summoned to be heard at the next regular meeting of the Executive Board and present their defence. The student is entitled to seek assistance.

An official report will be drawn up of the hearing. If the summoned student fails to appear, an official report of non-appearance will be drawn up.

The Executive Board may adjourn the case in order to have a new summons sent or to give the defence more time.

When the appeal is heard by the Executive Board, the rector is substituted as chair as stipulated in the Internal Regulations of the Executive Board. The hearing will take place behind closed doors. The vote is done in secret and in writing. The Executive Board reaches a decision by a simple majority vote.

The appeal is suspensive until the Executive Board reaches a decision.

The decision of the Executive Board is communicated to the student by the rector by registered mail. A copy of this letter shall be delivered to the Deontological Committee and to the dean of faculty concerned.

If the Executive Board lifts the preventive suspension, the student's rights will be restored.

14) OMBUDSPERSON

Article 42

A central ombudsperson, independent of the faculties, shall be appointed to act as a contact person and mediator regarding problems related to the application of the Education and Examination Regulations and/or regarding acts and situations perceived as unjust. The regulations regarding the appointment and the competences of the ombudsperson are stipulated in the Education and Examination Regulations.