

APPROVED
at RSU Constitutional Assembly meeting of 5/18/2022, minutes No. 2-SS-1/1/2022

APPROVED
at RSU Council meeting of 4/27/2022, minutes No. 1-P-1/3/2022

SUPPORTED
at RSU Senate meeting of 3/15/2022, minutes No. 2-S-1/2/2022
at RSU Senate meeting of 10/18/2022, minutes No. 2-S-1/8/2022

RĪGA STRADIŅŠ UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTION

Issued in accordance with Section 10 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

Preamble

The origin of Rīga Stradiņš University is related to the Higher Education Institution of Latvia founded on 8 February 1919 and opened on 28 September 1919. On 28 March 1923, its Constitution was approved by the Law of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, giving the university the name the “University of Latvia”.

In June 1940, after the occupation of Latvia and its incorporation into the USSR, the government cancelled the autonomous status of the University of Latvia, revoked its Constitution and renamed it the State University of Latvia.

By the order No. 8640 of 10 June 1950 issued by the USSR Council of Ministers, Riga Medical Institute of the Ministry of Health of the Latvian SSR was established on the basis of the Faculty of Medicine of the State University of Latvia.

In 1990, as Latvia took the road to restoring its sovereignty and independence, Riga Medical Institute was renamed Medical Academy of Latvia. Its Constitution was adopted at the conference of staff representatives of the Medical Academy of Latvia on 1 October 1991; and it was approved by the decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia of 23 February 1993.

On 5 February 1998, the Constitutional Assembly of the Medical Academy of Latvia adopted the name “Rīga Stradiņš University”, and its Constitution was adopted on 9 May 2001. The first Constitution of Rīga Stradiņš University stated that Rīga Stradiņš University is a legal successor of the Medical Academy of Latvia. The Saeima adopted the law “On the Constitution of Rīga Stradiņš University” on 13 June 2002.

Rīga Stradiņš University is a member of worldwide community of universities and observes the basic principles set out in the *Magna Charta Universitatum*,¹ to which the University joined in 2004.

Rīga Stradiņš University has developed into one of the leading Baltic universities, which organises studies and research activity, as well as provides services to the public in the field of health, life and social sciences. On the basis of the typology of higher education institutions specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions, the Cabinet of Ministers acknowledged Rīga Stradiņš University as the University of Science on 17 September 2021.

In compliance with the amendments to the Law on Higher Education Institutions adopted by the Saeima on 8 June 2021, Rīga Stradiņš University should draw up a new constitution in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law. It shall enter into force on 1 June 2022, when the Law “On the Constitution

¹ See <http://www.magna-charta.org/> and <http://www.magna-charta.org/resources/files/the-magna-charta/latvian>

of Rīga Stradiņš University”, adopted on 13 June 2002, and the Constitution of Rīga Stradiņš University approved by it become invalid.²

I. General Provisions

1. Rīga Stradiņš University (hereinafter - RSU) is an autonomous higher education and science institution with the right to self-governance to the extent specified by the Law on Higher Education Institutions.
2. According to the legal status, the University is a derived public body.
3. The founder of the University is the State of Latvia.
4. The type prescribed by the founder of the University is a University of Science.³
5. The following University names shall be equally used in the official correspondence:
 - 5.1. Rīgas Stradiņa universitāte, abbreviated RSU;
 - 5.2. Rīga Stradiņš University (in English);
 - 5.3. Stradiņš-Universität Riga (in German);
 - 5.4. Université Stradiņš de Riga (in French);
 - 5.5. Universitas Stradini Rigensis (in Latin);
 - 5.6. Рижский университет имени Страдиня (in Russian);
 - 5.7. Universidad Stradiņš de Riga (in Spanish).
6. The University has its own seal with the image of the small national coat of arms and its full name “Rīgas Stradiņa universitāte”, coat of arms, motto, emblem, flag, badges and other attributes, an independent balance sheet and own current accounts in credit institutions.

II. Strategic specialisation, mission, main directions and tasks

7. Strategic specialisation of the University as prescribed by the founder — medical and health sciences, social sciences and natural sciences (thematic areas of education – life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics and statistics).⁴
8. The mission of the University⁵ is to ensure creation, accumulation and transfer of knowledge valued in the international scientific community, and to offer excellent, inclusive and sustainable educational opportunities and to contribute to the development of society in the field of health, life and social sciences, fulfilling the lifelong potential of every student and employee.
9. The vision of the University is to be a modern science university in Europe that is the centre for talented people and the place to receive outstanding research and practice-based education and experience.⁶
10. The main goals of the University are to offer and pursue a wide range of academic and higher professional education, as well as provide research opportunities and contribute to the society in the

² Clauses 64, 65 and 67 of the Transitional Provisions of the Law on Higher Education Institutions <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/37967>

³ Cabinet Order No.655 of 17 September 2021 “On Types of State Higher Education Institutions” <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/326218>

⁴ The strategic specialization of RSU is specified in accordance with Cabinet of Ministers order No. 449 of June 21, 2022 “On strategic specialization of public higher education institutions” [2022. gada 21. jūnija Ministru kabineta rīkojumu Nr.449 “Par valsts augstskolu stratēģisko specializāciju”] <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/333471>

⁵ Section 1, Clause 18 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

⁶ RSU Development Strategy for 2021-2027.

basic areas of the University activity, such as medicine and health sciences, natural sciences and social sciences.

11. The University shall have the following tasks in addition to those specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions:

- 11.1. Ensure the unity of study and research work, provide the opportunity to acquire knowledge and professional skills, receive academic education, obtain academic and science degrees and professional qualifications.
- 11.2. Develop study programmes, select academic staff, set up an effective learning and teaching environment enabling students to acquire highly valuable knowledge, skills and competence in line with the development trends of education and science.
- 11.3. Provide such study programmes and examination requirements that the degrees and titles awarded, diplomas and professional qualifications obtained as well as the acquisition of parts of study programmes are mutually recognised by higher education institutions of Latvia and abroad.
- 11.4. Promote continuing education. Cooperate with other higher education institutions, research institutions and educational institutions. Promote the mobility of students and academic staff.
- 11.5. Organise own work in public interest by identifying the current needs of the society and inform the public about its activity, the areas and opportunities of studies and scientific research by promoting the choice of studies and research work in accordance with the interests and abilities of the individual. Offer the acquired scientific and professional knowledge, methods and research results to the public.
- 11.6. Take care of the training of young researchers and provide them with the opportunity to participate in the world's academic and research processes.
- 11.7. Guarantee the academic freedom of the academic staff and students.

III. Academic freedom and autonomy

12. The autonomy of the University shall be characterised by the sharing of power and responsibility between public authorities and the University management, as well as between the University management and the academic staff.
13. The University shall ensure the freedom of studies and research, and creativity, if this freedom does not contravene the rights of other people, this Constitution and laws and regulations.
14. Freedom of research shall manifest itself in the right of the academic staff to choose the subject matter and area of research activity.
15. The academic staff shall be entitled to choose, draw up and implement teaching methods in accordance with the approved study programmes.
16. The University administration shall have a duty to guarantee and respect the rights of students and the academic staff provided for in the Law on Higher Education Institutions, this Constitution and other laws and regulations.

IV. Self-governance and structure

17. This Chapter lays down the procedure for the establishment of the structure of the University,⁷ as well as the procedure for the establishment, election or appointment and cancellation of institutions, the composition and term of office, rights and obligations insofar as they are not governed by the Law on Higher Education Institutions.⁸

Governing bodies

18. The University shall have the following governing bodies:⁹

- 18.1. Constitutional Assembly;
- 18.2. Council;
- 18.3. Senate;
- 18.4. Rector;
- 18.5. Academic Arbitration Court.

Constitutional Assembly

19. **The Constitutional Assembly** shall be an institution representing the academic and general staff, and students of the University.¹⁰

20. 130 members shall be elected to the Constitutional Assembly in accordance with the procedures specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions. The Constitutional Assembly shall be elected by the University staff in open general elections held at joint meetings of the structural units. The representation of the University staff at the Constitutional Assembly shall be determined in proportion to the number of employees of the structural units. The University Senate shall prescribe the division of structural units and the rate of representation at the Constitutional Assembly.¹¹

21. The Constitutional Assembly shall have a quorum if more than half of the members participate in it. If the Law on Higher Education Institutions does not prescribe a larger number of votes required, decisions shall be taken if a majority of the members present vote for them.

22. If a member of the Constitutional Assembly has violated the law in his or her activity or his or her reputation has been seriously endangered and this may harm the University activity, the Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly may initiate the recall of this member.¹² A member of the Constitutional Assembly, whose recall has been proposed by the Chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly, shall be recalled by a decision of the structural units that elected the relevant member of the Constitutional Assembly. A member of the Constitutional Assembly shall lose his or her powers upon termination of the employment relationship with the University.

23. In accordance with the competence specified by the Law on Higher Education Institutions, the Constitutional Assembly shall:¹³

- 23.1. approve the Constitution of the University and amendments thereto;
- 23.2. elect the Rector;
- 23.3. may initiate the removal of the Rector from office;
- 23.4. listen to the annual report on the University activity prepared by the Rector;
- 23.5. elect the Senate members from among the academic and general staff;

⁷ Section 20, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

⁸ Section 10, Paragraph Two, Clause 6 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

⁹ Section 12, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹⁰ Section 13, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹¹ Section 13, Paragraphs Two and Three of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹² Section 13, Paragraph Nine of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹³ Section 14 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

- 23.6. may recall the Senate members;
 - 23.7. elect the Academic Arbitration Court.
24. If the Constitutional Assembly is not able to take decisions (if, within two months from the date of convening the meeting, it has not: approved the Constitution or amendments thereto, elected the Rector, the Senate (from among the academic and general staff) or the Academic Arbitration Court), its functions shall be temporarily performed by the Senate until the election of a new Constitutional Assembly. When performing the functions of the Constitutional Assembly, the Senate shall, as far as possible, act in accordance with the requirements governing the work of the Constitutional Assembly.¹⁴.

Council

25. **The Council** shall be a senior collegial decision-making body of the University responsible for the sustainable development of the University, strategic and financial supervision, as well as for ensuring the functioning of the University in accordance with the goals laid down in its development strategy.¹⁵
26. The Council shall protect the autonomy of the University and respect the academic freedom of the academic staff and students and promote its implementation.¹⁶
27. The members of the Council shall be nominated by the institutions specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions in accordance with the procedure prescribed by law. For the selection of the five members of the Council nominated by the University Senate, the Senate shall:¹⁷
- 27.1. establish a Selection Committee, determining its composition and operating procedures;
 - 27.2. determine the selection requirements and the procedure for putting forward candidates;
 - 27.3. determine the procedure for evaluating candidates;
 - 27.4. determine the procedure for nominating the members of the Council.
28. If a member of the Council has lost the trust of the authorities who have nominated them, violated the law, acted dishonourably as a member of the University Council and has failed to fulfil his / her duties properly, the authority who nominated them - the Senate, the President of the State or the Cabinet of Ministers, shall have the right to remove them from office.¹⁸
29. In accordance with the competence specified by the Law on Higher Education Institutions, the Council shall:¹⁹
- 29.1. approve the Constitution of the University and amendments thereto and submit them for approval at the Constitutional Assembly;
 - 29.2. approve the development strategy of the University and monitor the progress made in its implementation;
 - 29.3. approve the budget and financial plan of the University, as well as the annual reports:
 - 29.3.1. the annual report, drawn up in accordance with the “Law on Accounting” and the Law on Budget and Financial Management,

¹⁴ Section 13, Paragraph 10 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹⁵ Section 14¹, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹⁶ Section 14¹, Paragraph Two of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹⁷ Section 14¹, Paragraph Four, Clause 1 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹⁸ Section 14¹, Paragraph Fourteen of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

¹⁹ Section 14² of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

- 29.3.2. the report on the annual financial results (revenue and expenditure) at the level of the University and its structural units, which is drawn up in accordance with the procedures specified by the Cabinet;
- 29.4. supervise the operation of the cooperation and financing agreement between the University and the State;
- 29.5. monitor the operation of the internal control and risk management systems, review their compliance and operational effectiveness;
- 29.6. approve policies defining the University governance processes and the general principles of their functioning;
- 29.7. on the proposal of the Rector, shall decide on:
 - 29.7.1. the structure of the University,
 - 29.7.2. establishment, reorganisation and liquidation of the University structural units,
 - 29.7.3. establishment and liquidation of the University branches and institutions,
 - 29.7.4. membership of the University in commercial companies, foundations and associations,
 - 29.7.5. the University staff remuneration policy,
 - 29.7.6. investment attraction,
 - 29.7.7. the University credit liabilities,
 - 29.7.8. the University real estate development plan,
 - 29.7.9. appointment of the University auditor;
- 29.8. approve the regulations for the election of the Rector;
- 29.9. put forward one or more candidates²⁰ for election to the position of the Rector at the Constitutional Assembly in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law;
- 29.10. determine the duties and remuneration of the Rector, conclude the employment contract with the Rector and assess the performance of the Rector;
- 29.11. may initiate the removal of the Rector from office, as well as decide on the removal of the Rector from office in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law.²¹

Senate

- 30. The Senate shall be a senior collegial academic decision-making body of the University responsible for the excellence, development and compliance of the University education, research and creative activity with internationally recognised quality standards. The Senate shall regulate the academic, creative and research activity of the University. Within the autonomy of the University, the Senate shall protect and ensure the academic freedom of the academic staff and students.²²
- 31. The Senate shall consist of 31 Senate members (senators): the Rector *ex officio*,²³ and 30 (thirty) elected senators, including 23 (twenty-three) representatives of the academic staff (among those 15 (fifteen) professors and associate professors and 8 (eight) representatives of other academic staff), 6 (six) student representatives and 1 (one) representative of RSU general staff.
- 32. The term of office of the University Senate shall be three years. The University Senate shall elect the President, his/her Deputy, Secretary and the Presidium of the Senate from among its members for the term of office. The Presidium of the Senate shall consist of the Senate President, the Deputy President, the Secretary of the Senate and two senators. The Senate Presidium shall represent the

²⁰ Section 17, Paragraph Four of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

²¹ Section 17, Paragraph Nine of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

²² Section 15, Paragraphs One and Two of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

²³ Section 15, Part One, Clause 3 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

Senate during the period between its meetings in accordance with the regulations approved by the Senate. The Senate President shall also be the Chairperson of the Senate Presidium. The Deputy President of the Senate shall also be the Deputy Chairperson of the Senate Presidium. The Senate Secretary shall also be the Secretary of the Senate Presidium. The Senate President or the Chairperson may be re-elected at the request of 75% of the Senate members.

33. The members of the Senate from among the academic and general staff shall be elected by the Constitutional Assembly. For the election of the aforementioned Senate members, the Constitutional Assembly shall:
 - 33.1. establish an Election Committee, determining its composition and operating procedure;
 - 33.2. determine the procedure for putting forward of candidates;
 - 33.3. determine the procedure for preparing and conducting elections.
34. The Constitutional Assembly may decide on the recall of a Senate member on the initiative of the Constitutional Assembly or on the initiative of the President of the Senate or five members of the Senate, if the Senate member has violated the law, acted dishonourably as a member of the Senate, has failed to fulfil his or her duties properly or has lost the trust of the authority who nominated him/her. A Senate member shall lose his or her position if the Constitutional Assembly votes in favour of his/her recall.²⁴ A Senate member shall lose his or her powers upon termination of the employment relationship with the University.
35. In accordance with the competence specified by the Law on Higher Education Institutions, the Senate shall:²⁵
 - 35.1. draw up the draft Constitution of the University and its amendments. The Senate shall be responsible for the compliance of the Constitution with the development needs of the University and laws and regulations;
 - 35.2. approve the development plan for the University study process, submit proposals to the Council on the fields of study to be developed;
 - 35.3. on the proposal of the Rector, shall decide on:
 - 35.3.1. the launch, development and closing of study directions,
 - 35.3.2. the launch, content and development of study programmes, as well as their closing,
 - 35.3.3. requirements, procedures and examinations for obtaining degrees and qualifications;
 - 35.4. approve the development plan for the University research and artistic creative activity, encourage the implementation of specific directions of research activity;
 - 35.5. lay down the requirements for election to academic positions and the criteria for the evaluation of the academic staff;
 - 35.6. lay down the requirements and procedures related to the maintenance of academic integrity;
 - 35.7. nominate the members to the University Council referred to in Section 14¹ of the Law on Higher Education Institutions in accordance with the procedure specified in the Constitution of the University;
 - 35.8. may initiate the removal of the Rector from office, as well as decide on the removal of the Rector from office, observing the provisions of Section 17, Paragraph Nine of the Law on Higher Education Institutions;
 - 35.9. give an opinion and make proposals on the University development strategy, budget, establishment, reorganisation and liquidation of the University structural units and the real

²⁴ Section 14, Clause 6 and Section 15, Paragraph Six of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

²⁵ Section 15¹ of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

- estate development plan before they are considered by the Council. If the Senate does not support any of the aforementioned documents, its approval and direction to the Council shall be postponed for one month. If the document is not approved by the Senate within a month, it shall be considered by the Council after hearing objections of the Senate;
- 35.10. be entitled to set up commissions for the coordination and resolution of certain matters. The procedure for the establishment and operation of commissions shall be determined by the Senate regulations.
36. In addition to the competence laid down in the Law on Higher Education Institutions, the Senate shall:
- 36.1. approve or elect the Heads of academic, research and organisational structural units in accordance with the procedure specified in this Constitution;
 - 36.2. elect academic staff: assistant professors and lead researchers, if they cannot be elected by the faculty or institute council;
 - 36.3. approve the Heads of study directions, the Heads of study programmes and the Heads of residency specialist programmes;
 - 36.4. approve the statutes or regulations of the councils and other collegial bodies;
 - 36.5. approve the documents governing the study process;
 - 36.6. get acquainted with and evaluate the University development strategy, budget, documents regarding the establishment, reorganisation and liquidation of the University structural units, as well as the real estate development plan before giving opinions and making proposals (Paragraph 35.9);
 - 36.7. evaluate proposals regarding the amount of tuition fees for studies financed by private individuals or legal entities;
 - 36.8. evaluate the policies of the University study, research and management policies;
 - 36.9. evaluate the establishment and liquidation of the University branches and institutions.
37. The Rector shall have suspensive veto over the decisions of the Senate. Representatives of the Student Union shall have the right of veto in the University Senate, the Faculty Council and the Constitutional Assembly in matters affecting the interests of students. Following the application of veto, the matter shall be considered by the Conciliation Committee established by the Senate. The matter of the suspensive veto shall be considered at the following Senate meeting, making a decision by a two-thirds majority of the Senate members present.

Rector

38. **The Rector** shall be a senior official of the University, who is responsible for general administrative management of the University and who represents the University without a special authorisation.²⁶
39. One or more candidates for the position of the Rector, selected as a result of the competition, shall be nominated by the Council, whereas the Rector shall be elected by the Constitutional Assembly in accordance with the procedure specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions.²⁷
40. The Rector may be removed from office in accordance with the procedure specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions.²⁸

²⁶ Section 17, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

²⁷ Section 14, Clause 2 and Section 17, Paragraph Four of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

²⁸ Section 17, Paragraph Nine of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

41. In accordance with the competence specified by the Law on Higher Education Institutions, the Rector shall:²⁹
- 41.1. ensure the management of the University and be responsible for the achievement of the goals set in the University development strategy, as well as for the useful and lawful use of the University financial resources in accordance with the law, other laws and regulations, the University Constitution and the Council and Senate decisions;
 - 41.2. fulfil representative functions of the University, participate in other activities to ensure the successful functioning of the University and represent the University in cooperation with other institutions and individuals;
 - 41.3. issue decrees within the scope of his/her competence;
 - 41.4. ensure drawing up of the University study and research development plan and submit it to the Senate for approval; ensure drawing up of the University development strategy and submit it to the Council for approval following the consent of the University Senate;
 - 41.5. ensure the implementation of the University development strategy in cooperation with the University structural units;
 - 41.6. designate and remove vice-rectors and deans in accordance with the goals set in the University development strategy and define their spheres of competence, powers and responsibilities;
 - 41.7. be responsible for the successful implementation of the University staff policy;
 - 41.8. ensure drawing up of the University budget and submit it to the Council for approval after obtaining the consent of the University Senate. The Rector shall be responsible for the implementation of the budget and shall submit the annual accounts of the University to the Council for approval;
 - 41.9. in accordance with the authorisation of the Council, handle the resources of the University, including taking the necessary action in relation to the University credit liabilities and attraction of investment;
 - 41.10. in accordance with the real estate development plan approved by the University Council, take decisions regarding the purchase of real estate, encumbrance or expropriation;
 - 41.11. within the scope of his or her competence, be responsible for the compliance of the University activity with the Law on Higher Education Institutions and other laws and regulations.

Academic Arbitration Court

42. **The Academic Arbitration Court** shall be a dispute settlement body established at the University, that consists of three arbitrators, two of whom are elected for three years by the University Constitutional Assembly from among the academic staff. The University Constitutional Assembly shall also elect three substitute arbitrators. Representatives of the administrative staff of the University may not be members of the Academic Arbitration Court. The University Student Union shall elect a student representative to the Academic Arbitration Court from among the University students for two years. The University Student Union shall also elect two substitute arbitrators.
43. The Academic Arbitration Court or a member thereof shall be removed by the Constitutional Assembly upon the request of the Senate or two thirds of the participants of the Constitutional Assembly or at the request of the University Student Union regarding the recall of the student representative. The rights, duties, tasks and decision-making procedure of the Academic Arbitration Court shall be prescribed by the Law on Higher Education Institutions, Administrative Procedure

²⁹ Section 17¹ of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

Law and the regulations of the Academic Arbitration Court. The regulations of the Academic Arbitration Court shall be approved by the Constitutional Assembly.

44. In accordance with the competence specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions, the Academic Arbitration Court shall consider:³⁰
- 44.1. submissions of students and academic staff regarding restrictions or violations of academic freedom and rights specified in the Constitution of the University;
 - 44.2. disputes between the officials of the University, as well as the administrative bodies of the structural units, which are in subordinate relationship;
 - 44.3. submissions regarding the appeal against an administrative act or actual action in the cases specified in this Law, and shall take relevant decisions regarding them.
45. In addition to the competence specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions, the Academic Arbitration Court shall adjudicate disputes between the governing bodies of the University. The Academic Arbitration Court shall not consider disputes arising from employment relationship.
46. Decisions of the Academic Arbitration Court, administrative acts, may be appealed to the court in accordance with the procedure specified by the Administrative Procedure Law.

Structural units

47. **The Convent of Councillors** shall advise the Council, the Senate and the Rector on the University development strategy, as well as on matters related to the budget and financial management, and it shall act in accordance with the Law on Higher Education Institutions and the regulations of the Convent of Councillors. The regulations of the Convent of Councillors shall be approved by the Council and the Senate.³¹
48. **The Student Union** shall be an elected, independent institution representing the rights and interests of students, acting in accordance with the regulations approved by the Senate. Representatives of the Student Union shall have the right to participate in the decision-making bodies of the University, to provide an oral or written opinion on financial matters affecting the interests of students, to participate in handling students' household matters and as observers in tests and examinations, as well as to exercise other rights specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions.
49. **The Council of Deans** shall be a collegial body that operates on a permanent basis and, in accordance with its competence, deals with and coordinates matters related to studies. The composition, competence and operating procedure of the Council of Deans shall be determined in its regulations approved by the Senate.
50. **The Science Council** shall be a collegial body that operates on a permanent basis and, in accordance with its competence, deals with and coordinates matters related to research activity. The composition, competence and operating procedure of the Science Council shall be determined in its regulations approved by the Senate.
51. **The Rectorate** shall be a collegial body managed by the Rector and established for the coordination of the University management. The Rectorate shall consist of the Rector and Vice-Rectors. The Rector shall invite the involved representatives of the University staff to the meetings of the Rectorate. The procedure for the operation of the Rectorate shall be determined in its regulations approved by the Rector.

³⁰ Section 19 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

³¹ Section 16, Paragraph Two of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

52. The procedure for the establishment, reorganisation and liquidation of structural units shall be prescribed by the Law on Higher Education Institutions. The tasks, functions and rights of a structural unit shall be prescribed in the regulations of the structural unit, approved by the Rector, unless otherwise specified by the Law on Higher Education Institutions. The head of each structural unit shall be responsible for the performance of the tasks of the structural unit, for the employment of staff and for the efficient use of material resources at the disposal of the structural unit.
53. The University shall have the following academic and organisational units: faculties, institutes, departments, centres, research laboratories (groups) and lecturer groups, which, in accordance with their regulations, provide studies and research, as well as provide services to the public.
54. **The Faculty** shall be an organisational structural unit of the University, established for the organisation of academic activity in one or more fields of science. The faculty shall fulfil the joint tasks of the University in this field and shall observe the principles of its operation. In matters of relevant academic and professional activity, the faculty shall fulfil the role of a methodological and ideological centre at the University, without assuming the competence and responsibility of the University management. The faculty shall be managed by the dean. A competition shall be held for the vacant position of a dean. The candidate for the position of a dean selected in the competition shall be appointed by the Rector in consultation with the Faculty Council (the candidates selected in the competition shall be heard at the meeting of the Faculty Council and the Faculty Council shall submit its opinion regarding the candidates to the Rector) for a term not exceeding five years, but not more than twice in succession.³² The dean shall represent the faculty in all its affairs without special authorisation. The Faculty Council shall operate in accordance with the regulations of the faculty.
55. **The Institute** shall be a research and/or academic unit of the University. The Institute shall be established by joining units of one sub-sector of science or several sub-sectors (departments, research laboratories or clinics) for the purpose of using their intellectual and material potential for the rational achievement of common goals, as well as changing the existing subordination of Latvian research institutes in accordance with the procedures prescribed by laws and regulations. The Institute shall be managed by the Director. A competition shall be held for the vacant position of a director. The candidate for the position of a director selected in the competition shall be approved by the Senate for a period of five years upon the proposal from the Science Council. The director of the research institute established as a University Agency or structural unit, elected by the scientific council of the institute shall be approved in office by the Rector of the University.³³
56. **The department** shall be an academic unit of the University; it shall operate in accordance with the regulations. The department shall be managed by the head of the department. A competition shall be held for the vacant position of the head of the department. The head of the department shall be elected by the Senate. The Rector shall conclude an employment contract for five years with the head of the department elected by the Senate. The head of the department shall be the official representative of the department in all its affairs.
57. **The Centre** shall be an organisational and / or academic unit; it shall operate in accordance with the regulations. According to the regulations, the Centre activity shall be managed by the director or manager, who is approved by the Senate upon the proposal from the Rector.

³² Section 24, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

³³ Section 24, Paragraph Four of the Law on Scientific Activity

58. **The Research laboratory (group)** shall be a research unit of the University. The Research laboratory shall be established within the University institute or department or as an independent structural unit. The Research laboratory shall be managed by the head of the laboratory, who is recruited by the Rector of the University.
59. **The Lecturer group** shall be an academic unit of the University. The Lecturer group shall be established by the decision of the Senate; it shall be managed by the head, who is recruited by the University Rector.
60. **The Library** shall provide access to the collection, databases and information systems for the University staff, including students, healthcare professionals of Latvia and every library user.
61. The administrative units of the University (departments, units, etc.) shall provide support to academic and organisational structural units. The heads of administrative structural units shall be recruited by the Rector or the relevant Vice-Rector in accordance with the Labour Law.

University ecosystem

62. The University may establish **commercial companies** and be a member of commercial companies, as well as establish associations and foundations and be a member or founder of **associations** and **foundations**. By a decision of the Senate, the University may also establish institutions, including public agencies, for the implementation of the goals laid down in the Constitution.
63. In accordance with the procedures specified in laws and regulations, the University may establish a **research institute**, including as a public agency or as a derived public entity. The University may also establish a research institute as a structural unit of the University. The research institute, established as a structural unit of the University, shall act in accordance with the regulations; it shall be funded and supervised by the University.
64. In accordance with the procedures specified in laws and regulations, the University may establish **colleges**.
65. The University together with other institutions, including international and foreign institutions, which may be universities, organisations, companies or other persons may establish and be a participant of associations, **consortia**, on a temporary basis, to pursue common strategic goals and a joint, mutually coordinated action plan that is significant for all the members of the association or to pool resources for the achievement of a common goal.³⁴

V. Staff

66. The University staff shall be composed of:
 - 66.1. the academic staff: employees elected to the academic positions of the University;
 - 66.2. students, including students for Master's degree, doctoral students and residents;
 - 66.3. general University staff.³⁵
67. The academic staff of the University shall be composed of:
 - 67.1. professors, associate professors;
 - 67.2. assistant professors, lead researchers;
 - 67.3. lecturers, researchers;

³⁴ Section 21, Paragraph Three of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

³⁵ Section 26, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

67.4. assistants.³⁶

68. The University students shall be:

- 68.1. students of Bachelor's study programmes;
- 68.2. students of professional study programmes;
- 68.3. students of the Master's degree study programmes;
- 68.4. medical residents;
- 68.5. doctoral students.³⁷

69. The general staff of the University shall be:

- 69.1. teaching and research ancillary staff;
- 69.2. administrative, technical, maintenance and other staff, with the exception of academic staff and students.³⁸

70. The procedure for the election of the academic staff, their rights and duties shall be prescribed by the Law on Higher Education Institutions, Education Law, the Law on Scientific Activity, the University staff rules and regulations and other internal University rules and regulations.

71. The Senate may award the honorary title of *Emeritus Professor* or *Emeritus Scientist* for a special contribution to academic work. The criteria for awarding an honorary title shall be set by the Senate.

72. The main tasks of lecturers and assistants shall be:³⁹

- 72.1. the provision of study courses or parts thereof in the implementation of study programmes;
- 72.2. participation in the evaluation of the work and quality of study programmes;
- 72.3. conduct of scientific research work;
- 72.4. assisting in pedagogical and scientific research work;
- 72.5. development of professional qualifications.

73. Matriculation at the University shall take place in accordance with the admission requirements approved in accordance with the procedures specified in laws and regulations. Any citizen of Latvia and non-citizen of Latvia, as well as a foreigner shall have the right to become a student of the University.⁴⁰ Tuition fees for students shall be fully or partially covered by the State, as well as by legal entities and natural persons in accordance with the contracts concluded between the University and the students.

74. Students of the University shall be entitled to:

- 74.1. receive academic and professional education and carry out research work and obtain academic degrees in accordance with the study programmes approved by the University;
- 74.2. choose study programmes and directions;
- 74.3. suspend and resume studies in accordance with the procedures established by the University;
- 74.4. use the University premises, laboratories, clinics, libraries, facilities, equipment, etc. in accordance with the University Internal Rules and Regulations;
- 74.5. elect and be elected to the Student Union, participate in the self-governing bodies of the University at all levels;
- 74.6. establish associations, interest groups, clubs, etc.;

³⁶ Section 27, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

³⁷ Section 44, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

³⁸ Section 43, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

³⁹ Section 36, Paragraph Two and Section 37, Paragraph Two of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

⁴⁰ Section 45, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

- 74.7. receive information on all matters directly related to their studies and possible careers;
 - 74.8. express and defend freely their own thoughts and opinions at the University;
 - 74.9. attend study events of another higher education institution as listeners and take the necessary examinations in accordance with the procedures established by the University.
75. The rights and obligations of the University general staff shall be to promote study and research work in such a way that the University is able to carry out its tasks and that the performance of other people job responsibilities or duties is not hindered. According to the University Constitution, the staff shall have the right to participate in drawing up decisions of the University management and self-government.
76. The University staff shall be independently responsible for the performance of duties specified in the job description, the employment contract and the internal rules and regulations of the University or other binding documents. Liability for detectable violations shall arise from the job requirements and competence, observing the requirements of laws and regulations.

VI. Property, economic activity and financial resources

77. In performing its tasks, the University shall have the right to undertake the following activities in Latvia and abroad:⁴¹
- 77.1. open departments, branches, representative offices;
 - 77.2. conclude contracts with natural persons and legal entities, as well as undertake other legal activities in accordance with the Law on Higher Education Institutions, other laws of the Republic of Latvia and the University Constitution;
 - 77.3. invite to tenders, buy and sell movable and immovable property, various possessions and securities in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations and in conformity with the operational goals of the University;
 - 77.4. carry out an economic activity corresponding to the University profile, the income of which is to be transferred to the University budget for its development, as well as to invest the obtained funds in other commercial companies in accordance with the development goals of the University;
 - 77.5. be the plaintiff and the defendant in the courts.
78. The University may own, possess and use land, movable, immovable and intellectual property, as well as money.⁴²
79. The university property shall be composed of:
- 79.1. movable and immovable property donated to the University, inherited by the University or purchased by the University own funds;
 - 79.2. property purchased using the State budget. The immovable property shall be entered in the Land Register as the property of the University;
 - 79.3. Intellectual property of the University;
 - 79.4. real estate transferred free of charge to the University by another derived public body or State.
80. The University shall have the right to use its property for the achievement of the goals specified in the Constitution of the University. The property of the University shall be managed separately from the property transferred to its possession by the State or another derived public body.

⁴¹ Section 80, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

⁴² Section 76, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

81. The University shall receive the following public funding:⁴³
- 81.1. from the State basic budget for education: the basic funding corresponding to the optimal list of study programmes and the number of students, which includes resources for public utilities, taxes, maintenance of infrastructure, purchase of accessories and equipment, scientific research or artistic creativity work and staff salaries;
 - 81.2. from tuition fees covered by the State or which are received in the form of repayable or non-repayable loans in accordance with the Cabinet Regulations regarding the crediting of studies;
 - 81.3. from funds earmarked for specific purposes.

VII. Procedure for Issuance of internal laws and regulations

82. Internal laws and regulations of the University shall be issued by the governing bodies specified in Paragraph 18 of the Constitution in accordance with the competence of the governing bodies specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions and this Constitution.
83. Prior to the issuance of an internal law the governing body shall:
- 83.1. coordinate the draft internal law with the University structural units, whose field of competence is directly affected by the draft;
 - 83.2. coordinate the draft with the representatives of the staff groups affected by the draft;
 - 83.3. provide a financial and legal assessment of the draft.

VIII. Dispute resolution procedure

84. The Academic Arbitration Court shall consider all disputes which fall within the competence of the Academic Arbitration Court in accordance with the Law on Higher Education and this Constitution.⁴⁴
85. Ethical Disputes shall be considered by **the Ethics Committee** within the University. The Ethics Committee shall act in accordance with the Code of Ethics, which is approved by the University Senate.
86. Disputes arising from employment relationships shall be considered in accordance with the procedures specified in the Labour Law and the University Collective Agreement.

IX Other Provisions

87. The Constitution shall enter into force on 1 June 2022.⁴⁵

⁴³ Section 78, Paragraph One of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

⁴⁴ Section 19 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions

⁴⁵ Clause 64 of the Transitional Provisions of the Law on Higher Education Institutions