OpenEU

The Open
European
University

OpenEU
Student Council
Regulations

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Version History

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Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
Pastora Martinez, UOC T1.1.1 leader	WP1 Board	WP1 Board
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I N D E X

1. Purpose of the Student Council

1.1 The OpenEU Student Council is a democratic body representing the student perspective within the OpenEU Alliance. It ensures that students' interests and voices are actively included in the Alliance's governance, strategic development, and activities. The Student Council plays a key role in delivering recommendations for the strategic direction of OpenEU as part of the Executive Board (ExBo) and contributes to decision-making processes at all levels.

The Council is responsible for articulating the views of both the student and alumni community within OpenEU. It appoints student representatives to governing and managing bodies and actively participates in continuous monitoring and improvement processes to enhance the student experience within the Alliance.

1.2 The Student Council serves as an independent advisory body, providing a student perspective on policy and governance. It plays a crucial role in shaping student participation, co-developing alliance initiatives, and ensuring meaningful engagement in alliance-wide activities. Through its involvement, the Council fosters student-led contributions to OpenEU's long-term vision and development.

1.3 The Student Council will act as:

- An advocate for student perspectives within OpenEU governing bodies.
- An innovation trend-spotter, by checking up on OpenEU's technologies for education and learning, and contributing to Alliance's planning regards digital technologies and education.
- A leader of the organisation of the OpenEU Festival with the OpenEU staff support and other online or face-to-face events, fostering leadership and planning skills among students.
- A network facilitator, promoting OpenEU opportunities such as joint degrees, mobilities, internships, volunteering, and job opportunities.
- A reporting body, ensuring regular updates to the WP1 Board on progress, deviations, or encountered challenges.

2. Membership

2.1 Composition

2.1.1 The OpenEU Student Council is composed of twenty representatives, with two student representatives from each beneficiary university.

2.1.2 Representatives are selected by a democratic process at their home university (see in point 2.2 of this document).

2.1.3 Student representatives serve a minimum term of two years, with a maximum mandate of four years.

2.1.4 In case of a vacancy, the home university shall appoint a new representative within one month to ensure continuous representation.

2.1.5 Members have equal rights.

2.1.6 The Student Council is committed to upholding principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion. Volunteers of all backgrounds, identities, and experiences, as well as committed to fostering an inclusive environment where everyone is valued and empowered to contribute are welcomed.

2.1.7 Members are not remunerated but compensated for their expenses related to attending meetings. Membership is voluntary and decided locally, with incentives provided to encourage student involvement. Each institution will have the autonomy to determine its participation.

2.2 Election of Members

2.2.1 The election of the Student Council members should be in line with the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion. Democratic elections or representation is preferred.

2.2.2 To ensure an equitable representation at the Student Council, the two representatives of an individual university should represent different genders, and participate or had participated in different educational programmes.

2.2.3 New student Council Members should be elected in time to ensure a seamless transition from members leaving the Student Council. They should have a transition period of at least one month with their predecessors.

2.2.4 Each university is responsible for their own election procedures of their two representatives at the Student Council. These procedures are included as an appendix to this document (Appendix A). Updating the Appendix A, does not require amending the Regulations Document.

3. Participation in the OpenEU governance

The OpenEU Student Council actively participates in the governance and decision-making processes of OpenEU by engaging in boards, committees, and working groups.

To ensure effective representation and workload distribution, the Student Council members will be assigned specific roles within OpenEU's governance framework.

Representatives have the flexibility to designate backups in case of unavailability, ensuring that all governance bodies continue to have active student representation.

Role	# of reps.	Responsibilities	Meeting Frequency
Executive Board Representative	1	Represents students in ExBo, ensuring student perspective in strategic decision-making.	Every 2 months online, 1 in-person per year
Education Board Representative	1	Oversees WP2, WP3, and WP6, contributing to education-related coordination.	Every 4 months online, 1 in-person every 2 years
Research & Innovation Board Representative	1	Oversees WP4 and WP5, contributing to research and innovation initiatives.	Every 4 months online, 1 in-person every 2 years
Community Board Representative	1	Oversees WP1, WP7, and WP8, ensuring student involvement in community-building efforts.	Every 4 months online, 1 in-person every 2 years
WP Boards Representatives	8	Ensures student input in WP activities, participating in discussions and planning.	Every 2 months online, 1 in-person every 2 years
Think and Do Tank Representative	1	Engages with experts on digital education, providing student insights and expectations.	Once a year in person, regularly online
Communication & Engagement Office Representative	1	Coordinates student-driven communication efforts within OpenEU.	As needed for communication efforts

3.1 Representation in the Executive Board (ExBo)

One Student Council representative serves as the student representative in the ExBo, which meets every two months online and once per year in person. This representative will ensure that the student perspective is considered in strategic decision-making processes and the overall coordination of the Alliance's activities.

3.2 Participation in the Mission Boards

Three representatives are designated to participate in the Mission Boards, each covering one of OpenEU's core missions:

- Education Board (overseeing WP2, WP3, and WP6)
- Research & Innovation (R&I) Board (overseeing WP4 and WP5)
- Community Board (overseeing WP1, WP7, and WP8)

These representatives contribute to discussions and coordination efforts within their respective boards, which meet every four months online and in person every two years.

3.3 Representation in the Work Package (WP) Boards

Eight Student Council representatives are assigned to participate in the Work Package (WP) Boards, covering WP1 to WP8. WP Boards meet every two months online and in person every two years.

3.4 Contribution to the Think and Do Tank (WP5)

One representative is assigned to contribute to the Think and Do Tank on Digital Education, in the WP5. This representative engages with experts, provides insights on student expectations for digital education, and ensures that the Student Council's perspectives are reflected in discussions. This body meets once a year in person and regularly online.

3.5 Involvement in the Communication & Engagement Office (WP8)

One representative is assigned to the OpenEU Communication & Engagement Office to coordinate student-driven communication efforts. This representative will work with OpenEU's central and local communication teams to ensure student perspectives are visible in dissemination strategies, social media updates, and engagement campaigns.

4. Meetings and Decision-Making

4.1 Organisation of the meetings

4.1.1 The Student Council elects a Chairperson among its members to organise the meetings of the Student Council. The Chairperson serves a term of one year and cannot be reelected. A member who has chaired the Student Council for one mandate cannot be elected for the next two mandates. .

4.1.2 The OpenEU Secretariat shall provide the necessary resources and logistical support to ensure the effective organisation of these meetings.

4.1.3 The chairperson shall provide written notice of a meeting (email is sufficient) to all Student Council members as soon as possible and no later than the minimum required notice period:

- Ordinary meetings: At least 30 calendar days in advance.
- Extraordinary meetings: At least 14 calendar days in advance.

4.2 Frequency

4.2.1 The Student Council meets regularly, with a minimum of 3 online meetings per year.

4.2.2 Meetings are scheduled and accorded at the start of the semester.

4.2.3 Extraordinary meetings may be convened at any time upon a written request from at least one-third of the Student Council members.

4.3 Location

4.3.1 Meetings are held online, having the possibility to meet in person every two years in a partner institution.

4.3.2 The hosting university will offer the needed support to the SC to organise the in person meeting.

4.3.3 Council members will be compensated for their expenses related to attending the meetings by their home university.

4.4 Agenda of a meeting

4.4.1 The agenda for an ordinary meeting must be sent at least 14 calendar days before the meeting.

4.4.2 The agenda for an extraordinary meeting must be sent at least 7 calendar days before the meeting.

4.4.3 Adding Agenda Items. Any agenda item requiring a decision must be clearly identified on the agenda. Any Student Council member may propose additional items by notifying all other members within the following deadlines:
- Ordinary meetings: Up to 10 calendar days before the meeting.
- Extraordinary meetings: Up to 7 calendar days before the meeting.

4.5 Voting Procedures

4.5.1 The Student Council acts as a collegial body, always seeking consensus among its members.

4.5.2 In case of differences, decisions are taken based on qualified majority (⅔ majority of the votes).

4.6 Attendance and Participation

4.6.1 Attendance is expected from all representatives. If a member cannot attend a meeting, they must inform the Chairperson and may delegate their voting rights to another representative.

4.7 Language

4.7.1 While appreciating the multilingual background of its members, meetings are generally held in English.

4.8 Confidentiality

4.8.1 Discussions may be held in private upon request by any Student Council member.

5. Final Provisions

5.1 The OpenEU Secretariat and local coordinating teams shall provide the necessary resources and logistical support to ensure the effective functioning of the Student Council.

Annex A: Election procedures for each university

1. UOC

At the UOC, the two representatives for the OpenEU Student Council will be selected by the UOC Student Council among its members. This selection will take into account the principles of diversity, inclusion, and equality, ensuring that all voices within the university community are fairly represented.

The UOC Student Council is the UOC students' highest representative, consultative and advisory body at the University. It is the channel for expressing students' aspirations, requests and proposals, and its task is to promote, coordinate and defend your concerns, rights and interests.

The UOC Student Council is made up of student representatives from all the faculty committees and its members have been elected by the student body at UOC.

2. UAb

At UAb, the two representatives for the OpenEU Student Council will be chosen by the UAb Student Union from among its members. The selection process will prioritize representation across different programs while upholding the principles of diversity, inclusion, and equality to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, geographical representation will be considered.

3. BU

At BU, the two representatives for the OpenEU Student Council will be selected by the BU Student Union Board among its members. This selection will take into account the principles of diversity, inclusion, and equality as best as possible considering the small number of elected student officials at BU due to the comparably small size of the institution.

4. OUC

5. DU

Two representatives among the Daugavpils University Student Council members will be selected by the DU Student Council to participate in the OpenEU Student Council. This selection will take into account the principles of diversity, inclusion, and equality.

6. FeU

7. HOU

8. OUNL

9. UNED

10. UVT

The governance body of the Student Council of UVT will select two students for members of the OpenEU Student Council. Applications are open for all students at the University. The selection will take into account the principles of diversity, inclusion, and equality.

The Student Council of UVT is democratically elected by the student community along with the Rector's elections and has the same mandate. In accordance with Bulgaria's Higher Education Act it has its own rulebook, governance structure and budget. The mandate of its members is up to two years with a possibility to be re-elected for another two. The Student Council has a size of no less than 15 % of the University's General Assembly.

(tbc)

Annex B: Brief summary of the Student Councils at each university

1. UOC

At the UOC, the [Student Council](#) is elected democratically among the student body and has a mandate of 3 years. They participate in different governance bodies and commissions, as the Government Board, the Faculty Committee or the University Council. They are not remunerated but are compensated for travel expenses related to their participation in the Student Council. As incentives, undergraduate students are awarded 6 ECTS.

2. UAb

At UAb there is an elected [Student Union](#). They have elections every year and they have to be university students in any of the three cycles of study. They participate in different university structures as the General Council and the Pedagogical Council. They don't have remuneration.

3. BU

At the BU there is a Student Union in which all the students who have paid tuition are automatically members but can resign and they are part of the National Union of Icelandic Students. The Student Union Board is elected annually. Besides, there are student representatives at University Council, Faculty

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Council, Equal Opportunities Committee and the Appeals Committee. They don't have remuneration.

4. OUC

There is no Student Council, since by law students cannot be part of the governing bodies of the university.

5. DU

The Daugavpils University Student Council consists of 15 annually elected student representatives. All students have the right to pretend.

The goal of Daugavpils University Student Council is to defend and represent the interests of all DU students in academic, material, cultural, social life, and other matters within the university and other institutions. The representatives of Student Council participate and have voting rights in DU Budget Commission and DU Senate. The students appointed by the Student Council to the DU Senate have *veto* rights on matters affecting student interests.

Student Council representatives are not remunerated, however they are compensated for travel expenses related to the work of Student Council and for other needs from the university budget. The Student Council is funded from the DU budget in an amount not less than 1/12 of the DU annual budget.

6. FeU

At FeU there are mainly two bodies: a specific student council for each faculty and the Student Parliament elected. They have a mandate of 2 years. The student parliament is elected on the basis of nominations similar to those of political parties. They are not remunerated but are compensated for travel expenses related to their participation in the Student Council.

7. HOU

There is no student council.

8. OUNL

At OUNL there is an elected Student Council with a mandate of 2 years. They participate in the Educacion Committee at faculties level. They are remunerated with 120€ for meeting plus travel expenses.

9. UNED

At UNED there is a democratically elected Student Council with a 2-year term and a diverse profile and they participate in different boards. 68 students are members of the University Senate. They are not remunerated but are compensated for travel expenses related to their participation in the governing boards. As incentives, undergraduate students are awarded 1 to 1,5 ECTS per academic year.

10. VTU

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The Student Council is democratically elected by the student community along with the Rector's elections and has the same mandate. In accordance with Bulgaria's Higher Education Act it has its own rulebook, governance structure and budget. The mandate of its members is up to two years with a possibility to be re-elected for another two. The Student Council has a size of no less than 15 % of the University's General Assembly. The Faculties also have representatives of the student board. Members are not remunerated, but 1% of the budget of the university is devoted to their activities (organising events, etc..).