



OpenEU Student Council Regulations

October 2025

Version 02

Version History

Version	Date	Sections	Change Description
00	17/02/25	All	Original Document
01	11/10/25	All	Final draft by SC
02	28/10/25	All	Consolidated version

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Pastora Martinez, UOC T1.1.1 leader	WP1 Board	WP1 Board
17/02/2025	28/02/2025	12/03/2025
OpenEU Student Council	SG	OpenEU SC
11/10/25		

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1. Background and Context

The OpenEU Student Council has developed the following Regulations to formalize its structure and operations, incorporating proposals approved by the Council and aligning with the Alliance's governance framework. This document is the result of a **Regulations Committee** working group modelled after the Alliance's flexible working structures. The committee included Student Council members (and additional students designated by each university) and was tasked with drafting internal rules for the Student Council. The draft produced by this committee was reviewed with the OpenEU Secretary General and approved at the Council's meeting in Hagen on October 10–12, 2025.

In developing these rules, the Student Council kept in mind the **agile, collaborative decision-making ethos** of the OpenEU Alliance. The Alliance's governance bodies operate through consensus-building and cooperative processes, with efficient decision-making between meetings and a bottom-up approach to participation. Accordingly, the Student Council's procedures emphasize consensus where possible and clarity in representation, voting, and delegation of tasks. Key enhancements in this revised draft include:

- **Composition and Representation:** The Open EU Student Council is composed of student representatives from each beneficiary university (member institution of the Alliance), with a minimum of two and ideally three students per university delegation.
- **Voting System:** To prevent imbalances due to varying attendance, the Council adopts a **“one university, one vote”** principle. Regardless of how many representatives of a university are present, that institution has a single vote in Council decisions.
- **Permanent Board :** The Student Council may establish a **Permanent Board (SCPB)** to act on its behalf between plenary meetings. The SCPB is responsible for communication with the Alliance, convening Council meetings, initiating proposals or working groups, and executing decisions that cannot be delayed until the next full SC meeting. However, any decisions beyond its mandate or affecting the Council's structure must be brought to the full Council for approval.
- **Permanent board members:** The Council will elect from among its members five people as Permanent Board members. All Student Council members should elect the positions of Chairperson and

Secretary from among those five people. The chairperson's role is to organize and chair Council meetings and to represent the Student Council in Alliance bodies where only one student representative is allowed. This chairperson holds no unilateral decision-making authority beyond those representational and meeting-facilitation duties, ensuring that executive power remains with the collective Council or its elected SCPB rather than a single individual. The Secretary's role is to keep minutes and assist the Chairperson; to avoid overburdening one person, the Secretary may delegate the minute-taking to a different volunteer member at each meeting.

- **Meeting Procedures:** Notices for meetings and agenda deadlines have been adjusted for practicality. Ordinary meetings will be called with at least **14** days' notice, and extraordinary meetings with at least **7** days' notice, to allow more agility. Similarly, agenda distribution and item proposal deadlines have been shortened in proportion. These changes ensure that the Council can respond more quickly when needed, while still giving members sufficient time to prepare. Meetings will continue to be held primarily online (with at least three per year), with an in-person meeting at least once every two years, supported by the hosting university and the Alliance.

What follows is the revised **OpenEU Student Council Regulations Version**

1. All changes are made to reflect either the approved proposals or the specific instructions provided.

This document may be revised and changed at any official meeting of the OpenEU Student Council, according to point 5.5.9.

Following this, the Student Council emphasized the OpenEU policy on Inclusive Gender Equality. Although all policies apply explicitly to OpenEU activities, broader impact within member universities remains an ambition, rather than an expectation.

2. Purpose of the Student Council

2.1. OpenEU Student Council definition

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 the OpenEU as part of the Alliance's Executive Board (ExBo) and contributes to decision-making processes at all levels. The Council is responsible for articulating the views of the students. It appoints student representatives to govern and manage bodies and actively participates in continuous monitoring and improvement processes to enhance student experience within the Alliance.

2.2. Student Council Purpose

The Student Council serves as an independent 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. The Student Council acts as:

- **An advocate** for student perspectives within OpenEU governing bodies.
- **An innovation trend-spotter**, by observing and evaluating OpenEU's educational technologies and contributing to the Alliance's planning regarding digital innovation in education.
- **A leader** in organizing the OpenEU Festival (with support from OpenEU staff) and other online or onsite events, thereby fostering leadership and planning skills among students.
- **A network facilitator**, promoting OpenEU opportunities such as joint degrees, mobilities, internships, volunteering, and job opportunities for students across the Alliance.
- **A reporting body**, ensuring regular updates to the relevant Work Package 1 Board (Alliance management board) on progress, deviations, or challenges encountered in Student Council initiatives.

2.3. Student Council Competences

The Student Council of the OpenEU Alliance shall act as the collective voice of the students from all member institutions. It shall represent their interests and concerns within the governance and decision-making processes of the Alliance. Its competences include:

2.3.1. To formulate and express the collective position of students on matters concerning higher education, European integration, and student life across the Alliance.

2.3.2. To provide consultative input to the Executive Board and all relevant Work Package Boards on matters affecting students, with the aim of ensuring that student perspectives are systematically included in the Alliance's strategic decisions.

2.3.3. To nominate and send student representatives to the different Work Package Boards and Advisory Bodies of the Alliance, ensuring balanced and effective student participation in all key areas of the project.

2.3.4. To promote inclusive, democratic, and transparent student participation at all levels of the Alliance, while ensuring respect for diversity, gender equality, accessibility, and fundamental rights.

2.3.5. To establish mechanisms for regular communication and coordination with local student councils or equivalent bodies at each member's university.

2.3.6. To collect and disseminate good practices among student representatives, and to foster a shared student identity and community within the Alliance.

2.3.7. To develop proposals and initiatives aimed at improving student experience in a transnational, multilingual, and multicultural environment.

2.3.8. To ensure accountability and transparency in its own operations, including publishing meeting minutes, annual reports, and policy statements, as appropriate.

2.3.9. To collaborate with relevant bodies within and beyond the Alliance on issues related to students' rights, wellbeing, participation, and mobility.

2.3.10. To participate in the co-design and evaluation of Alliance-wide activities that impact students, including mobility programs, joint curricula, community engagement actions, and digital transformation initiatives.

3. Membership

3.1. Composition

3.1.1. The OpenEU Student Council is composed of student representatives from each beneficiary university (member institution of the Alliance), with a **minimum of two and ideally three students** per university delegation.

3.1.2. All the representatives are specifically designated following the procedure established by their home student council or, if not applicable, by their university (see section 3.2).

3.1.3. All Student Council members have equal rights and an equal voice in discussions (subject to Additional Provision 6.1.1.).

3.1.4. The Student Council is committed to upholding principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion, as well as all the values included in the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000/C 364/01)*. Members of all backgrounds, identities, and experiences are welcomed, and the Council is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where everyone is valued and empowered to contribute.

3.1.5. Members of the Student Council are not remunerated for their service; however, they do receive compensation for expenses related to attending meetings.

3.1.6. Each institution has the autonomy and discretion to ensure the participation of its students in the OpenEU Student Council.

3.2. Election of Members

3.2.1. The election of Student Council members in each university should be conducted in accordance with the OpenEU IGEP policies and the respective university's existing equity and inclusion policies, ensuring participation across different study programs. The designation of Student Council members in each university should be done following the procedure established by their home university.

3.2.2. New Student Council members should be elected in time to ensure a seamless transition when outgoing members leave the Student Council.

There should be a handover period of at least one month in which new members overlap with their predecessors to transfer knowledge.

3.2.3. Each university is responsible for its own detailed procedure for selecting its representatives; these procedures are to be documented in an appendix to this document (Appendix A: Election Procedures for Each University). Updating Appendix A does not require a formal amendment of the main Regulations, as each institution is expected to be able to refine its own selection process.

3.2.4. Early Termination or Removal of a Representative by a University

If a university decides to terminate the mandate of its Student Council representatives, or to remove an individual representative prior to the completion of their term, it shall notify the Student Council and the OpenEU Secretary General no later than 15 days in advance. This allows the Student Council to take the necessary steps to ensure continuity of representation and the smooth functioning of activities. During the handover period (Section 3.2.3), both the newly selected representative(s) and the former one(s) are expected to attend meetings - the former representative(s) shall remain in office without voting rights, serving in an advisory and informative capacity to support the transition.

4. Participation in the OpenEU Governance

The OpenEU Student Council actively participates in the governance and decision-making processes of OpenEU by engaging with various boards, committees, and working groups of the Alliance. To ensure effective representation and manageable workload distribution, Student Council members are assigned specific roles within OpenEU's governance structure.

Roles of Student Council members in OpenEU governance include:

4.0.1. OpenEU Executive Board (ExBo): The Chairperson of the Student Council representative serves as one of the student members of the OpenEU Alliance Executive Board. This Student Representative ensures that the student perspective is considered in the Alliance's strategic decision-making and coordination of activities. A second student is welcomed to Exbo, as two student representatives are defined on the OpenEU regulatory framework.

4.0.2. Education Board: Three Student Council representatives participate in the OpenEU *Education Board* (overseeing Work Packages 2, 3 & 6). They

contribute to discussions and coordination of education-related initiatives across the Alliance.

4.0.3. Research & Innovation Board: Two Student Council representatives participate in the *Research & Innovation (R&I) Board* (overseeing WP 4 & 5). They contribute to Alliance research and innovation initiatives.

4.0.4. Community Board: Three Student Council representatives participate in the *Community Board* (overseeing Work Packages 1, 7, and 8), ensuring student involvement in community- building and outreach efforts.

4.0.5. Think and Do Tank (Digital Education, WP5.1): They engage experts to provide insights on student expectations for digital education and ensure the Council's perspective is reflected in those discussions.

4.0.6. Communication & Engagement Office: One student council representative is assigned to collaborate with the OpenEU *Communication & Engagement Office* (WP8). They coordinate student-driven communication efforts within OpenEU, working with the Alliance's central and local communication teams to ensure student perspectives are visible in dissemination strategies, social media, and engagement campaigns.

4.0.7. Work Package Boards: Student Council representatives are expected to engage with their respective Work Package Boards (covering WP1 through WP8) to provide student input in project activities. WP Boards generally meet every two months online.

4.0.8. External representation: When representation of the Student Council of the Alliance is required, and such representation is not assigned by virtue of holding a position within the various Boards or designated roles, the students who will represent the interests of the Alliance shall be elected from among the members of the Student Council Plenary. During this session, the required number of principal representatives and alternate members shall be elected.

If time constraints make it impracticable to convene such an extraordinary Plenary session, the other Members should first be notified and asked if there are any volunteers willing to take up the responsibility. If no solution can be found in this way, the question shall be transferred to the closest ordinary Plenary meeting of the Student Council. Only in

the case of an emergency, where deadlines are too short to allow either of the above procedures, shall the Permanent Board be authorized to temporarily appoint the necessary principal representatives or alternates. These temporary appointments shall remain in force only until the next Plenary session, at which point the appointments must either be ratified, or new representatives must be elected to fulfil the external representation roles.

Role	# of reps.	Responsibilities	Meeting Frequency
Executive Board Representative	2	Represents students in ExBo, ensuring student perspective in strategic decision-making.	Every 2 months online, 1 in-person per year
Education Board Representative	3	Oversees WP2, WP3, and WP6, contributing to education-related coordination.	Every 4 months online, 1 in-person every 1 years
Research & Innovation Board Representative	2	Oversees WP4 and WP5, contributing to research and innovation initiatives.	Every 4 months online, 1 in-person every 2 years
Community Board Representative	3	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

5. Meetings and Decision-Making

5.1. Organization of Meetings

The Chairperson is responsible for convening and chairing meetings of the Student Council. The chairperson serves a one-year term and may be re-elected, provided that no individual's total service on the Council exceeds the two-year maximum term.

5.1.1. The Secretary's function is to take minutes of meetings and to assist the chairperson in the administrative tasks of organizing meetings and following up on decisions.

5.1.2. The election of any other *internal positions or representative roles* shall be decided among the candidates by simple majority vote by all Student Council members. For example, if the Council establishes committees or elects delegates to events, those decisions are made by a simple majority unless otherwise specified.

5.1.3. If the positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and/or Secretary are vacant (or neither the chairperson nor the Secretary is available to organize a meeting), an age-based interim leadership will be applied solely for the purpose of convening and chairing the meeting: the oldest member of the Council will serve as Chairperson-in-Office, and the youngest member will serve as Secretary-in-Office for that meeting. This arrangement lasts only until a new Chairperson and/or Secretary can be duly elected by the whole Student Council.

5.1.4. The OpenEU Secretariat shall provide the necessary resources and logistical support to ensure effective organization of Student Council meetings. This includes, for example, providing access to online meeting platforms, assisting with travel arrangements for any in-person meetings, and offering guidance on procedural matters.

5.1.5. The Chairperson (or the Permanent Board, see 5.11) must send a written notice calling for a meeting to all Student Council members as early as possible, and no later than the minimum notice period specified below:

- **Ordinary meetings:** at least **14** calendar days in advance of the meeting date.
- **Extraordinary meetings:** at least **7** calendar days in advance.

This notice may be delivered electronically (email is sufficient) and should include the proposed date, time, format (online or in-person), and the proposed agenda for the meeting.

5.2. Frequency of Meetings

5.2.1. The Student Council meets regularly, with a minimum of **3** online meetings per year (approximately one per semester and one additional) and one in-person meeting every two years.

5.2.2. At the start of each academic semester or term, the Permanent Board should schedule its regular meetings for that period by consensus or vote. This schedule should be communicated to all members in advance (for instance, setting dates for the three required meetings of the year early on).

5.2.3. Each university shall provide the Permanent Board with information regarding official examination periods or other academic exclusion dates that may affect the availability of their representatives. The SCPB Board shall take these periods into account, if possible, when proposing the calendar of meetings, ensuring that the scheduling of ordinary sessions does not interfere with the academic progress or obligations of any Student Council representative.

5.2.4. Extraordinary meetings may be convened at any time, outside the regular schedule, upon a written request by at least one-third of the OpenEU Student Council members. Such a request should be addressed to the Chairperson or Secretary and should state the urgent matters to be discussed. Upon receiving a valid request, the chairperson or SCPB must call an extraordinary meeting.

5.2.5. Ordinary Meetings of the Student Council may also be convened upon formal request by the OpenEU Secretary General or by the designated leaders of the Alliance's Work Packages, Boards, or equivalent governing structures, when matters of relevance to student participation or coordination with the Council so require..

Requests to convene a meeting under this provision must be submitted in writing via email to the SCPB, including the proposed agenda, date, and time. The SCPB may, in consultation with the requesting party, adjust the proposed date or time to ensure alignment with the applicable provisions of these Regulations and the availability of Council members.

5.3. Location and Format

5.3.1. Meetings are primarily held online (virtual meetings), which is the default mode of operation given by the geographic distribution of

members. The in-person meetings rotate among partner institutions when feasible, leveraging other events to minimize additional travel.

5.3.2. When an in-person meeting is planned, the hosting university will offer the necessary support to organize the meeting (e.g., providing meeting space, local logistics). The OpenEU Secretariat and the host's local coordinating team will assist in arranging travel, accommodation, and other logistics as needed for Council members.

5.3.3. Council members' travel and accommodation expenses for attending in-person meetings will be covered by their home universities, according to each institution's support schemes and available budget on the OpenEU grant.

5.4. The Meeting's Agenda

5.4.1. For an ordinary meeting, the agenda (a detailed list of topics and proposals to be discussed) must be sent out to all members at least 10 calendar days before the meeting.

5.4.2. For an Extraordinary meeting, due to its urgent nature, the agenda must be sent with the invitation.

5.4.3. Adding Agenda Items: Any agenda item requiring a decision must be clearly identified on the agenda distributed. However, the agenda may be modified if necessary; Student Council members may propose additional items for discussion by notifying all members within the following deadlines prior to the meeting:

- **For Ordinary meetings:** up to 5 calendar days before the meeting, members can request additional items to be added.
- **For Extraordinary meetings:** up to 3 calendar days before the meeting, members can propose additional items.

5.4.4. Items proposed within these windows should be shared with all Council members (for instance, via email or the shared online platform), so that everyone is informed. The Chairperson or Secretary will then circulate an updated agenda if time allows or at least informs members of the new item at the start of the meeting.

5.4.5. Items that arise after these deadlines or during the meeting itself may still be added to that meeting's agenda if approved by a simple majority of the vote of the members present.

5.5. Voting Procedures

5.5.1 Quorum is reached when at least one half of the member universities of the Alliance that have appointed a student representative are represented by at least one delegate. If this threshold is not met, the meeting may continue for purposes of discussion and information sharing. However, no binding decisions may be taken.

5.5.2. Extraordinary meetings may proceed even if the quorum is not reached when urgent coordination is required. Any decisions taken under such circumstances must be presented for confirmation at the next meeting at which the quorum is present.

5.5.3. The Chairperson shall confirm and record quorum at the start of each meeting and immediately before any vote, or, where applicable, shall formally declare the extraordinary urgency of the meeting. This confirmation or declaration shall be entered in the minutes.

5.5.4. If participation falls below the quorum threshold during a meeting, deliberations may continue, but any pending votes shall be postponed until quorum is restored or until a subsequent meeting with quorum.

5.5.5. The Student Council endeavors to operate by consensus, meaning it seeks common agreement among members on decisions whenever possible. Open discussion and negotiation are encouraged so that decisions reflect the collective view of the student representatives. *Only when consensus cannot be reached* will the Council resort to formal voting.

5.5.6. In cases where a vote is required, **each university has one (1) vote, regardless of the number of Student Council representatives from that university who are present.** In other words, the students from a given university constitute a single delegation for voting purposes. They are expected to consult among themselves and cast their one institutional vote as a block. (If multiple representatives from the same university are present, they should coordinate how to cast that vote. If only one is present, that representative casts the vote for their university.)

5.5.7. Votes will be counted as in favor, against, or abstentions. Blank votes will be considered abstentions. For determining the majority (simple, qualified, or double majority of representatives), only votes in favor and against will be considered. Abstentions will not be added to either side but will be counted as “present” for quorum purposes. In the event of a tie in simple majority votes, the proposal will be considered rejected.

- **Simple Majority:** A proposal is approved if it receives more votes in favor than against among the members present with the right to vote. Blank votes and abstentions are not counted when determining the majority, but they do count towards the quorum.
- **Qualified Majority:** Approval requires more than half of the valid votes (in favor and against) cast by members present and eligible to vote, provided the quorum is met.
- **Double Majority:** Requires a simultaneous majority of individual representatives and represented universities, as detailed in this regulation.

5.5.8. For **ordinary decisions** (routine matters, standard resolutions, and any decisions not specified as significant in 5.5.9), the default rule is that a proposal is approved by the **Simple Majority**.

5.5.9. For **significant decisions**, which include the election of Council officers (e.g., WP representatives), the approval of or amendments to these Regulations, or other major structural or policy decisions, a higher threshold is used to ensure legitimacy. In such cases, a Qualified Majority is required in the first round of voting to succeed. If no option achieves a qualified majority in the first round, the decision will proceed to a second round: in the second round, the decision can be made by a Simple Majority. In the event of a tie in the second round, the vote shall be repeated once. If the tie persists, the proposal will be considered rejected. In cases where a tiebreak is required for the election of a position, and only for such cases, the Double Majority mechanism is used as a final resort.

5.5.9.1 In cases where there is uncertainty as to whether a decision constitutes an Ordinary or a Significant Decision—requiring a Simple or Qualified Majority respectively—a specific vote shall be conducted to determine its classification. This vote itself shall be considered a Significant Decision and must therefore be approved by a Qualified Majority.

5.5.10. Voting modalities: The voting method will depend on the format of the meeting:

- At **in-person meetings**, all meetings designated as “in-person” shall by default be conducted in hybrid format, in recognition of the online nature of the Alliance. This ensures that every representative of the SC can attend, either physically or online, and exercise their

right to vote. Member universities that do not have any representative participating, whether in person or online, shall forfeit their vote for that session.

- In **online meetings** (synchronous virtual meetings), only those member universities with at least one representative connected to the meeting at the time of the vote may vote.

5.5.11. A member university that is not represented in the decision-making process (e.g., absent from a meeting or not participating in an asynchronous vote) is considered as **abstaining by absence** in effect, it **“delegates” its voice to those universities that do participate**. The outcomes of votes are therefore determined by the set of universities present/participating. This rule underscores the importance of each university sending representatives or otherwise engaging in the Council’s decisions; however, it also acknowledges practical limitations and avoids penalizing the Council’s decision-making ability due to non-attendance.

5.5.12. If decisions are made via an **asynchronous online process** (for example, using an online voting tool or poll over a defined period, outside a live meeting), then all member universities will be given an opportunity to vote within a specified time window. The platform or procedure used will define the voting period and mechanism clearly in advance.

5.5.13. All votes in the Council, whether for elections or decisions, can be conducted by show of hands, roll call, or secret ballot as the Council may determine appropriate. By default, elections of individuals (e.g., Chairperson, Secretary) and policy decisions are usually by **open vote** (show of hands or verbal yes/no) unless a secret ballot is requested by a university. The meeting Chairperson is responsible for clearly announcing the results of each vote and ensuring they are recorded in the minutes.

5.6. Candidate Nominations and Elections

5.6.1. Any member of the Student Council may submit their candidacy for internal positions or representative roles (such as SCPB membership, WP members, or delegates to external bodies) at the opening of the agenda item concerning elections.

5.6.2. If the Secretary is a candidate in the election or otherwise takes part in the process as a nominee, another member of the Permanent Board will be acting as Secretary for the duration of the election procedure. This ensures the **impartiality and integrity** of the nomination

and voting process. If all SCPB members are interested in a vote, another member of the Student Council would have to perform this function.

5.6.3. The presentation of candidates and elections shall, whenever possible, be conducted within the same meeting to ensure efficiency and continuity of Council operations. **Each candidate shall be given the opportunity to briefly present their motivation and qualifications before the vote is held.** This process ensures transparency, equal opportunity for all representatives to stand for office, and flexibility so that elections may be concluded in a single session without undue delay to Council activities.

5.7. Term Of Office and Filling of Vacancies

5.7.1. Student representatives serve a minimum term of two years, with a maximum mandate defined by the procedures provided and a maximum of two terms. Representatives may be changed by their home student council or, if not applicable, by their university. This term must be regulated in the procedure submitted by their home student council or, if not applicable, by their university in Annex A.

5.7.2. Each institution shall establish its own procedures for the election and replacement of its representatives, as provided in Article 3.2. of these Regulations.

5.7.3. At the conclusion of each two-year mandate, all positions within the Student Council shall expire. **A new Student Council** shall be constituted in an inaugural session, which shall:

1. Receive and deliberate on the reports of outgoing Boards, Committees, and representatives.
2. Elect representatives to the Work Package Boards, Boards and all external representation posts for the new mandate.
3. Elect the new Permanent Board, which, at the close of the inaugural session, shall convene privately to elect its internal officers in accordance with Article 5.11, and subsequently call its first meeting to establish the calendar of ordinary sessions.

5.7.4. In case of a vacancy (e.g. a representative can no longer serve), the home student council or, if not applicable, by the university shall appoint a new representative within one month to ensure continuous representation.

5.7.5. Where manifest urgency makes it impracticable to convene such an extraordinary session in due time, the Permanent Board shall appoint a

temporary representative to serve in an interim capacity until the next Plenary session, at which point a definitive election shall take place.

5.8. Attendance and Participation

5.8.1. The attendance of all representatives at scheduled Council meetings is expected as part of their responsibility. If a representative knows they will be unable to attend a meeting or board, they should inform the Secretary or Chairperson in advance. In such a case, the representative may designate another Student Council member from their university (if one exists beyond themselves) or exceptionally from another university to act as a proxy for their views; however, formal voting rights cannot be transferred to an individual from a different university (recall that votes are per university). If representatives of a university cannot attend, that university simply has no direct vote in that meeting (per the voting rules), but the absent representative should catch up with the meeting outcomes via minutes. The Council encourages absent members to submit any input or opinions in writing ahead of the meeting through the Secretary, so their views can be considered even if they are not present.

5.8.2. Active participation is expected from all members. During meetings, representatives should engage in discussions, contribute ideas, and represent the perspectives of students from their home institutions. In between meetings, members are expected to participate in online discussions, working groups, and Alliance events as relevant to their roles (Section 4).

5.8.3. The OpenEU Secretary General may, upon personal request, attend meetings of the Student Council as a guest when matters of relevance to the Alliance's coordination or governance are under discussion. The Secretary General shall be granted speaking rights but no voting rights, unless otherwise decided by the Student Council.

5.8.4. Additionally, the Student Council Permanent Board, or at least three (3) universities represented within the Student Council, may jointly invite members of the Alliance's Work Packages, Boards, or the Secretariat to attend a meeting when their participation is considered necessary for consultation or clarification purposes.

5.8.5. Other observers may be invited to attend meetings by decision of the SCPB or upon proposal by at least three (3) member universities. Observers shall not have voting rights but may be granted the floor to contribute to discussions at the discretion of the Chairperson.

5.9. Working Language

5.9.1. The working language of the Student Council is English. Meetings are generally held in English to ensure a common mode of communication, given the multilingual background of members. This does not preclude members from expressing themselves in another language if needed, but an effort should be made to provide translation or explanation so that all can understand. Official documents, minutes, and decisions will be recorded in English, which is the common language of the Alliance.

5.9.2. The Council appreciates the linguistic diversity of its members and encourages an inclusive language policy. If resources allow, the Council may provide translation or interpretation in other Alliance languages for certain important meetings or documents, to facilitate broader understanding.

5.10. Transparency and Confidentiality

5.10.1. All minutes of the Student Council, including their deliberations and decision-making processes, shall be public and accessible to all OpenEU Student Council members, students of the OpenEU Alliance, and the representatives serving in other OpenEU bodies, such as the Working Packages, Boards, and Committees, under the principle of mutual transparency.

5.10.2. This principle of openness is established to guarantee transparency and accountability in the work of the Council and to strengthen trust among the students of the Alliance.

5.10.3. Notwithstanding this general rule, personal information concerning students, representatives, or staff, as well as information related to academic programs, research projects, institutional agreements, or any materials that are protected under copyright, intellectual property law, or applicable academic and student regulations, shall be treated as sensitive information and therefore excluded from public dissemination.

5.10.4. Furthermore, any member of the Council or participant in a meeting shall retain the right to request that their interventions, including statements, reflections, or opinions expressed during deliberations, not be included in the publicly shared version of the minutes. This mechanism, which operates as an inverse equivalent of a dissenting opinion, is designed to protect the personal rights, interests, or sensitivities of the individual while preserving the collective record of the Council's work.

In such cases, the Secretary shall ensure that the official record continues to reflect the substance and outcome of the discussion without attributing or reproducing the personal contributions of the individual concerned. This guarantees both the transparency of the Council's proceedings and the protection of the rights of its members.

5.11. Student Council Permanent Board (SCPB)

5.11.1. The Student Council elects a Permanent Board (SCPB) that consists of five members to act on behalf of the Council between plenary meetings. The Permanent Board's composition contains a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary. The remaining two members shall serve as SCPB Members, whose primary functions include attending meetings, presenting proposals and concerns from the Student Council, informing their peers, fostering cooperation, and supporting the work of the Permanent Board. The SCPB shall be elected by majority.

5.11.2. The primary role of the SCPB is to ensure continuity of Council operations and to conduct the Council's mandate during intervals between full meetings.

The SCPB is accountable to the Student Council and must report on its activities and decisions at each Council meeting.

The SCPB is specifically responsible for:

- Communicating on behalf of the Student Council with the OpenEU Alliance leadership and other bodies.
- Coordinating the implementation of Council decisions; preparing upcoming meetings (e.g., drafting agendas, proposals).
- Initiating proposals or working groups/committees as needed for specific tasks.
- Executing any decisions or actions that are urgent and cannot feasibly wait until the next scheduled Council meeting. In essence, the SCPB serves a similar purpose to an executive committee or Chairperson's office in other organizations, ensuring that the Council's work continues smoothly between meetings.

5.11.3. The Permanent Board **shall not overstep the mandate given by the Council.** Any decisions that **go beyond its remit or have structural implications** for the Student Council (such as changes to these Regulations, removal of officers, major policy positions, etc.) must be referred to the full Council for deliberation and approval. The SCPB should

use its authority mainly for operational and minor decisions, or emergency actions that align with prior Council directions.

5.11.4. If any Student Council member disagrees with an action taken by the SCPB, the matter can be brought to the Council plenary. The Council retains the right to **re-elect the SCPB or specific members by Double Majority.**

5.11.5. The **Chairperson's main duties** are to chair Council meetings and to represent the Council on ceremonial occasions or in situations where only one delegate is permitted. Thereby ensuring a balance between efficient meeting management and collective decision-making. The Chairperson **retains full rights and responsibilities as a Student Representative**, including the right to express opinions and to cast votes in accordance with the “one vote per university” principle. The Chairperson does not hold executive or decision-making powers beyond these representational duties, as such powers remain with the SCPB and the Council as a whole.

6. Transitional Provision

6.0.1. Once these Regulations are formally adopted, each beneficiary university shall, within the timeframe stipulated for aligning with the electoral framework established herein, confirm or renew the designation of its Student Council representatives in accordance with the new provisions.

6.0.2. All procedures shall be designed and implemented in the spirit of equality, transparency, and fairness, ensuring that all eligible students have an equal opportunity to participate.

6.0.3. Until such confirmation is received, the current representatives shall remain in office on an interim basis, continuing to exercise their functions provisionally to ensure the continuity of Council operations.

6.0.4. If upon expiry of the transitional period, not all universities have submitted their internal regulations regarding the election of representatives, the Student Council shall nonetheless proceed with the constitution of its new Boards and offices in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations. Universities that have not yet submitted their regulations shall maintain their current representatives on an interim basis, who will continue to exercise their functions provisionally until proper compliance is achieved. However, such interim status shall not impede the overall functioning of the Alliance, which must continue

to perform its duties irrespective of the delays or omissions of individual member institutions.

- **Interim Permanent Board:** As a transitional measure, an interim Student Council Permanent Board of three members is currently in place (as of this draft's writing) and will continue to function until the draft has approval. This temporary SCPB was established to represent the Council in the initial phase of the Alliance and to perform the executive functions described above until the Council formally adopts these Regulations and holds elections for its Chairperson and other roles. The interim SCPB consists of 3 student representatives and was appointed by the Council's consensus in 2025. It will be dissolved or reconstituted once the regular SCPB Board or Council leadership is elected under the new Regulations. (This acknowledges the existing situation: "The existence of this board is temporary and, as it is now, consisting of 3 people, will function until the next duly convened Plenary session elects a new Permanent Board under these rules.)

6.1. Additional Provision

6.1.1. Although the Student Council of the OpenEU Alliance is composed of up to three democratically elected student representatives per university, and all members enjoy equal rights and responsibilities within the Council, it must be acknowledged that the original Alliance budget was designed to cover the costs of physical attendance for only two representatives per institution during in-person events or meetings.

6.1.2. Given that the OpenEU Alliance operates primarily in an online environment and that the Council's regular work and deliberations will take place mostly through digital means, the Student Council formally acknowledges this limitation and establishes that physical attendance at in-person events shall normally be limited to two student representatives per university.

6.1.3. Nevertheless, it is hereby clarified that each beneficiary institution remains entirely free to determine internally how it selects its attending representatives. Furthermore, any university that wishes to ensure the in-person participation of its third representative may do so at its own expense. To foster inclusiveness and equal opportunity, the Alliance will seek to enable hybrid participation (in-person and online) whenever feasible, ensuring that all elected representatives may contribute actively, regardless of their physical presence.

Annex A: Election procedures for each university

1. UOC

At the UOC, the 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 its student body.

2. UAb

At UAb, the 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 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

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

5. DU

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

At FeU, the student representatives for the OpenEU Student Council are elected from among the members of the General Student Committee (AStA). The AStA is the executive body representing students at German universities, responsible for student governance and advocacy. The election is conducted through a tacit acceptance procedure. The selection of candidates within the committee is based on their respective areas of responsibility.

7. HOU

The Hellenic Open University (HOU) invites students to apply for representation on the OpenEU Alliance Student Council through an open call published on the official HOU website. The call is reviewed by the university's Legal Advisor to ensure compliance with institutional regulations and data protection requirements. Submissions are evaluated internally, and the students who best meet the eligibility and selection criteria are selected. Eligible applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate, postgraduate, or PhD program at HOU, maintain student status until the end of the academic year, demonstrate proficiency in English (B2 level or higher), and be willing to collaborate within international and multicultural teams. Required documents include an application form, certificate of enrolment, a declaration confirming student status, proof of English proficiency, a statement of purpose outlining motivation, and a curriculum vitae (CV). The selection process prioritizes gender balance and diversity of study programs to ensure broad representation across the university's academic fields.

8. OUNL

The OUNL adheres to the selection procedures established for its own representative bodies when selecting representatives for the OpenEU Student Council. This procedure involves an open election where officially enrolled students of the University can cast their vote. The number of students allocated to a representative body is regulated based on the total number of students that body represents.

Students elected to the University's representative body are then invited to express their willingness to participate in the OpenEU Student Council. Should interest be shown by more students than the available places, the University will randomly select two students from the pool of interested candidates.

9. UNED

The student representatives of the National University of Distance Education of Spain, UNED, are democratically elected every two (2) years, in accordance with the main university law in force in Spain, the Organic Law 2/2023, of March 22, on the University System (LOSU). This law replaced the previous Organic Law 6/2001, of December 21, on Universities (LOU), and was published in the Official State Gazette (BOE) on March 23, 2023.

Similarly, the University is governed by its Statutes, according to Royal Decree 1239/2011, of September 8, published in the Official State Gazette (BOE) on September 22, 2011.

Likewise, the representation of UNED students, its election, operation, rights and obligations, etc... in addition to being subject to the aforementioned higher-ranking regulations, is governed by the Regulation of Student Representatives of UNED, with final wording approved by the General Council of Students of UNED on December 14, 2014 and approved by the Governing Council of the same University on December 16, 2014.

10. UVT

The governance body of the Student Council of UVT will select 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.

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 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 Education 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

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..).