

Reasons for the proposed amendments to the Electoral Regulations

General reasons

The proposed amendments to the Electoral Regulations are partly of a technical and updating nature, such as the repeal of the section on campus election committees. Part of the changes are due to the YPA 2.0 process, and these changes are described in more detail in a separate memorandum. In addition, the election rules of the University Collegium have been included in the Electoral Regulations; at the last elections they were issued by the sector director of general administration. It cannot be considered justified that similar provisions on the same subject matter are laid down in the Electoral Regulations for other statutory multi-member bodies, but in the case of the University Collegium as administrative guidelines. Since the mandate given to the University Elections Committee for preparing amendments to the Electoral Regulations included necessary changes to the practical implementation of the elections and changes to the election rights regulations related to the future YPA 2.0 service model for University Services, the proposal does not include any broader changes, such as direct election to the University Collegium.

Although the provisions pertaining to the composition of faculty councils (tripartite composition) are included in the Electoral Regulations, their amendments are prepared by the TOIJO implementation group. These provisions also apply to students, which means that they cannot be drafted by the University Elections Committee that has no student representation. The composition issue is also tied to the proposed amendments to the Regulations on the size of faculty councils, which are being prepared by the TOIJO implementation working group. The amendment to the Electoral Regulations does not yet include the proposals of the TOIJO implementation working group on the tripartite composition, as the proposal of the TOIJO committee is only being finalised in mid-April.

Reasons per section

Section 1

The selection of staff representatives on the boards of independent institutes is a constant matter, with varying procedures being applied in different institutes. The Vakka voting system is also used, for example, in the selection of a collaboration group for University Services. However, these selection and election matters are not of such a nature, considering the competence of the relevant bodies, that they need to be brought to the level of the Regulations. The decision will be prepared in co-operation with the independent institutes. As there are provisions in law about the board of the National Library, an exception concerning the Library has been included.

Section 2

The established date of the University Collegium elections has been added to the Regulations for reasons of clarity.

Section 3

Added the requirement for expertise in human resources in the composition of the University Elections Committee, since the contribution of HR is essential for the definition and review of electoral rights, and in general for the decision on the rights and obligations of staff. The established practice of having deputy members for the Committee members has been included in the Regulations for reasons of clarity. Provision on deputy members amended for better clarity in accordance with the statements.

4 and 5 sections

Both sections revoked as unnecessary. The Campus Elections Committees have been necessary in the era when elections were carried out with physical ballot boxes and ballots, but there is no prospect of any need for them in the future. The provision on the quorum of the Committee is the same as the corresponding provision of the general Regulations, and thus tends to create a lack of clarity.

Section 6

Technical correction, as the University Services' current distribution of shared and on-site services will cease with the University Services 2.0 process.

Section 8

The sections on the composition of faculty councils (tripartite composition) will be supplemented with proposals from the TOIJO implementation working group, which will also prepare amendments to the general Regulations pertaining to the size of faculty councils. The TOIJO proposal will include equal tripartite composition and three sizes: 12, 18, or 24 members. The other amendments are the result of the YPA 2.0 process, and they have been described in more detail in a separate memorandum.

Section 9

The agreements on research activities do not contain information whether the research is carried out full time, nor can they have that information, as the University cannot monitor the use of time by non-employees or oblige them to use their time in a given way. In the 2017 elections, all those who had signed an agreement on research activities were included in the electoral roll, which, based on the feedback received, led to many unjustified entries on the right to vote. In the elections of 2021, the Universities Elections Committee followed the policy that grant-funded researchers, visiting researchers and visiting professors were directly admitted to the electoral roll, as these groups usually carry out full-time research during their term of agreement. Other parties to an agreement in accordance with point 3 may submit an appeal concerning the data in the electoral roll, in the resolving of which the premise is the information provided by the appellant on their research activities at the University.

An addition concerning double affiliations at the Faculty of Medicine added, in accordance with the wishes of the Faculty. The addition was considered reasonable as the work carried out at the University Hospital concerns also integrally the university. Those holding a permanent contract are already eligible on the basis of point 1.

Added text on the definition of uninterrupted. The addition complies with the text of the collective agreement for universities, but is not referring to the collective agreement The University Elections Committee's appointed HR experts have verified that the amendment is feasible.

Section 10

Connecting determination of the group of staff unexceptionally to an employee's duties on 15 September has caused unfair situations when the employee has had a leave of absence that is very short or is finished right after 15 September and has consequently lost their electoral rights. The proposed change would ensure that only those leaves of absence that extend to the next term of office and have an actual effect on the use of electoral rights will lead to loss of said rights. In the past, there have been no provisions in the Electoral Regulations on the determination and eligibility of the group in the election of the University Collegium. Instead, the corresponding regulations have been issued by the sector director of general administration.

It has been discussed with the University Elections Committee's appointed HR experts that the proposed change is feasible regardless of whether the employee holds another position at the University of Helsinki or is absent from the University during the leave of absence. The proposed provision would apply as follows:

Matti, leave of absence from the position of University of Helsinki lecturer between 31 May and 31 October, is on parental leave. The group is determined by the position of the lecturer, since Matti's leave of absence ends before the turn of the year, so the position preceding the leave of absence will be taken into account.

Teppo, leave of absence from the position of university lecturer from 31 May to 31 October to carry out the duties of a professor at the University of Helsinki. The group is determined by the position of the lecturer, as Teppo's leave of absence ends before the turn of the year, so the position preceding the leave of absence will be taken into account.

Katri, leave of absence from the position of University of Helsinki lecturer between 31 May and 28 February 26 for the duties of professor of the University of Helsinki. The group is determined by the position of professor, as Katri will serve as a professor on 15 September, and the leave of absence will end after the turn of the year.

Helena, leave of absence from the position of University of Helsinki lecturer between 31 May and 28 February 26 for the duties of professor of Aalto University. Helena is not eligible in the elections at all, as she has no duties at the University of Helsinki on 15 September, and her leave of absence will continue beyond the turn of the year.

The words "in addition" added to the section on the right to vote for University Services staff in the election of faculty councils, so that it is clear that this provision applies in addition to the provision on the determination of the group. In other words, the right to vote in the elections of the Faculty Council is determined by registration, provided that the person in question is an employee of University Services on 15 September.

Section 11

The change caused by the YPA 2.0 process, as the current distribution of University Services to shared and on-site services will cease with the YPA 2.0 process. This has been explained in more detail in a separate memorandum. The central election committee discussed the wish expressed in some of the statements that service units other than University Services could also be represented in the Faculty Council. This was not considered necessary, among other reasons because the operations of other service units have been organised primarily campus-wise, and their duties are not closely related to decisions within the competence of faculty councils. Faculties can be encouraged to invite experts from the Helsinki University Library and the IT Centre to the meetings of faculty councils to provide the services with information on the Faculty's needs.

Section 12

Technical corrections required by amendments to previous sections.

Changed "draft, confirm and publish the electoral roll" to "draft and publish the preliminary electoral roll". This clarifies that the electoral roll will be final and confirmed only after the appeals have been processed.

Section 13

No electoral roll has previously been confirmed in the University Collegium elections, and no appeal could be made against the roll. For scheduling reasons, it would be very challenging to add an appeal process, and there is also less need for it, as faculty representatives are not elected through direct elections, but through faculty councils. In addition, most clear errors have already been corrected when drawing up the previous electoral roll. It is more difficult to justify why there is no confirmation of the electoral roll in the election to the College.

Section 14 and 15

The title of section 14 amended to correspond to the content of the section and a technical correction made that is required because of the revocation of the section on Campus Elections Committees.

Section 15 a

A new section on the nomination of University Collegium candidates was added. Making the nominations through the groups is not meant to encourage nominating only as many candidates as there are vacant places; instead, the groups ought to nominate all candidates that have support in the group. No provision has previously been made for the appointment of members to the University Collegium when there are not enough candidates to fill the vacancies, but there ought to be such a provision to correspond with provisions on other organs.

Section 19

Technical corrections made, required because of the revocation of the section on Campus Elections Committees.

Sections 19a and 19b

The guidelines for the election of the University Collegium issued by the sector director of general administration in the previous elections have been included in the Electoral Regulations.

Section 20

A reference to section 1 has been added for reasons of clarity.

Section 21

Provisions on the effect of change of group have been modified so that when an employee permanently or long term changes their group, the change leads also to change of member. This is justified because by the current provisions if a member of the other teaching and research staff group is transferred to the professor group permanently or for a long time, the previous group is left de facto underrepresented and the professor group de facto overrepresented.