

Supplementary memorandum of reasons
5 June 2025/lk

Changes to the Regulations of the University of Helsinki and the guidelines for presentation and meeting procedures resulting from the implementation of the assessment of the University's operational structure and management system (Karpinen)

Most of reasons for the proposed amendments to the Regulations and the guidelines are explained in the final report of the TOIJO group. In the review of the report, from 14 April to 16 May 2025, in the preliminary discussion of the Board in the evening discussion on 21 May 2025 and in the meeting of the University Collegium on 4 June 2025, some other amendments were raised in addition to the measures proposed in the report. Reasons for those amendments are set out in this memorandum.

Section 6 University Collegium

In a consultation on the Electoral Regulations, the Swedish School of Social Science and Social Sciences proposed that it be represented in the University Collegium, as in the faculties. In conjunction with the election in 2017, the matter was investigated by an expert in the field of administrative law, and it was stated that the Universities Act does not require such representation, but the University can decide on it if it wishes. The University Collegium discussed the matter in its meeting on 4 June 2025 and decided that the Swedish School of Social Science could have a representative in the University Collegium with the right to attend and speak. Such a representative was considered desirable, in particular because the Regulations mandated the Collegium to meet at least twice a year to discuss significant matters pertaining to the University as a whole.

Section 8 Faculty council

Doctoral researchers can be members of the Faculty Council either as students or as other teaching and research staff. In practice, however, there are few doctoral researchers in faculty councils. Some sort of quotas have previously been discussed for doctoral researchers, but no suitable model has been found. The proposal to invite an additional member to the Faculty Council to represent the doctoral researchers was considered a good opportunity to improve the doctoral researchers' opportunities to influence the operations of the Faculty and, on the other hand, to obtain information on the needs of doctoral researchers.

Section 16 Assembly and language of meetings (right of initiative), section 25 Duties of the dean

Today, the University has an initiative and idea channel Aatos on Flamma, through which the University community's initiatives and ideas are directed to general administration and from there to the right place to discuss and answer. However, it was considered important to add the right of initiative to the Regulations in order to enable those who took the initiative to have their case discussed by the Faculty Council, to strengthen grass roots democracy and inclusion. Provisions on the initiative procedure were added to the guidelines for presentation and meeting procedures.

Section 25 on the dean's duties was amended to correspond to the right of initiative. No changes were deemed necessary to the duties of the Faculty Council, as the discussion of initiatives is included in its current duties.

Section 17 Quorum

Concerns emerged in the TOIJO process that the transition to equal tripartite composition would make it increasingly demanding to reach a quorum at faculty council meetings. During the term of office, some

faculty councils have not been able to have all student members' vacancies filled, and there have also been challenges in the participation of student members. In order to improve the situation, cooperation between the University, the Student Union and students is needed, but the lowering of the threshold for the quorum was also considered as part of the solution. So that no group would be able to make decisions on its own against the purpose of the tripartite composition, the quorum also requires that at least two groups under section 15(2) of the Universities Act are represented. The amendment is limited to administrative bodies defined as tripartite by the Universities Act (the Board, the University Collegium, faculty councils). For example, it would not be possible to apply it to the boards of independent institutes, as they are not tripartite bodies.

The quorum for grading studies was changed to better correspond to the future compositions of faculty councils. If the section had remained unchanged (the chair and four members), the composition for grading in the smallest faculty council would have required more members than the regular quorum. In the larger faculty councils, the quorum would have represented only a small number of the members.

For the legibility of the guidelines for presentation and meeting procedures the decrees on quorum are still included in them as well.