

THE SENATE OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2022

2022 was the year of the election of the Senate of Vilnius University; therefore, for six months of the calendar year, the activities were still carried out by the outgoing Senate, which was formed in 2018, and from July, the newly elected members of the Senate have taken over the activities assigned to the Senate. Until July, the activities were carried out by the Senate, led by Prof. Dainora Pociūtė-Abukevičienė (Deputy Chairs Assoc. Prof. Dr Arūnas Mickevičius and Prof. Dr Darius Abramavičius), and the committees for Quality and Development Affairs (the Chair Prof. Gintautas Tamulaitis), Research Affairs (the Chair Prof. Darius Veteikis), and Studies Affairs (the Chair Prof. Renata Matkevičienė) continued their activities.

In the elections held in May last year, Vilnius University academic community members elected a new Senate. In accordance with the Senate-approved Description of the Procedure for the Election of Members of the Senate of Vilnius University, the new Senate consists of 46 members, i.e. five more than in the previous term of office, namely: 36 representatives of core academic units, nine student representatives, and the Rector of the University (the member of the Senate *ex officio*). For the first time, Šiauliai Academy and Business School elected their representatives in the Senate.

In the first meeting of the new Senate held on 1 July 2022, Prof. Eglė Lastauskienė was elected as the Chairperson of the Senate. The members of the Senate elected Prof. Darius Abramavičius and Prof. Renata Matkevičienė as Deputy Chairs. The new Chairpersons of the Senate Committees also started their activities: Prof. Virginija Jurėnienė was appointed as the Chairperson of the new Quality and Development Affairs Committee, Prof. Aidan Matijošius became the Chairperson of the Research Affairs Committee and Assoc. Prof. Nerijus Šepetys – the Chairperson of the Studies Affairs Committee. The committees also elected Deputy Chairs from among their members: Assoc. Prof. Arūnas Mickevičius (Quality and Development Affairs Committee), Assoc. Prof. Justina Poškienė (Research Affairs Committee) and student representative Julija Jarutytė (Studies Affairs Committee), who became the first student representative elected to the position of the head of one of the committees. Details on the compositions of the [Senate](#) and its [committees](#) can be found on the University's website.

In 2022, 11 Senate meetings and five electronic ballots were held, during which 75 resolutions were adopted. The Senate carried out activities and performed functions directly prescribed in or arising from the Statute of Vilnius University and adopted decisions on relevant issues concerning study, research, and general affairs. Following the legal acts of the University, nearly seven per cent of Senate resolutions were later submitted to the University Council for consideration. Members of the Senate actively participated in Senate meetings (with average activity being 84,67 per cent), and the meetings also attracted the attention of other members of both the academic and the non-academic community of the University. The most significant decisions adopted at different meetings are discussed below.

At the meeting held on 18 January 2022 (minutes No. SP-2), the main cause of intensive debate was the consideration of a draft Description of the Procedure for the Election of Members of the Senate newly drawn up by a working group established by the Senate and branch unit representative quotas for the new Senate. The President of Vilnius University Students' Representation (VUSA), Neda Žutautaitė, introduced to the members of the Senate the procedure for the election of student representatives in the Senate. The Pro-Rector for Research,

Prof. Edita Sužiedėlienė, presented the results of the evaluation of research activities in 2018-2020 and the overview of doctoral studies at the University, and the Director of Šiauliai Academy, Dr Renata Bilbokaitė, introduced the strategic plan of this branch academic unit.

At the meeting held on 22 February 2022 (minutes No. SP-3), the new Description of the Procedure for the Election of Members of the Senate of Vilnius University was discussed for the second time and approved. Also, a draft revenue and expenditure estimate of the University for 2022 was accepted, and Open Science Policy Guidelines were approved. The Pro-Rector for Partnerships, Artūras Vasiliauskas, delivered the presentation on the activities of the ARQUS Alliance, and the Chairperson of the Central Academic Ethics Commission and the Director of Vilnius University Press presented annual reports on the activities of these respective organisational structures.

At the meeting held on 22 March 2022 (minutes No. SP-4), draft annual reports on activities and the implementation of revenue and expenditure estimate, as well as the number of student places in the programmes and study fees for the upcoming academic year were accepted. The Head of the Strategic Planning Department, Dr Erika Vaiginienė, updated the Senate on the progress of the University self-analysis process.

At the meeting held on 19 April 2022 (minutes No. SP-6), five new course units of the general university studies were approved. The Head of the International Relations Division, R. Markevičienė, updated the participants of the meeting on the current state of international exchange, the President of Vilnius University Students' Representation, Neda Žutautaitė, reported on student morale and views toward the processes at the University, and the annual report on the strategy of openness to equality and diversity was presented.

At the meeting held on 24 May 2022 (minutes No. SP-7), the Senate discussed the issues of extending employment contracts for employees over the age of 65 as well as those of approval of bridging study programme fees. Upon the decision of the Senate, *Magna cum laude* diplomas were awarded to 18 students of the first cycle and 55 students of the second cycle and integrated studies.

At the meeting held on 21 June 2022 (minutes No. SP-8), as many as 16 issues were included on the agenda. During the meeting, legal acts of high relevance were adopted – the new version of the Study Regulations and the Concept of Teacher Training was approved. Also, the Honorary Doctor of Vilnius University title was awarded to Dr Koen Lenaerts by secret ballot, and the resolutions on awarding the titles of affiliated persons were adopted. This was the last meeting of the Senate formed in 2018.

At the meeting held on 1 July 2022 (minutes No. SP-9), the new Senate, formed for a four-year term of office, began to execute its powers. During the meeting, the new Chairperson of the Senate, Prof. Eglė Lastauskienė and her Deputy Chairs – Prof. Darius Abramavičius and Prof. Renata Matkevičienė – were elected by secret ballot.

At the meeting held on 20 September 2022 (minutes No. SP-10), the updated compositions of committees and commissions of the Senate as well as the annual work plan were approved. Updates on the progress of student admission processes and the findings of the evaluation of Vilnius University performance were presented.

At the meeting held on 18 October 2022 (minutes No. SP-11), the Description of the Procedure for the Development, Implementation and Improvement of Study Programmes at Vilnius University was approved, and the Pro-Rector for Research, Prof. Edita Sužiedėlienė, presented the overview on the implementation of the Procedure for the Organisation of Teaching Staff and Research/Art Staff Recruiting Competitions and Certification in 2022.

At the meeting held on 22 November 2022 (minutes No. SP-14), the title of Professor Emeritus was awarded to the following meritorious members of Vilnius University Academic Community: Prof. Vytautas Balevičius, Prof. Zenonas Butkus, Prof. Aleksandras Laucevičius, Prof. Ričardas Rotomskis, Prof. Jonas Prapiestis, and Prof. Artūras Žukauskas.

At the meeting held on 13 December 2022 (minutes No. SP-17), the University Language Policy Guidelines were approved, and the resolutions on the procedures for awarding pedagogical titles of Professor and Associate Professor, issuing *Magna cum laude* diplomas, and changing the titles and length of study programmes were approved.

The issues that required prompt decision-taking were resolved by electronic voting of the Senate members without convening a meeting. In 2022, five such ballots were organised during which six resolutions were adopted.

The Senate also held and participated in festive or other solemn events:

- by a solemn meeting held in the St. Johns' Church, the end of 2021-2022 academic year was celebrated;
- on 1 September 2022, the beginning of the new academic year was commemorated by flag-hoisting ceremony in the Library Courtyard, the festive procession of students, staff, and alumni on Vilnius Gediminas Avenue, and continued celebration in the Grand Courtyard of Vilnius University;
- the end of the calendar year 2022 was commemorated during the festive meeting held at the Theatre Hall;
- members of the Senate also attended a solemn event in St. Johns' Church, in the ceremony of awarding the title of Honorary Doctor of Vilnius University to Dr. Koen Lenaerts, the President of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Members of the Senate enhanced their competence and improved teamwork skills during their awayday training session.

Resolutions adopted and documents approved at the Senate meetings, meeting agendas and other relevant information on the activities of the Senate were published on the University's website and in electronic newsletters distributed to the community.

The Chairperson of the Senate

Prof. Dr Eglė Lastauskienė