

APPROVED

by Law of the Republic of Lithuania

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THE STATUTE OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

The community of Vilnius University,

Being aware that, founded on 1 April 1579 by the privilege of Stephen Báthory, the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, and by the Bull of Pope Gregory XII of 30 October of the same year, and named *Academia et Universitas Vilnensis Societatis Jesu*; closed by the Russian government on 1832; reopened by the Decree of the State Council of Lithuania of 5 December 1918 and granted the name of Vilnius University; having survived occupations; with its autonomy restored by Law No. I-281 'On the Approval of the Statute of Vilnius University' passed by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania on 12 June 1990; today a world-wide representative of Lithuania, this country's oldest institution of science and study of national significance, has always been, and still is, one and the same Vilnius University (hereinafter, the University);

Consistently implementing the aspirations of the Founders to ensure that, irrespective of any social formation, political order, the dominating ideas or languages, the University will forever remain an international centre of science;

Recognising the exceptional role of the University in all the areas of science and study inherent in the nature of a classical university;

Facing the contemporary challenges posed to science and studies by the increasingly intensive relationships between people, communities, nations, and states in this globalised world;

Taking in regard the ongoing reform in the system of Lithuanian institutions of science and education, and being convinced that any reform in this area has to be designed to ensure the promotion of progress of the Lithuanian society and wellbeing of the Nation, enhancement of material and spiritual resources of the country as well as its cognitive and creative potential;

Being aware of its responsibility to the Nation and the State of Lithuania and the necessity of openness and accountability to society;

Guided by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Lithuania that ensure continuity of the mission and activity of the University, the autonomy of institutions of higher education and the freedom of culture, science, research, and teaching,

Shall base the mission, structure, activity, and governance of the University on this Statute of Vilnius University (hereinafter, the Statute).

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. The Statute as the legal basis of the University activity

The Statute shall be a legal act that defines the mission of the University, determines its structure, and regulates its activity and government.

Article 2. The name, status and the head office of the University

1. The official name of the University in the Lithuanian language shall be *Vilniaus universitetas*, in Latin – *Universitas Vilnensis*, in English – *Vilnius University*, and in French – *Université de Vilnius*.

2. The University shall be an institution of science and education – a State school of higher education.

3. The legal form of the University shall be a public institution.

4. The owner of the University shall be the State of Lithuania.

5. The address of the University head office shall be: 3 Universiteto Street, LT-01122 Vilnius, Republic of Lithuania.

Article 3. Autonomy of the University

1. The University shall exercise the autonomy guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter, the Law on Higher Education and Research), and the present Statute and shall ensure, safeguard, and protect the freedom of culture, science, research and teaching by using all lawful means and measures available.

2. The autonomy of the University shall embrace the freedom, recognised by all State institutions, in managing the University's academic, administrative, economic and financial matters, the legal guarantees of inviolability of its territory, the buildings possessed by the University as well as any current and fixed tangible and intangible assets of historic, artistic, bibliographic or any other cultural value.

3. The boundaries of the University territory, the possessor of the University buildings, cultural heritage objects in State ownership may be changed only by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter, the Government) upon the consent of the University Council (hereinafter, the Council), or, in the event of the Council objecting to such a change, by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter, the Seimas).

4. The autonomy of the University shall be harmonised with its responsibility to the Nation and the State of Lithuania, as well as with openness and accountability to society.

5. The principles of the responsibility of the University to the Nation and the State of Lithuania, of openness and accountability to the community established in Paragraph 4 of this Article shall not be interpreted as providing any grounds for restricting the autonomy of the

University, *inter alia*, for limiting the freedom of culture, science, research, and teaching, the freedom of managing academic, administrative, economic or financial affairs of the University; for eliminating, or otherwise invalidating, the legal guarantees for the inviolability of the buildings in its possession, territory, any current and fixed tangible and intangible assets of historic, artistic, bibliographic or any other cultural value, otherwise than expressly established in the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

CHAPTER TWO

ACTIVITY OF THE UNIVERSITY

SECTION ONE

MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY, OBJECTIVES, AREAS, TYPES, AND PRINCIPLES OF ITS ACTIVITY

Article 4. The mission and objectives of the University

1. The mission of the University – arising from the past, driven by the challenges of the present, and to be passed on to future generations – shall be the University’s irrefutable obligation and inalienable right to enhance cognitive and creative powers of both Lithuania and the world; to nurture academic and other spiritual and social values; and to educate active, responsible citizens and society leaders of the State of Lithuania. This mission shall be based on the principles of academic freedom, responsibility of the University to the Nation and to the State of Lithuania, openness and accountability to society, as well as on the awareness that the status of the University, which, in the course of centuries, has become a seedbed of science and culture of national significance, imposes special obligations on the University community and the society, of which this community is a part.

2. In executing its mission, the University shall:

1) ensure continuity of academic culture and development of both its centuries-long traditions and new ideas;

2) foster the freedom of thought, variety of opinions, openness to world ideas and innovations, the values of collegiality, mutual respect, trust, and academic ethics;

3) seek to preserve and enhance leadership in all spheres of science and education inherent in the nature of a classical university; promote scientific and artistic research of international level;

4) create conditions for learners to acquire universal education based on the unity of science and study, to become committed, responsible specialists characterised with a strong need and abilities to pursue life-long cognitive and professional development, to be active participants in the activity of the State and in the life of society;

5) ensure that the quality of all forms of study conforms to the highest international standards and meets the requirements of the learners, the society, and the State.

3. The objectives of the University shall be the following:

1) to conduct research of high international level in fundamental and applied sciences and art, to promote experimental, social, cultural and technological development by encouraging students of all study cycles to also participate therein;

2) to implement university study programmes of all study cycles based on the unity of science and studies and aimed at forming a creative, critical, responsible and continuously developing personality; to train competent, erudite scientists (researchers) and other highly qualified specialists;

3) to ensure the level of research and study that would enable members of the University community to effectively participate in international scientific and academic cooperation, to be active and responsible members of international academic community;

4) to foster the role and significance of science, study, knowledge and innovations in the development of society;

5) to create conditions for persons with higher education to enhance the level of their competence;

6) to nurture traditional academic values; to base scientific, artistic, pedagogical activity, dissemination of science and art, and any other activity of the University on the principles of impartiality, integrity, international scientific community spirit and other commonly recognised standards of honourable and ethical academic and academic-related activity;

7) to protect all the property and cultural heritage accumulated by the University since its inception, to continue and cultivate humanistic traditions of the University.

4. The University shall carry out its mission and pursue its objectives by defining the tasks of its activity and the ways of their implementation in its strategic planning documents. These documents shall be drafted, approved and executed in the procedure established in the Statute and other legal acts pursuant to by-laws passed by the University governing bodies in accordance with their competence.

5. In the discharge of its mission, and acting under the authority of the University Rector (hereinafter, the Rector), the University and its internal organisational structures shall establish and maintain partnership relationships with Lithuanian and foreign companies, institutions and organisations and conclude with them relevant contracts or other agreements. A model procedure for social partnership and the status of a University's social partner shall be determined in the Regulations for Social Partnership of Vilnius University (hereinafter, the University Regulations for Social Partnership), which, proposed by the Rector and endorsed by the University Senate (hereinafter, the Senate), shall be approved by the Council.

Article 5. Principal areas and types of activity of the University

1. The principal areas of the University activity shall be the following:

1) science,

2) art,

3) studies,

4) informal education,

5) technologies,

6) human health-care,

7) any other educational and cultural activity not mentioned in Points 1 to 5 above.

2. The principal types of the University activity shall be the following:

- 1) all kinds of scientific and artistic research, experimental, social, cultural, technological development and artistic creation;
- 2) studies of all university study cycles;
- 3) enhancement of unclassified students' qualification and other educative or teaching activity;
- 4) consultative and expert activity;
- 5) promotion of science, art and technologies, participation in health improvement activities.

3. The activity of the University may include activities from any other spheres and types, providing this is not contrary to the mission, objectives, tasks, and principles of the University.

4. For the purposes of this Statute, the concept 'academic activity' shall cover all the areas and types of activity indicated in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

5. In the event of doubt whether a particular activity of the University, or its internal organisational structures, or of a member of the academic community of the University conforms to the mission, objectives, tasks, and principles of the University, such issues shall be examined in terms of academic ethics by the Central Commission on Academic Ethics of Vilnius University (hereinafter, the Central Commission on Academic Ethics) and ethics commissions of core academic units of Vilnius University, which shall submit proposals for relevant decisions to be taken by the Senate, the Council, the Rector, the governing (self-governing) bodies (heads) of the University internal organisational structures or by the University Students' Representation (hereinafter, the Students' Representation) or by student organisations of the University or its core academic units in accordance with their competence.

Article 6. Principles of the University activity

1. The activity of the University and relationships between its community members shall be based on the following fundamental principles:

- 1) freedom of science, research, creation, and teaching;
- 2) morality;
- 3) unity of science and studies;
- 4) promotion of moral, cultural, experimental, economic, and technological development of society;
- 5) advance of international partnership;
- 6) assurance of the quality of its activity;
- 7) solidarity, cooperation and mutual respect between members of the community;
- 8) coordination of interests of the University's internal organisational structures and their cooperation;
- 9) subsidiarity in decision making;
- 10) publicity;

11) transparency in distributing and utilising resources and in taking other decisions;

12) equal opportunities and fair competition, and any other generally acknowledged principles of academic ethics;

13) responsibility to the Nation and the State of Lithuania, openness and accountability to society.

2. Neither the principle of the freedom of science, research, creation and teaching indicated in Paragraph 1 of this Article nor any other principle of the University activity may be interpreted as providing legal grounds for any member of the University community to spread their scientific views or implement their self-expression in derogation from the mission, objectives, principles or tasks of the University.

3. None of the principles of the University activity specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article may be interpreted as providing legal grounds for any interests of an internal organisational structure of the University to contravene the interests of the entire University community.

4. In addition to the fundamental principles of the University activity specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article, the activity of the University governing bodies shall be based on the accountability of the University to the University community.

SECTION TWO

RESEARCH, ARTISTIC ACTIVITY AND STUDIES

Article 7. Organisation of research, artistic activity and studies

1. The University shall conduct all kinds of scientific and artistic research, foster experimental, social, cultural and technological development, promote creation of art, and carry out university studies of all cycles and forms in accordance with degree and non-degree study programmes.

2. The principal provisions for the development of research, artistic activity and study programmes and their implementation management shall be established, and any other relationship related with research, artistic activity and studies at the University shall be regulated by the Regulations for Research, Artistic Activity and Studies (hereinafter, the Regulations) approved by the Senate.

3. Pursuant to the Regulations, research, artistic activity and studies shall be coordinated and supervised by standing and provisional committees, which shall be formed, or the composition thereof approved, by the Senate.

Article 8. Qualification and science (arts) degrees, diplomas, certificates

1. A bachelor's degree shall be granted to persons who have successfully completed a bachelor's degree programme; persons who complete a master's degree programme shall be granted a master's degree.

2. Graduates of a degree study programme shall be issued by the University with a diploma attesting the qualification degree obtained. In addition to the diploma, persons who complete study

programmes of the first cycle, second cycle, or integrated study programmes, shall be issued with a diploma supplement which contains information about the content of the higher education acquired and the evaluation of the subjects studied.

3. Persons who complete a non-degree study programme shall be issued by the University (or, in the instances determined by the Regulations, by its core academic units) with a certificate attesting completion of the studies and/or the qualification acquired. In the instances provided for by the Regulations, the content of the studies and evaluation of the subjects studied shall be indicated in the certificate or in its supplement.

4. Persons who complete doctoral or post-graduate studies in art and/or have defended a thesis shall be granted a doctoral degree in science or a doctoral degree in art and issued with a diploma certifying the degree in science (art) obtained.

5. In addition to the degrees specified in Paragraphs 1 and 4 of this Article, the University shall be entitled, under the procedure established by the Senate, to award other degrees recognised by international academic community.

6. The Rector shall, upon the approval of the Senate, revoke a person's qualification, a doctoral degree in science or a doctoral degree in art (along with the relevant diploma) or the credentials of having completed non-degree study programme and/or qualification acquired (along with the relevant certificate) in the instances where such degree was acquired or studies completed (qualification acquired) by that person in gross violation of laws of the Republic of Lithuania or University by-laws, including the Academic Ethics Code.

7. A procedure for revocation of a degree (along with the relevant diploma) granted to a person or of attestation of completion of studies and/or of the qualification acquired (along with the relevant certificate) established in Paragraph 6 of this Article and resolution of disputes related with such revocation shall be determined by the Regulations.

SECTION THREE

QUALITY AND PUBLICITY OF THE UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

Article 9. Quality of the University activity

1. The University shall conduct continuous monitoring of the quality of its activity.
2. The monitoring system for ensuring the quality of research, artistic activity and studies shall be defined in the Regulations.
3. All members of the University personnel shall pursue continuous enhancement of their professional qualification. The requirements and procedure for the enhancement of qualification shall be established in the University by-laws that regulate the relevant area of activity.

Article 10. Unity of science and studies

1. The content of studies and teaching at the University shall be constantly updated taking in regard achievements in science and art and tendencies of their development.

2. University students shall be provided with possibilities to participate, to the best of their capabilities, in scientific and artistic research and creative work of the University, in activities of experimental, social, cultural and technological development, dissemination of science, art and technologies pursued by the University.

3. The procedure and forms of the University students' participation in scientific and artistic research and creative work of the University, in activities of experimental, social, cultural and technological development, dissemination of science, art and technologies pursued by the University shall be defined in the Regulations.

Article 11. Publicity of the University activity and social accountability

1. Information about scientific and artistic research conducted at the University, experimental, social, cultural and technological development, artistic creation and studies shall be made public to the extent that this does not give rise to any violation of the privacy of a person, intellectual property rights or of any other rights and lawful interests protected by law, or enables to disclose State, professional, commercial secrets or any other confidential material or information.

2. For the purposes of this Statute, the concept 'public announcement of information' shall include any publishing of information on the University website and, if necessary, also in University publications and/or by any other means, according to the rules, conditions and procedures established in the Guidelines for the Provision of Information about the Activity of Vilnius University (hereinafter, the Guidelines for the Provision of Information about the University Activity) approved by the Council.

3. By 31 March of each year, the University shall publicly announce and submit to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter, the Ministry of Education and Science), the Register of Legal Persons and to the Founder annual reports of its activity; it shall also publicly announce its annual estimates of revenue and expenditure and reports on their implementation.

4. Resolutions of the Council shall be publicly announced on the University website. Pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 1 of this Article, such postings where only a part of a resolution passed by the Council is announced, a publication of which may not result in a violation of the rights of the University or of any other persons or interests protected by law, shall also be considered as public announcement.

5. Resolutions of the Senate shall be publicly announced on the University website in the procedure established by the Guidelines for the Provision of Information about the University Activity.

6. The Council shall supervise conformity of the activity and governance of the University with the requirements of publicity established in the Statute and in the Guidelines for the Provision of Information about the University Activity.

CHAPTER THREE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

SECTION ONE

SELF-GOVERNANCE AND COMPOSITION OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Article 12. Self-governance of the University community

1. The mission of the University, achievement of its objectives, and implementation of its tasks shall be ensured by the University community.

2. The University community shall exercise its self-governance and manage the affairs of the University through the bodies of governance (self-governance) of the University and its internal organisational structures formed by the University community.

3. Important issues related with the activity of the University shall be discussed at meetings (conferences) of the University community, or of a part thereof, or by performing surveys of the University community, or of a part thereof, through the use of means of electronic communication. The Senate shall determine the procedure of such meetings (conferences) of the University community and the procedure for the conduct of surveys, which are not to be used to limit the right of members of the University community (or of its part) to express their opinion on issues of their concern.

4. The right to the elect governing (self-governance) bodies of the University, and of its internal organisational academic structures, shall be exercised by lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) who work at the University under open-ended employment contracts and lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) who have been working at the University for an uninterrupted period of at least three years under fixed-term employment contracts, providing that their working time at the University conforms to the working time rates defined by the Regulations, including the working time spent in performing the duties specified in Paragraph 2, Article 22 of the Statute and, in instances and the procedure established in the Regulations, also the working time spent at the Vilnius University hospitals (hereinafter, University hospitals) as well as in any other institutions, enterprises and organisations founded by the University. The process of forming governing (self-governance) bodies of the University and of its internal organisational structures shall also involve participation of the University students in accordance with the procedure established in laws of the Republic of Lithuania, the Statute, the Regulations, and other by-laws of the University.

Article 13. Composition of the University community

1. The University community shall consist of:

- 1) members of the University academic community;
- 2) employees of the University – non-members of the academic community;
- 3) alumni of the University;

4) persons not included in any of the groups specified in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of this Article who have been awarded the honorary title (status) of distinguished persons of merit to the University: Honorary Doctors of the University, Honorary Professors of the University, patrons of the University, distinguished members of the University community, etc.;

5) members of the Council specified in Parts 3 and 4, Paragraph 2, Article 39 of the Statute.

SECTION TWO

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY OF THE UNIVERSITY

Article 14. Composition of the academic community of the University

1. A member of the University academic community shall be a person who participates in scientific, artistic, study and teaching activity of the University.

2. The University academic community shall consist of:

1) University lecturers and University researchers (in either science or arts), including associated lecturers and researchers, researchers-trainees, visiting lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts), as well as any other lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) who participate in the academic activity of the University within the framework of exchange or cooperation programmes;

2) Professors Emeriti of the University (hereinafter, Professors Emeriti);

3) persons participating in the academic activity of the University who have been awarded the title (status) of an affiliated researcher of the University, affiliated professor or affiliated artist and/or any other honorary title (status) of a distinguished person of merit to the University;

4) University students and unclassified students (hereinafter, students and unclassified students), including persons studying within the framework of exchange or cooperation programmes.

Article 15. University lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts)

1. The University teaching positions shall be: a professor, associated professor, and other teaching positions specified in the Regulations. A University researcher (in either science or arts) positions shall be: a chief researcher, senior researcher, and other researcher (in either science or arts) positions specified in the Regulations. In the instances and under the procedure established in the Regulations, University lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) engaged in pedagogical activity shall be granted the titles of a University Professor and a University Associated Professor.

2. For the first time, a lecturer or a researcher (in either science or arts) shall be employed in a position at a relevant core academic unit of the University by way of open competition for a period of five years, except in cases specified in the Statute. A person who has won a competition for a position of a lecturer or a researcher (in either science or arts) shall be offered a fixed-term employment contract for this period.

3. At the end of the five-year term specified in Paragraph 2 of this Article, an open competition may be announced for the same position not later than three months before the expiry of this term of office.

4. If a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) wins a competition for the same position for the second time, an open-ended employment contract shall be concluded with that person. This contract shall expire on the last day of an academic year during which the employee concerned attains 65 years of age.

5. In cases where an employment contract concluded with a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) is terminated or modified due to a change in the place of work before the expiry of the five-year period indicated in Paragraph 2 of this Article, the lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts), having won a competition for the same position for the second time, shall not acquire the right to conclude an open-ended employment contract with the University.

6. Any joining of an academic unit of the University with another academic unit, consolidation of academic units, division or any other alteration of the governing structure, its subordination or change of name, even if resulting in either a change of the five-year employment contract concluded with a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) or a conclusion of a new employment contract, shall not be valid grounds to consider a researcher (in either science or arts) or lecturer as having terminated their work at the relevant unit before the expiry of the five-year term indicated in Paragraph 2 of this Article and to be subjected to the application of the provision established in Paragraph 5 of this Article. No such grounds shall either be provided for by an election of a lecturer or a researcher (in either science or arts) to an administrative position in the University, or in its internal organisational structure, under the procedure established in the Statute and its accompanying by-laws of the University which results in a termination or changes of the employment contract under which that person has been working at the University as a lecturer or a researcher (in either science or arts).

7. Circumstances permitting, a researcher may, upon their own request, be transferred to an equivalent position of a lecturer without holding an open competition, or a lecturer be transferred to an equivalent position of a researcher, if they conform to the minimum qualification requirements established for the relevant position. In this event, Paragraph 5 of this Article shall not be applicable and the five-year term shall not be deemed as having expired.

8. Upon a decision of the Rector, a person may be admitted to a position of a lecturer or a researcher (in either science or arts), without holding an open competition, but only under a fixed-term employment contract not exceeding two years, except in cases provided for in Paragraph 2, Article 22 of the Statute.

9. Lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) working under open-ended employment contracts shall have to undergo assessment of their performance every five years. The first of such assessments shall be held not later than three months before the end of the fifth year after the conclusion of a fixed-term contract. Failure to pass an assessment shall result in the termination of the employment contract with the lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) concerned. Taking in regard the qualification and professional qualities of a non-assessed person, as well as other significant circumstances, they may be offered another position of a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) for a term not exceeding two years. Lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) of over 65 years of age are entitled to work at the University if the Senate approves that a fixed-term employment contract for a period not exceeding three years is concluded. Upon a decision of the Senate, such a contract may be renewed once.

10. In the cases and under procedure established by University by-laws, a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) may be subjected to an extraordinary assessment of their

performance. Failure to pass such assessment shall result in the termination of the employment contract with the lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) concerned. Taking in regard the qualification and professional qualities of a non-assessed person, as well as other significant circumstances, they may be offered another position of a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) for a term not exceeding two years.

11. Under the procedure established in the Statute and its accompanying by-laws of the University, a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) may be elected or appointed to an administrative position in the University or in its internal organisational structure.

12. Minimum qualification requirements, the procedure for holding open competitions for a position of a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts), the procedure for the appointment of lecturers or researchers (in either science or arts) without competition and their discharge, the procedure for the performance assessment of lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) (including the procedure for determining the grounds for extraordinary performance assessment and the conditions and procedure for granting pedagogical titles), conclusion of fixed-term employment contracts therewith, conditions for and the procedure of the academic career of lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) shall be established in the Regulations.

13. Provisions of this Article shall not be applicable in respect of research (art) trainees indicated in Article 17 of the Statute, visiting lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) indicated in Article 18 of the Statute, and those lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) indicated in Article 19 of the Statute (other than visiting lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) indicated in Article 18 of the Statute) who participate in the academic activity of the University within the framework of exchange or cooperation programmes and are not entitled to employment contracts.

Article 16. Associated lecturers and researchers (artists)

1. The Senate may grant the status of an associated lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) to a University lecturer or researcher (artist) if the latter is temporarily, i.e. for a period not exceeding the date of expiry of their employment contract, working elsewhere but maintains research or any other academic relations with the University.

2. With the consent of the Senate, an associated lecturer or researcher (artist) shall be entitled to resume their previous position without participating in an open competition. In the event if a fixed-term employment contract was concluded with an associated lecturer or researcher (artist), the duration of a newly concluded employment contract shall be determined by a date which may not be later than the date of the expiry of their employment contract previously concluded with the University.

3. The status of an associated lecturer or researcher (artist), the procedure of its granting, and resumption of a previously held position shall be defined in the Regulations.

Article 17. Research (art) trainees

Research trainees may be admitted to the University under the rules established by law.

Article 18. Visiting lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts)

1. Visiting lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) shall be employees of Lithuanian or foreign institutions invited for a certain period to give lectures or carry out scientific or artistic research at the University without holding an open competition.

2. A fixed-term employment contract shall be concluded with a visiting lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) in accordance with the rules established by law.

3. The status of a visiting lecturer and researcher (in either science or arts), conditions and the procedure of their employment to a position at the University shall be laid down in the Regulations.

Article 19. Lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) participating in the academic activity of the University within the framework of exchange or cooperation programmes

1. Participation in the academic activity of the University within the framework of exchange or cooperation programmes shall also be open to lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) of other Lithuanian or foreign institutions (other than visiting lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) specified in Article 18 of the Statute) without conclusion of employment contracts.

2. The status of lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) specified in Paragraph 1 of this Article, the general conditions and procedure of their participation in the academic activity of the University shall be laid down in the Regulations. Other conditions and procedure of participation may also be set forth in agreements on exchange or cooperation concluded by the University with other institutions, in by-laws of the University core academic units, or in agreements of the latter with other (not those of the University) institutions.

Article 20. University Professors Emeriti and other persons of merit to the University – members of the University academic community

1. A professor who has reached the statutory retirement age and is terminating the employment contract with the University, as well as a former University professor, may be granted the title (status) of a Professor Emeritus for exceptional achievement in science, art or teaching. The title (status) of Professor Emeritus shall be awarded by the Senate.

2. A Professor Emeritus shall be entitled to receive a monthly payment of the sum determined by the Council and be provided with a possibility to participate in the academic and any other activity of the University.

3. Under the procedure established by the Senate, other long-serving University lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) who have reached the statutory retirement age may be granted the title (status) of an affiliated lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) of the University and/or any other honorary title of a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) of the University.

4. Affiliated lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) and other lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) of merit to the University shall be offered possibilities to maintain scientific, pedagogical and creative relationships with the University.

5. The conditions and procedure of granting the title (status) of a Professor Emeritus and the guarantees for their participation in the academic and other activity of the University, the conditions and procedure for granting the title (status) of an affiliated researcher, affiliated professor, or affiliated artist, as well as the conditions for their maintaining scientific, pedagogical and artistic relationships with the University shall be laid down in the Regulations for the Emeritura, Affiliation and Honorary Titles.

Article 21. University students and unclassified students

1. A University student is a person pursuing studies under a degree-awarding University study programme, doctoral studies, post-graduate studies in art or residency studies. Students of other Lithuanian or foreign institutions of higher education pursuing studies at the University within the framework of exchange or cooperation shall enjoy all rights and privileges of a student of the University.

2. A student may be issued with a University student certificate. The form of the certificate, the procedure of its issue, and the rights to be enjoyed by its holder shall be laid down in the Regulations upon the consent of the Students' Representation.

3. A University unclassified student is a person studying according to an informal education programme of the University, other non-degree University study programme or studying separate study subjects (their groups, modules) offered by the University. An unclassified student may be issued with a University unclassified student's certificate. The form of the certificate, the procedure of its issue, and the rights to be enjoyed by its holder shall be laid down in the Regulations upon the consent of the Students' Representation.

4. Students and unclassified students shall be admitted to and expelled from the University by the Rector, except in the cases specified in Paragraph 5 of this Article.

5. The grounds and the procedure for admitting students and unclassified students to the University and for their expulsion from the University shall be laid down in the Regulations. The Regulations may provide for cases when unclassified students are admitted to the University (its core academic unit) or expelled from the University (its core academic unit) not by the Rector but by the heads of the relevant core academic units of the University.

6. Students and unclassified students shall be entitled to all rights and obligations provided for by laws of the Republic of Lithuania and the Regulations. In adopting or amending provisions of the Regulations pertinent to the rights and obligations of students and unclassified students, the opinion of the Students' Representation shall be taken into consideration. If any of the amendments of the Regulations fail to be approved by the Students' Representation, the reasoning for such amendments is to be provided in a relevant resolution of the Senate.

7. The regulations for the Register of the University Students and Unclassified Students shall be approved by the Rector.

8. The interests of all students and unclassified students of the University shall be represented, and their rights protected, by the Students' Representation – an institution for the self-governance of students and unclassified students.

9. The Students' Representation shall be entitled to receive any information and explanations from the University and its internal organisational structures on all issues pertaining to studies; it

may express its opinion and submit proposal for consideration of other issues of concern to students. The Students' Representation shall be entitled to submit proposals for reconsideration of any decisions adopted by the University or of its internal governing (self-government) body pertaining to studies or on any other issues of concern to students.

10. Every student of the University shall be entitled to elect and be elected delegate to the General Conference of the University Students.

11. The requirements applicable to student representatives nominated for election to the governing (self-governance) bodies of the University, or of its internal organisational structure, the procedure for electing and recalling students' representatives, the responsibility and accountability to the student community of the elected representatives shall be established by the Students' Representation. In determining the representation quotas, representation of students from all three study cycles is to be ensured.

12. All the organisational and material conditions necessary for the activity of the Students' Representation shall be guaranteed in the procedure established in the Statute, the Regulations, and in other University by-laws.

Article 22. University employees – non-members of the University community

1. University employees – non-members of the University community – shall ensure administration of the University, its internal organizational structures (including providing services to the personnel and visitors, economic activity, maintenance of external relations, performance of other non-academic functions related to administration) and any other non-academic activity. Relationships pertaining to the performance of functions by University employees – non-members of the University community – shall be governed by the regulations of the relevant internal organizational structures of the University and job descriptions of those employees, or by any other University by-laws governing the functions and activity of those structures.

2. In case where the powers of a person who, before their election or appointment to an administrative position at the University or its internal organizational structure, was a University lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) are terminated either on the mutual consent of the parties, upon the expiry of the term of office, on the application of the employee, due to circumstances beyond the employee's control, or on the initiative of the employer in absence of the fault of the employee, that person shall be entitled to resume their previous position of a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) or to assume an equivalent position at the same core academic unit of the University. In this event, a fixed-term employment contract for the duration of five years shall be concluded. If, upon the expiry of the five-year term, the employee wins a competition for the same position, an open-ended employment contract shall be concluded. A list of administrative positions, election or appointment to which enables persons to enjoy this guarantee, shall be presented by the Rector and approved by the Council with the consent of the Senate.

Article 23. University alumni

1. University alumni are graduates of the University who participate in the activity of one of the alumni societies of the University or of any of its units.

2. Alumni societies of the University, or of its units, are those organizations of graduates of the University, or of its units, who seek to maintain close relationship between both the University graduates themselves and with their *Alma Mater*, as well as to assist the University in the discharge of its mission.

Article 24. Honorary Doctors of the University, Honorary Professors of the University, Patrons of the University, and persons of merit to the University – non-members of the University academic community

For their exceptional merit in pursuing activity consistent with the mission of the University, the Senate may award the title (status) of an Honorary Doctor of the University, Honorary Professor of the University, Patron of the University, or any other honorary title (status) of the University or an honorary title (status) indicated in Paragraph 3 Article 20 of the Statute.

SECTION FOUR

RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Article 25. Resolution of disputes between members of the University community

1. Disputes related with research and studies and those between students and other members of the University community, except disputes concerned with academic ethics and disputes over labour relations, shall be heard by standing commissions for dispute resolution of core academic units and the Central Commission for Dispute Resolution in accordance with their relevant competences.

2. Disputes over the ethics of members of the University community shall be heard by academic ethics commissions of core academic units and the Central Academic Ethics Commission in accordance with their relevant competences. Those commissions shall also hear disputes indicated in Paragraph 5, Article 5 of the Statute that fall under their competence.

3. The Central Commission for Dispute Resolution shall be formed, and its chairman appointed, by the Senate; commissions for dispute resolution of core academic units shall be formed, and their chairmen appointed, by the council of the relevant unit. A relevant commission shall be composed of an equal number of persons authorised by the University and the Students' Representation. A commission may be composed of between four and eight members.

4. In the event where parties fail to come to an agreement otherwise, disputes shall be heard at a closed meeting of any of the commissions indicated in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article. A meeting of a commission shall be valid if attended by at least two thirds of the commission members, and decisions shall be taken by a majority of more than half of the members participating at the meeting. In the event of a tie, the member presiding at the meeting shall have the casting vote.

5. The commissions indicated in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall resolve disputes being guided by the principles of the party autonomy, procedural equality, adversariness, dispositiveness, confidentiality, economy, cooperation, and expeditiousness.

6. The commissions indicated in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall act in accordance with their regulations approved by the Senate.

7. Decisions passed by commissions for dispute resolution of core academic units may be appealed against to the Central Commission for Dispute Resolution, while a decision passed by the Central Commission for Dispute Resolution shall be final in the University.

8. Disputes over labour relations shall be heard and the decisions implemented following the procedure established in labour laws and other legal acts governing labour relations.

CHAPTER FOUR GOVERNING OF THE UNIVERSITY

SECTION ONE UNIVERSITY GOVERNING BODIES AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES

Article 26. University governing bodies

Self-governance of the University community shall be implemented by the University governing bodies – the Senate, the Council, and the Rector – in accordance with their competences.

Article 27. Incompatibility of positions

1. No person shall at the same time be a member of the Senate and a member of the Council.

2. If a Senate member is elected (appointed) to the Council, they shall resign from the Senate members before the first Council meeting where they are expected to participate; if a Council member is elected (appointed) to the Senate, they shall resign from the Council members before the date of the first Senate meeting where they are expected to participate. Failing to do so, the elected (appointed) member of the Council or the member of the Senate shall be deprived of both their previous position in the Senate or Council respectively and of the new position in the Council or Senate respectively under the established procedure.

Article 28. Internal organizational structures of the University

1. According to their status, the University internal organizational structures shall be divided into core and branch units; and according to their functions, those structures shall be divided into academic and non-academic units. The University academic units shall be: faculties, departments, institutes, chairs, divisions, and other units. Vilnius University Library (hereinafter, the University Library) shall be a *sui generis* internal organisational structure (unit). In accordance with the established procedure, the Senate shall also be entitled to form other *sui generis* internal organisational structures (units), branches and representations.

2. The University core academic units shall be internal organisational structures intended for carrying out all types of the principal University activities. These organisational structures shall exercise internal autonomy, the limits of which shall be determined by the Model Regulations of Core Academic Units of Vilnius University (hereinafter, the Model Regulations of Core Academic Units). The Model Regulations of Core Academic Units shall be approved by the Senate based on a proposal from the Rector.

3. In the Model Regulations of Core Academic Units, it is to be established, *inter alia*, that the collegial self-governance body of a core academic unit shall be the council of that core academic unit formed for a period of four years. Members of such council, with the exception of student representatives of the relevant unit, who are delegated by the Students' Representation under the established procedure, shall be elected in a direct election by researchers (in either science or arts) and lecturers of that unit who conform to the requirements specified in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute. At least one fifth of the members of the council of a core academic unit shall consist of professors and chief researchers (in either science or arts) of that unit, at least one fifth of the members shall be associate professors and senior researchers (in either science or arts), and at least one fifth shall be composed of student representatives. Heads of branch academic units are entitled to be elected to the council of the unit.

4. The only *ex officio* member of the council of a unit shall be the head of that core academic unit, elected by secret vote in the council of the unit and recommended to the Rector for appointment. The term of office of the head of a core academic unit shall be five years. The same person may hold the office of the head of a core academic unit for no longer than two consecutive terms. This provision shall also apply in the instances where a person did not serve as the head of a core academic for a full term of office (any of the two). A person who has a scientific degree or is an acknowledged artist with pedagogical and managerial experience and did not attain the statutory retirement age by the first day of the term of office as the head of a core academic unit shall be eligible to be appointed head of that core academic unit. The head of a core academic unit may not assume the post of the chairman of the council of that unit. By a two-third majority of the votes of all unit council members, the unit council shall be entitled to issue a vote of no confidence by its own motion, or approve by a simple majority a no-confidence resolution adopted by the Rector in respect of the head of a core academic unit, who, in this event, shall immediately resign from the office.

5. The structure of every core academic unit, the number of the unit council members, and the procedure for forming a unit council shall be established in the regulations of the relevant unit prepared on the basis of the Model Regulations of Core Academic Units. Within the framework of implementing the University Strategic Action Plan, core academic units shall be established and liquidated, and their regulations approved, by the Senate based on a proposal from the Rector. Amendments to functioning regulations of core academic units shall be approved by the Senate based on a proposal from the Rector and with the consent of the council of that core academic unit. Interim heads of newly established core academic units shall be appointed and discharged by the Rector. The council of a newly established core academic unit shall have to be elected and a proposal for the appointment of the head of the unit, elected by the unit council, to be submitted to the Rector not later than within three months from the date when the regulations of the core academic unit were approved.

6. University core non-academic units shall be established to provide services ensuring the activity of academic units and to perform other non-academic functions of the University. The place

of those organisational formations within the University governing structure shall be established in the Model Regulations of Core Non-Academic Units of Vilnius University (hereinafter, the Model Regulations of Core Non-Academic Units) approved by the Rector.

7. Core non-academic units shall be established and liquidated and their regulations approved by the Rector within the framework of implementing the University Strategic Action Plan. The regulations of every core non-academic unit shall be prepared in accordance with the Model Regulations of Core Non-Academic Units.

Article 29. Vilnius University Library

1. Vilnius University Library shall be an internal organisational structure (unit) enjoying the statutory status of a library of the Republic of Lithuania of state importance and the guarantees of funding to be provided from the state budget for the discharge of functions assigned thereto.

2. The principal goals of the University Library shall be: to develop and disseminate resources of information that meet the needs of the academic community; to create an active teaching and learning environment; to develop skills in the use of information; to accumulate, preserve and promote cultural heritage of State significance.

3. The Library shall function in accordance with its regulations approved by the Senate.

Article 30. University hospitals

1. The University hospitals shall provide health services at all levels and pursue, in cooperation with the University, medicine and health studies at all levels, carry out research, and enhance the qualification of health service specialists.

2. The right to use the name of the University in the title of a hospital – the right to be called a University hospital – shall be granted exclusively to those institutions of public health care where the University holds at least 50 percent of votes of the members of that institution in general meetings of its participants.

Article 31. University branch and representative offices

1. The University shall be entitled to establish its branch and representative offices.

2. A University branch office shall be an academic unit of the University with its head office, a separate settlement account, and performing all or a part of the University's functions. The rules of law that regulate the activity of a core academic unit shall be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to a University branch office.

3. A University representative office shall be a non-academic unit of the University that has its head office and is able to represent and protect the interests of the University, conclude transactions and perform any other actions provided for in the regulations of a University representative office. The rules of law that regulate the activity of a core non-academic unit shall be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to a University representative office.

4. Within the framework of implementing the University Strategic Action Plan, University branch offices shall be established and liquidated, and their regulations approved by the Senate

based on a proposal from the Rector. Regulations of a University branch office shall be prepared in accordance with the Model Regulations of Core Academic Units.

5. Within the framework of implementing the University Strategic Action Plan, University representative offices shall be established and liquidated, and their regulations approved by the Rector. Regulations of a University representative office shall be prepared in accordance with the Model Regulations of Core Non-Academic Units.

SECTION TWO

THE SENATE

Article 32. The purpose of the Senate

1. The Senate shall ensure the freedom of culture, research, and teaching at the University, collegial discussion of general academic affairs of the University and of other issues of direct relevance for the entire University community and adoption of by-laws necessary for their implementation; it shall supervise that the activity of both the Council and the Rector, proposals submitted by the community to the Rector and to the University organisational structures as well as any other initiatives are in conformity with the mission, objectives, tasks and principles and the general academic interests of the University.

2. In executing its powers, the Senate shall adopt resolutions.

3. The University community shall be informed about the activity of the Senate in the procedure prescribed by the Statute and the Guidelines for the Provision of Information about the Activity of the University.

Article 33. Powers of the Senate

1. The Senate shall:

1) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, approve the Senate Rules of Procedure;

2) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, and in accordance with the procedure established in Paragraph 6, Article 34, determine the number of Senate members for a new term of office (which may not exceed 51) and the procedure for the elections of Senate members;

3) determine the procedure for the elections of Council members indicated in Parts 1 and 3, Paragraph 2, Article 39 of the Statute and the termination of their powers under any of the grounds set out in Paragraph 19, Article 39 of the Statute;

4) discuss the candidates standing for the position of the Rector and submit conclusions to the Council on their conformity to the requirements established for this position;

5) adopt a resolution on the powers of a Senate member upon the termination of those powers on any of the grounds specified in Article 27 or Paragraphs from 2 to 9, Article 13 of the Statute;

6) discuss amendments (changes or supplements) to the Statute and to the Law on the Approval of the Statute and submit its opinion to the Council;

7) discuss draft laws on the change of the boundaries of the University's territory, on the change of the possessor of University buildings and objects of cultural heritage in State ownership, on a reform or reorganization of the University, its participation in reorganization or liquidation (termination of activity) and submit its opinion to the Council;

8) based on a proposal from the Rector, discuss the draft Strategic Action Plan of the University and present its opinion to the Council;

9) based on a proposal from the Rector, discuss the draft University Social Partnership Regulations and present its opinion to the Council;

10) based on a proposal from the Rector, approve the programmes of scientific and artistic research, artistic, experimental, social, cultural and technological development and present its recommendations on the financing of the said programmes;

11) discuss proposals submitted by the Rector on the general number of student places and on the determination of indirect costs for commissioned scientific and artistic research, experimental, social, cultural and technological development activities carried out by the University and present its opinion to the Council;

12) based on a proposal from the Rector, approve the Regulations;

13) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, adopt the procedure for the establishment of standing and interim committees for coordination and monitoring of scientific, artistic activity and studies, their functions and competences;

14) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, establish those standing and interim committees for coordination and monitoring scientific, artistic activity and studies, the establishment of which is attributed by the Regulations to the competence of the Senate, and approve their composition;

15) discuss a proposal from the Rector to withdraw a qualification degree, a doctorate degree in science or arts (along with the relevant diploma) or attestation of completion of non-award studies and/or the qualification attained (along with the relevant certificate) if the said degree was obtained or the studies completed (qualification attained) as a result of a gross violation committed by the person concerned of the laws of the Republic of Lithuania and of the University, including the University Academic Ethics Code, and submit its conclusions to the Rector;

16) based on a proposal from the Rector, consider the draft revenue and expenditure estimate of the University for a current year, a draft report on the implementation of the revenue and expenditure estimate for the previous year and the draft annual report of the University, revised drafts of the revenue and expenditure estimate of the University for a current year, a draft report on the implementation of the revenue and expenditure estimate for the previous year and a draft annual report of the University, and present its opinion to the Council;

17) supervise the effectiveness of the system of quality assurance in studies, evaluate the results of completed scientific and artistic research, of experimental, social, cultural and technological development, and studies as well as the quality and level of the entire University activity;

18) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, approve the Academic Ethics Code of the University;

19) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, approve the Code of Academic Rituals of the University;

20) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, approve the Regulations on Emeriti, Affiliation and Honorary Titles;

21) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, establish the procedure for the meetings (conferences) of the University community, and/or a part thereof, and organisation of surveys on issues of significance to the University;

22) convene the meetings (conferences) of the University community indicated in Paragraph 3, Article 12 of the Statute;

23) based on a proposal from the Rector, grant the pedagogical titles of professor, associated professor, the title (status) of Professor Emeritus, the titles (status) of affiliated researcher, affiliated professor, affiliated artist of the University, the honorary title (status) of researcher, artist, or lecturer of merit to the University, the honorary doctor of the University, the honorary professor of the University, the honorary member of the University community, the University patron, the honorary alumnus of the University, and other honorary titles (status) of the University;

24) based on a proposal from the Rector, discuss the list of administrative positions, the persons elected or appointed to which are eligible to the guarantees provided for in Paragraph 2, Article 22 of the Statute, and present its opinion to the Council;

25) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, approve the regulation of commissions for the settlement of disputes of core academic units and of the Central Commission for the Settlement of Disputes, commissions for academic ethics of core academic units and the Central Commissions for Academic Ethics, the Central Electoral Commission, and of any other commissions necessary for the general activity of the University;

26) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate, form the Central Commission for the Settlement of Disputes, the Central Commission for Academic Ethics, the Central Electoral Commission, and any other commissions necessary for the general activity of the University;

27) based on a proposal from the Rector, approve the Model Regulations of Core Academic Units;

28) based on a proposal from the Rector and within the framework of implementing the University Strategic Action Plan, establish and liquidate core academic units and branches of the University and approve their regulations; any amendments to regulations of already functioning core academic units shall be approved by the Senate based on a proposal from the Rector and with the consent of the council of that core academic unit;

29) based on a proposal from the Rector, adopt resolutions concerning a reform of the University Library structure, and approve the regulations of the University Library;

30) based on a proposal from the Rector, discuss rates of the University tuition fees, payments not directly related to the implementation of study programmes, and charges for other services offered by the University by either approving the said rates fully, or with reservations (amendments), or refusing to give its consent and submitting the relevant opinion to the Council;

31) based on a proposal from the Rector, consider applications of lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) over 65 years of age for a conclusion of fixed-term employment contracts for a term not exceeding three years;

32) exercise other powers than those directly laid down in the Statute and other by-laws and pertaining to the purpose of the Senate defined in Paragraph 1, Article 32 of the Statute.

2. The Senate shall be entitled to consider and submit its opinion and proposals to the Council and the Rector on any issues attributed to the competence of those University governing bodies, including on the draft annual activity report of the Council being prepared or on the published annual activity report of the Council.

3. The Senate shall be entitled, by a two-third majority of the votes of all Senate members, to pass a vote of no-confidence against the Rector over a breach of oath to the University or other legal or moral norms – an act incompatible with the position of the Rector. A final decision on the recall of the Rector shall be adopted by the Council not later than within two months from the call of the vote of no-confidence. Reconsideration of the vote of no-confidence against the Rector may be held in the Senate not before six months have passed from the previous deliberation of this kind.

4. The issues indicated in Parts 6 and 7, Paragraph 1 of this Article shall have to be approved by the Senate with at least a two-third majority vote of all the members of the Senate.

5. A conclusion referred to in Part 4, Paragraph 1 of this Article stating that a person applying for the position of the Rector fails to conform to the requirements applicable to the said position may be submitted to the Council if it is voted for by at least two-thirds of all Senate members participating at the meeting.

6. Before a relevant decision based on a proposal from at least one third of all Senate members is taken by the Senate, the issues set out in Parts 2, 3, 6 to 22, and 24 to 30, Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be presented for prior deliberation by the University community (academic community) in its meetings (conferences) under the procedure established by the Senate for meetings (conferences) of the University community and/or a part thereof.

Article 34. Composition and formation of the Senate

1. The Senate shall be formed for four years.

2. The Senate shall consist of Senate members: representatives of core academic units, representatives appointed (elected) by students, and the Rector.

3. The right to nominate candidates to Senate members – representatives of core academic units –, to elect Senate members – representatives of core academic units – as well as to be elected a Senate member – representative of a core academic unit shall be granted to every researcher (in either science or arts) and lecturer who conforms to the requirements specified in Paragraph 4 Article 12 of the Statute. The right to nominate candidates to Senate members specified in Part 3, Paragraph 6 of this Article shall also be exercised by every branch academic unit of a relevant core academic unit in its meetings of researchers (in either science or arts) and lecturers who conform to the requirements specified in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute.

4. The procedure for appointing (electing) student representatives and recalling them from members of the Senate shall be established by the Students' Representation.

5. The Rector shall be the only *ex officio* member of the Senate. The Vice-Rector, Pro-Rectors, Chancellor, heads and their deputies of core units, University branch offices, representative offices, bureaus, enterprises or organisations, in the general meeting of which the University possesses at least 50 percent of votes of the relevant legal person, may not be members of the Senate.

6. The Senate shall be formed in accordance with the following procedure:

1) the number of Senate members may not exceed 51, not counting the Rector, and that number is to divide by five;

2) two fifths of the Senate members (not counting the Rector) shall consist of persons representing the areas of biomedical, physical and technological sciences, two fifths shall be persons representing the areas of social, humanitarian sciences and arts, and one fifth will be representatives of the University students appointed or elected under the procedure established by the Students' Representation;

3) in core academic units, lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) who conform to the requirements specified in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute shall elect by secret voting as many members of the Senate – representatives of the relevant core academic unit – as it is determined by the representation quotas for core academic units approved under the procedure established in Paragraph 7 of this Article, but not less than one Senate member each;

4) at least half of the elected Senate members shall be composed of professors or chief researchers (in either science or arts) and at least one fifth of associated professors and senior researchers (in either science or arts);

5) elections in a core academic unit shall be considered to have been held if at least two thirds of its personnel eligible to vote have participated therein. The candidates who got the majority of votes of at least half of the voters participating in the elections shall be considered elected. In the event where several candidates receive an equal number of votes, the eldest candidate shall be considered elected. If none of the candidates receives more than half of the votes cast at the election, new elections shall be repeatedly held not later than within one week, where the candidates who receive the most votes shall be considered elected.

7. Not later than four months before the end of the term of a Senate, this outgoing Senate shall, based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Senate and under the procedure established in Paragraph 6 of this Article, determine the number of members in a new Senate, the number of Senate members to be elected in a core academic unit in accordance with the requirements established in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute for lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) of that core academic unit (representation quotas for core academic units), and the procedure for electing Senate members. In order to conform to the requirements established in Part 2, Paragraph 6 of this Article, different representation quotas for core academic units representing the areas of biomedical, physical and technological sciences, and for core academic units representing the areas of social, humanitarian sciences and arts, may be established.

8. Elections of Senate members indicated in Paragraph 3 of this Article shall be organised, and all newly elected (appointed) members of a Senate shall be registered, by the Central Electoral Commission. Election of Senate members – student representatives– shall be organised by the Students' Representation. Members of the Central Electoral Commission may not stand as candidates to the Senate.

9. Members of a new Senate shall have to be elected (appointed) at least a month before the end of the term of office of the outgoing Senate.

10. The powers of an outgoing Senate shall terminate on the day when the Senate of the new term of office gather to their first meeting, which is to be held not later than within five days after the end of the term of office of the outgoing Senate.

11. A new Senate shall be deemed formed upon the election (appointment) of at least two thirds of its members; however, a formation of the new Senate shall continue until the election (appointment) of all of its members. In the event where a new Senate is not formed in due time, or the new Senate members fail to gather to their first meeting within five working days from the end of the term of office of the outgoing Senate, the powers of the outgoing Senate shall not terminate until at least two thirds of the new Senate members are elected (appointed) and the new Senate members come to their first meeting.

12. The number of Senate members shall not change until the expiry of the term of office of that Senate. Members to the Senate from newly established core academic units of the University shall be elected only to the Senate of the next term of office.

13. Powers of a Senate member shall expire:

1) upon the expiry of the Senate's term of office, except in the instance specified in Paragraph 11 of this Article;

2) upon the death of a Senate member;

3) upon the resignation of a Senate member;

4) upon the expiry of the employment contract of a Senate member – a lecturer or researcher (in either science or arts) – with the University, or if the said Senate member starts working at the University for a shorter period than indicated in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute;

5) upon a removal of a Senate member – student representative – from the Register of Students and Unclassified Students of the University;

6) upon the expiry of the employment contract of an *ex officio* Senate member with the University;

7) upon the assumption by a Senate member of duties (except those of the Rector) indicated in Paragraph 5 of this Article;

8) upon a recall of a Senate member on the grounds established in Paragraph 14 of this Article;

9) upon a loss of the status of a Senate member in the cases indicated in Article 27 of the Statute.

14. A Senate member may be recalled upon a decision passed by the entity that has elected or appointed the said Senate member due to a misdemeanour, criminal offence, violation of administrative law, disciplinary or professional transgression, gross violation of the Statute or the Code of Academic Ethics, or any other breach of legal or moral norms that is inconsistent with the responsible duties of a Senate member. The relevant decision of the entity that has elected or appointed the Senate member concerned shall present a comprehensive justification for such termination of the powers. In the place of a recalled Senate member, or a member whose powers

have terminated on the grounds listed in Parts 2 to 7, Paragraph 13 of this Article, another Senate member shall be elected for the remaining term of office of that Senate within the same procedure as applicable to the Senate member recalled. The provisions of this Article shall be applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, for the procedure of election and the commencement of powers of the said Senate member.

Article 35. Meetings of the Senate

1. The activity of the Senate shall take the form of meetings.

2. Senate meetings shall be convened by the Chairman of the Senate or by a motion of at least one fourth of the Senate members.

3. The date of the first meeting of a new Senate shall be determined by the Chairman of the outgoing Senate at least two weeks before the expiry of its term of office, and a public announcement about that meeting shall be made in advance. If the first meeting of a new Senate is not convened within the time period indicated in Paragraph 11, Article 34 of the Statute, members of the new Senate shall come to a meeting the following day on their own motion, having notified the Rector accordingly.

4. The first meeting of the Senate shall be chaired by the eldest Senate member participating, who is presented by the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. At the beginning of this meeting, the Chairman of the Senate shall be elected by the majority of over half of the participating Senate members voting by secret ballot, who shall thenceforth preside over the meeting. The post of the Chairman of the Senate may not be taken by the Rector or a Senate member – a student representative.

5. The Chairman of the Senate shall be entitled to have more than one deputy. The deputy (deputies) shall be elected by the majority of over half of the participating Senate members voting by secret ballot. The post of the Deputy Chairman of the Senate may not be taken by the Rector.

6. A meeting of the Senate shall be valid when at least two thirds of all Senate members are participating.

7. A Senate meeting may be observed by any member of the University community; other persons shall need the Senate's consent. Subject to a decision of the Senate, discussions of separate issues may be conducted in a closed meeting.

8. The Chairman of the Council, Vice-Rector, Pro-Rectors, Chancellor, and heads of core academic units and the University branch offices shall be entitled to participate at Senate meetings with the right of advisory vote.

9. A Senate meeting shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Senate. In the event of their absence, that Senate meeting shall be chaired by the Deputy Chairman of the Senate (where there are more deputies than one, the meeting is chaired by the eldest Deputy Chairman). In the event of absence at a Senate meeting of both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman (Chairmen) of the Senate, the meeting shall be chaired by the eldest participating member of the Senate.

10. In those cases where an opinion of the Council, the Rector, the Students' Representation, the council of a core academic unit or a University branch office has been received, the Senate shall discuss each argument of the opinion separately and either accept or reject it by taking a vote. If, in

its meetings (conferences) as established in Part 21, Paragraph 1, Article 33 of the Statute, the University community and/or its part express their opinion on an issue under discussion, this opinion shall be heard.

11. Resolutions of the Senate shall be adopted by a simple majority of the participating Senate members, except in cases stipulated in the Statute. In the event of a tie, the Senate member chairing the meeting shall have the casting vote. At the request of at least one fifth of all Senate members, voting by secret ballot may be called.

12. Exercise of the Senate's powers, periodicity of meetings and their convention, the procedure for discussing matters in Senate meetings, adoption of Senate resolutions and their implementation shall be established in the Senate Rules of Procedure, while the publication of resolutions shall be governed by the Guidelines for the Provision of Information about the Activity of the University.

13. The material and organisational conditions necessary for the activity of the Senate shall be ensured by the Rector.

Article 36. The Chairman of the Senate

1. The Chairman of the Senate shall organise the work of the Senate and represent the Senate.

2. The rights and obligations of the Chairman of the Senate shall be defined in this Statute and in the Senate Rules of Procedure.

3. The Chairman of the Senate shall be entitled to participate in Council meetings with the right of advisory vote.

4. If the Chairman of the Senate is not able to discharge their duties, those are assumed by the Deputy Chairman (or, there being more than one, by the eldest Deputy Chairman).

5. The powers of the Chairman and, *mutatis mutandis*, those of the Deputy Chairman of the Senate shall terminate:

1) upon the expiry of their powers as a Senate member on any of the grounds established in Paragraph 13, Article 34 of the Statute, except the right to determine the date of the first meeting of a new Senate and make a public announcement thereof;

2) upon their resignation from the position of a Senate member or of the Chairman (Deputy Chairman) of the Senate;

3) upon the removal of the Senate Chairman from this position by the Senate voting by secret ballot.

SECTION THREE

THE COUNCIL

Article 37. The purpose of the Council

1. The Council shall ensure the autonomy of the University and self-governance of the University community corresponding to the long-term aims of the University and experimental, social, cultural and technological development, responsibility to the Nation and the State of Lithuania, openness and accountability to society; and, together with the Senate and the Rector, it shall be responsible for the quality of the University activity. In accordance with its competence established in the Statute, the Council shall monitor compliance of the University activity and governance with the University mission, objectives, tasks and principles of activity, general academic interests and with the requirements for openness and accountability to society established in the Statute.

2. In exercising its powers, the Council shall adopt resolutions.

3. The University community shall be informed about the activity of the Council according to the procedure laid down in the Statute and the Guidelines for the Provision of Information about the University Activity.

Article 38. Powers of the Council

1. The Council shall:

1) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Council, approve its Rules of Procedure;

2) establish the procedure for the elections of the Rector;

3) elect the Rector;

4) recall the Rector from office under any of the grounds specified in Paragraph 21, Article 44 of the Statute;

5) based on a proposal from the Rector, appoint one of the Pro-Rectors to the position of the Vice-Rector, determine their competence, functions, powers and regulate temporary substitution of the Vice-Rector and removal from office thereof;

6) based on a proposal from the Chairman of the Council and on the grounds established in Paragraphs 8, 10, 11, 12, and 23, Article 44 of the Statute, appoint the Vice-Rector, or one of the Pro-Rectors, to act as the Rector *ad interim* until the assumption of powers by the new Rector; extend the term of office of the Pro-Rectors and Chancellor appointed by the outgoing Rector for a period until new Pro-Rectors and the Chancellor are appointed by the new Rector;

7) declare the expiry of the powers of a Council member on one of the grounds established in Parts 2 to 8, Paragraph 18, Article 39 of the Statute;

8) after consulting the opinion of the Senate, submit to the Seimas amendments (changes or supplements) to the Statute and to the law on its approval;

9) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate, submit to the Government its approval or disapproval regarding a change of the boundaries of the University territory or of the possessors of the University buildings, cultural heritage objects owned by the State;

10) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate and, in the instances indicated in this Statute, also the opinion of the University community, submit to the Senate draft decisions on reorganisation, reform and liquidation of the University and pass

resolutions regarding participation of the University in reorganisation by affiliating other legal entities;

11) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate, approve the Strategic Action Plan of the University;

12) assess the conformity of the University's activity with its mission and the Strategic Action Plan; evaluate the results of the University's activity;

13) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate, approve the Regulations for Social Partnerships of the University;

14) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate, discuss drafts of a statement of revenue and expenditure for the current year, a report on the implementation of the revenue and expenditure estimate for the previous year, and of an annual report on the activities of the University; by the term indicated in Paragraph 3, Article 11 of the Statute, adopt a resolution on the approval of the statement of revenue and expenditure for the current year, the report on the implementation of this estimate for the previous year, and the annual report on the activities of the University. In the event where the Council declines to approve the statement of revenue and expenditure for the current year, the report on the implementation of this estimate for the previous year, or the annual report on the activities of the University, it shall determine a time period within which the Rector is to correct and/or revise the relevant documents; discuss the repeatedly submitted documents and pass a relevant resolution;

15) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate, approve the University tuition fees, the rates of fees not directly related to the implementation of study programmes and charges for other services offered by the University;

16) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate, determine the general number of student places taking into account the capacity to ensure the quality of studies, research, and artistic activity;

17) based on a proposal from the Rector, approve the Guidelines on the Provision of Information on the University Activities;

18) in the procedure established by law, provide the authorities executing control and supervision over the activity of institutions of higher education with information necessary to ensure accountability of the University to society and to maintain its relationship therewith;

19) initiate economic and financial audit of the University;

20) based on a proposal from the Rector, determine the general principles for the selection, employment, and performance evaluation of University employees – non-members of the academic community;

21) based on a proposal from the Rector, approve the Description of Procedure for the Determination of Official Salary, Bonuses, Additional Pays and Other Remuneration and Incentives for Work and Achievements of Employees of Vilnius University (hereinafter, Description of Procedure for the Determination of Official Salary, Bonuses, Additional Pays and Other Remuneration and Incentives for Work and Achievements of Employees);

22) based on a proposal from the Rector, determine the conditions and procedure for the establishment of legal persons of limited civil liability and investment thereto;

23) based on a proposal from the Rector, approve the Description of Procedure for the use of University funds (including funds allocated for the salaries and other remuneration of University lecturers and researchers (both in science and arts), other University personnel – non-members of the academic community) and the management, use and disposal of University assets;

24) based on a proposal from the Rector, approve the sets of annual financial statements;

25) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate, give or refuse its consent to a transfer to third persons or holders of property any current or fixed tangible and intangible assets belonging to the State by the right of ownership and administered by the University on the basis of the right of trust, except in cases specified in Part 9, Paragraph 1 of this Article;

26) based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate, approve the list of persons elected or appointed to administrative positions and entitled to the guarantee established in Paragraph 2, Article 22 of the Statute;

27) based on a proposal from the Rector, approve the Description of Procedure for the support to be provided to the Students' Representation, other student organisations, present and/or former University employees and students, as well as to academic, cultural, sports events and any other activity conforming to the University mission;

28) generate support for the University;

29) perform any other obligations arising from the Statute and other by-laws and related with the purpose of the Council defined in Paragraph 1, Article 37 of the Statute.

2. In addition to resolutions passed by the Council as indicated in Parts 8, 9 and 10, Paragraph 1 of this Article, resolutions of the Senate taken in execution of the powers defined in Parts 6 and 7, Paragraph 1, Article 33 of the Statute shall also be submitted to the Seimas or the Government.

Article 39. Composition and formation of the Council

1. The Council shall be composed for five years.

2. The Council shall consist of eleven persons – members of the Council – elected under the following procedure:

1) five members of the Council shall be nominated and elected by members of the University academic community (who conform to the requirements established in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute) from candidates – University lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts) – in the procedure established by the Senate;

2) one member of the Council shall be appointed or elected from candidates – University students – in the procedure determined by the Students' Representation;

3) four members of the Council shall be nominated and elected by members of the University academic community (who conform to the requirements established in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute) from candidates – non-University employees or students – in the procedure established by the Senate;

4) one member of the Council shall be elected from candidates – non-University employees or students – in the procedure established by the Students' Representation.

3. The right to nominate candidates to the Council specified in Parts 1 and 3, Paragraph 2 of this Article and the right to elect Council members specified in Parts 1 and 3, Paragraph 2 of this Article, as well as the right to stand for election to Council members indicated in Part 1, Paragraph 2 of this Article shall be exercised by any member of the University academic community who conforms to the requirements established in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute.

4. The procedure for appointing (electing) members to the Council specified in Parts 2 and 4, Paragraph 2 of this Article and termination of their powers on any of the grounds established in Paragraph 19 of this Article shall be determined by the Students' Representation.

5. A person may be nominated a candidate for election to Council members, and be elected to Council members, if they are of good repute, and whose works shows good understanding of the mission of the University, who foster the values of the University, are motivated to promote the quality of the University activity, and have knowledge, experience and competence necessary for the discharge of the duties of a Council member.

6. Neither the President of the Republic, members of Seimas and the Government, nor civil servants of political (personal) confidence may stand for election or be elected to members of the Council.

7. The same person may not serve on the Council for longer than two consecutive terms. This provision shall also apply in the instances where a person did not hold membership of the Council for a full term (any of the two).

8. At least six months before the expiry of the Council's term of office, the Chairman of the Senate shall initiate formation of a new Council.

9. By its resolution passed at least four months before the expiry of the Council's term of office, the Senate shall publicly announce the start of the process of nominating candidates to members of the Council. Such resolution of the Senate, based on a proposal from its Chairman, shall *inter alia* determine the end of the period for nominating candidates to Council members and the methods of registering candidates indicated in Parts 1, 3, and 4, Paragraph 2 of this Article.

10. Elections to the Council stipulated in Parts 1 and 3, Paragraph 2 of this Article shall be organised and all elected and appointed Council members of a new term of office registered by the Central Electoral Commission; appointment or election of Council members indicated in Parts 2 and 4, Paragraph 2 of this Article shall be organised by the Students' Representation.

11. Lists of registered candidates to the Council shall be publicly announced to the University community not later than two months before the expiry of the mandate of the outgoing Council.

12. Members of a new Council shall be elected at least a month before the expiry of the mandate of the outgoing Council. Upon the election of all members to the new Council, the Chairman of the Senate shall immediately announce the composition of the new Council.

13. The mandate of the outgoing Council shall terminate when the new Council members gather to their first meeting, which shall be convened within five working days from the termination of the mandate of the outgoing Council.

14. In the case of a failure to compose a new Council in due time, or if the first meeting of the new Council is not convened within five working days from the termination of the mandate of the outgoing Council, the mandate of the outgoing Council shall be extended until all members of the new Council are elected and the first meeting of the new Council is convened.

15. Before the assumption of their duties, an elected Council member shall solemnly read their Pledge of Commitment to the University and sign it. This provision shall likewise be applied to Council members elected for the second consecutive term of office. The Pledge of Commitment of the Council members shall be received by the Chairman of the Senate.

16. Refusal of an elected Council member to read their Pledge of Commitment to the University or to sign thereof, or reading or signing of the Pledge of Commitment to the University with a stipulation shall mean that the said elected Council member fails to acquire the powers of a Council member and a new person shall have to be elected by applying, *mutatis mutandis*, the provisions of this Article.

17. The text of a Council member's Pledge of Commitment to the University and the ceremony of taking it shall be defined in the Protocol of Academic Rituals of the University.

18. The powers of a Council member shall be terminated:

1) upon the expiry of the Council's term of office, except in the case specified in Paragraph 14 of this Article;

2) upon the death of a Council member;

3) upon the resignation of a Council member;

4) upon a Council member – a University researcher (in either science or art) or a lecturer – starting to work at the University for a shorter period than indicated in Paragraph 4, Article 12 of the Statute;

5) upon the removal of a Council member – student representative – from the Register of Students and Unclassified Students of the University;

6) upon the expiry of an employment contract of a Council member – a University researcher (in either science or art) or a lecturer – with the University;

7) upon the loss of the status of a Council member in the cases defined in Article 27 of the Statute;

8) upon the withdrawal of a Council member in the instances defined in Paragraph 19 of this Article;

9) where a Council member ceases to conform to the requirements set forth in Paragraph 6 of this Article.

19. Under the procedure established by the Senate, the powers of a Council member may be terminated upon a decision of the entity that has elected or appointed the said Council member due to a crime or misdemeanour, violation of administrative law committed by that member, disciplinary or professional transgression, gross violation of the Statute or the Code of Academic Ethics, or due to any other breach of legal or moral norms that is inconsistent with the responsible duties of a Council member, also if a Council member fails to fulfil their commitment to the University or ceases to conform to the requirements set forth in Paragraph 6 of this Article. In the place of a withdrawn Council member, or a member whose powers have been terminated, another Council member shall be elected for the remaining term of office of that Council within the same procedure as it was applicable to the Council member whose powers have been terminated. The provisions of this Article shall be applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the procedure of elections and the assumption of powers of that Council member.

20. Based on a proposal from its Chairman, the Council shall adopt resolutions stating the termination of the powers of a Council member on any of the grounds established in Parts 2 to 7, Paragraph 18 of this Article. The right to initiate adoption of such a resolution of the Council may also be exercised by any Council member.

21. For their activity in discharge of the duties of a Council member, members of the Council shall be entitled to receive remuneration from the University funds calculated on the basis of the actual hours worked, with the following coefficient applied to the official hourly salary of the Rector for:

- 1) Chairman of the Council: 1
- 2) Deputy Chairman of the Council: 0.85
- 3) Council member: 0.5

22. Members of the Council shall not be eligible for candidacy for the position of the Rector.

Article 40. Meetings of the Council

1. The activity of the Council shall take the form of meetings. Council meetings may be observed by any member of the University community; other persons shall need the Council's consent. Subject to a decision of the Council, consideration of particular issues may be conducted in a closed meeting.

2. Meetings of the Council shall be convened by its Chairman or a motion of by at least four Council members.

3. The date of the first meeting of a new Council shall be determined by the Chairman of the Senate at least two weeks before the expiry of the term of office of the outgoing Council and a public announcement about that meeting shall be made in advance. If the first meeting of a new Council is not convened within the time period indicated in Paragraph 14, Article 39 of the Statute, members of the new Council shall come to a meeting next day on their own motion, having notified the Rector accordingly.

4. The first meeting of the Council shall be chaired by the eldest Council member participating, who is presented by the Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission. At the beginning of this meeting, the Chairman of the Council shall be elected from Council members indicated in Parts 3 and 4, Paragraph 2, Article 39 of the Statute by the majority of all Council members voting by secret ballot, who shall thenceforth preside over the meeting. Acting on a proposal from the Chairman of the Council, the Council shall elect by a majority of the participating Council members voting by secret ballot the Deputy Chairman of the Council. The post of the Deputy Chairman of the Council may not be taken by a Council member specified in Part 2, Paragraph 2, Article 39 of the Statute.

5. A meeting of the Council shall be considered valid if at least eight members of the Council attend.

6. The Rector, Chairman of the Senate, and the President of the Students' Representation (providing the latter is not a Council member) shall be entitled to participate at Council meetings with the right of advisory vote.

7. A Council meeting shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Council. In the event of the Chairman's absence, that Council meeting shall be chaired by the Deputy Chairman of the Council. Where both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council are absent at a Council meeting, the meeting shall be chaired by the eldest Council member participating.

8. In those cases where an opinion of the Senate, the Rector, the Students' Representation, the council of a core academic unit or a University branch office has been received on an issue under consideration, as well as if, acting under the procedure established by the Senate for meetings (conferences) of the University community and/or a part thereof, the University community and/or a part thereof has expressed a relevant opinion, the Council shall discuss each argument of the opinion separately and either accept or reject it by taking a vote.

9. Resolutions of the Council shall be adopted by a simple majority of the participating Council members, except in cases stipulated in the Statute. In the event of a tie, the Council member chairing the meeting shall have the casting vote.

10. Material and organisational conditions necessary for the activity of the Council shall be provided by the Rector.

11. Exercise of the Council's powers, periodicity of meetings and their convening, the procedure for discussing matters in Council meetings, adoption of Council resolutions and their entry into force shall be established in the Council Rules of Procedure; their publication shall be regulated by the Guidelines for the Provision of Information about the Activity of the University.

Article 41. The Chairman of the Council

1. The Chairman of the Council shall organise the work of the Council and represent the Council.

2. The rights and duties of the Chairman shall be defined in this Statute and in the Council Rules of Procedure.

3. The Chairman of the Council shall be entitled to participate in Senate meetings with the right of advisory vote.

4. If the Chairman of the Council is not able to discharge their duties, those are assumed by the Deputy Chairman.

5. The powers of the Chairman of the Council and, *mutatis mutandis*, those of the Deputy Chairman shall terminate:

1) upon the expiry of their powers as a Council member on any of the grounds established in Paragraph 18, Article 39 of the Statute;

2) upon their resignation from the position of a Council member or the Chairman (Deputy Chairman) of the Council;

3) upon the removal of the Council Chairman from this position by the Council voting by secret ballot.

SECTION FOUR

THE RECTOR

Article 42. The Rector – the Head of the University

1. The Rector shall be the sole governing body of the University and the Head of the University.
2. The Rector shall be officially addressed as ‘Your Magnificence’.
3. The Rector shall act on behalf of the University and represent it.
4. The Rector shall be responsible for the organisation and quality of the activity undertaken for the implementation of the mission and objectives of the University as defined in the Statute, and for ensuring effective financial functioning of the University, due accountancy, appropriate possession, use and disposal of its funds and property.
5. The Rector shall be entitled to participate in Council meetings with the right of advisory vote.
6. In the exercise of their powers, the Rector shall issue orders, decrees, and other acts. Their types and form shall be defined in the Register of Acts by Vilnius University Rector (hereinafter, the Register of the Rector’s Acts) approved by the Rector.

Article 43. Powers of the Rector

1. The Rector shall:
 - 1) appoint persons to and dismiss them from the position of Pro-Rector, submit a recommendation to the Council on the appointment of one of the Pro-Rectors to the position of Vice-Rector;
 - 2) appoint and dismiss the Chancellor;
 - 3) determine the competence, functions and powers of Pro-Rectors and the Chancellor and regulate their temporary substitution;
 - 4) approve the composition of the Rector’s Office and its Rules of Procedure;
 - 5) approve the Register of the Rector’s Acts
 - 6) submit proposals to the Senate and the Council on a revision of the boundaries of the University territory, replacement of a possessor of buildings, cultural heritage objects owned by the State, restructuring, reorganisation or liquidation (termination of activity) of the University;
 - 7) submit proposals to the Senate and the Council on the participation of the University in reorganisation by affiliating other legal subjects;
 - 8) submit proposals to the Senate and the Council on the amendment (change or supplement) of the Statute or the law on its approval;
 - 9) draft the University Strategic Action Plan and submit it to be discussed by the Senate and approved by the Council;

10) organise the activity necessary for the implementation of the University Strategic Action Plan;

11) submit the Regulation for Social Partnership of the University to the Senate for its opinion and to the Council for its approval;

12) submit programmes for scientific and artistic research, and for artistic, experimental, social, cultural and technological development and studies to be approved by the Senate;

13) upon the consent of the Senate, approve the part of indirect costs related with scientific and artistic research, commissioned works of experimental social, cultural and technological development carried out by the University;

14) submit proposals to the Senate and the Council on the general number of student places;

15) submit the Regulations to be approved by the Senate;

16) submit for consideration to the Senate a question of withdrawal of a person's qualification degree or a doctorate degree in science or arts (along with the relevant diploma) or attestation of completion of non-degree studies and/or of the qualification attained (along with the relevant certificate) if the said degree was obtained or the studies completed (qualification attained) as a result of a gross violation committed by that person of either laws of the Republic of Lithuania or the University, including the University Academic Ethics Code, and, taking in regard the conclusions of the Senate, withdraw the said degree or attestation;

17) make public presentation to the University community of the drafts of a statement of revenue and expenditure of the University for a current year and of a report on the implementation of this estimate for the previous year, and of an annual report on the activities of the University and submit those documents to be approved by the Council; upon the approval of the Council of the annual report on the activities of the University, publicly announce it and submit to the Seimas and the Ministry of Education and Science; in the case where the Council declines to approve a statement of revenue and expenditure of the University for a current year, a report on the implementation of the revenue and expenditure estimate for the previous year, or an annual report of the University, revise the said documents within the time period determined by the Council, publicize them, and repeatedly submit them to the Council;

18) submit the Guidelines on the Provision of Information on the University Activities to be approved by the Council;

19) approve internal rules of procedure of the University, the approval of which is not attributed to the competence of either the Senate or the Council;

20) submit the general principles of selection, employment and performance evaluation of the University personnel – non-members of the academic community – to be established by the Council;

21) employ and discharge members of the University personnel, provide incentives for their work and/or impose disciplinary penalties;

22) submit the Description of Procedure for the Determination of Official Salaries, Bonuses, Additional Pays and Other Remuneration and Incentives for Work and Achievements of Employees in accordance with the description of procedure approved by the Council; without exceeding the funds designated for salaries, determine the amounts of official salaries, bonuses, additional pays and other remuneration and incentives for work and achievement;

23) submit proposals to the Senate on the granting of the title (status) of Professor Emeritus, the titles (status) of affiliated researcher, affiliated professor, affiliated artist, the name (status) of researcher, artist or lecturer of merit to the University, Honorary Doctor of the University, Honorary Professor of the University, Honorary Member of the University Community, University Patron, Honorary Alumnus of the University, and other honorary titles (status) of the University;

24) after consulting the opinion of the Students' Representation, approve the University Scholarship Regulations;

25) admit students and unclassified students to the University and expel them from the University, except in cases set forth in Paragraph 5, Article 21 of the Statute;

26) approve the Regulations for the Register of the University Students and Unclassified students;

27) submit a list of administrative positions, persons elected or appointed to which are eligible to the guarantee specified in Paragraph 2, Article 22 of the Statute, to be discussed by the Senate and approved by the Council;

28) submit the Model Regulations of Core Academic Units to be approved by the Senate and approve the Model Regulations of Core Non-Academic Units;

29) within the framework of implementing the Strategic Action Plan of the University, submit the regulations of the University core academic units and branches being established to be approved by the Senate;

30) within the framework of implementing the Strategic Action Plan of the University, establish and liquidate University core non-academic units and branches, approve their regulations;

31) based on a proposal from the council of a core academic unit, appoint and discharge heads of core academic units, appoint and discharge heads of University branch offices, and appoint interim heads of newly established core academic units for a period not exceeding six months. The Rector's decision not to conclude an employment contract with the head of a core academic unit and/or express non-confidence in them and terminate the employment contract shall have to be reasoned;

32) appoint and discharge heads of University core non-academic units and representation offices;

33) submit proposals to the Senate related with a reorganisation of the structure of the University Library; submit the Regulations of the University Library to be approved by the Senate;

34) submit a description of the conditions and procedure for the establishment of legal persons of limited civil liability, participation therein and investment thereto to be approved by the Council;

35) ensure the implementation of property and non-property rights of the University, as a member of a legal person;

36) submit the rates of tuition fees, payments not directly connected with the implementation of study programmes, and charges for other services offered by the University;

37) submit a description of procedure for the use of University funds (including the funds assigned for the salaries of University lecturers and researchers (in either science or arts), other personnel – non-members of the University academic community – and payments to other members

of the University community) and the possession, use and disposal of assets held by the University by the right of ownership to be approved by the Council;

38) submit sets of annual financial statements to be approved by the Council;

39) submit a description of procedure for the support to be provided to the Students' Representation, other student organisations, present and/or former University employees and students, as well as to academic, cultural and sports events and to any other activity conforming to the University mission to be approved by the Council;

40) establish the procedure for accounting the funds at the disposition of the University;

41) on behalf of the University, enter into transactions with legal or natural persons;

42) exercise other powers deriving from the Statute and other legal acts and related with the duties of the Rector, as the sole governing body and Head of the University; decide other issues of University management that are not attributed to the competence of either the Senate or the Council.

2. The Rector shall be entitled to express an opinion and submit proposals to the Senate and the Council on any of the issues attributed to the competence of the University governing bodies.

Article 44. Election of the Rector and termination of their powers

1. A candidate for the election to the position of the Rector shall have to be a person with a degree in science (art) and managerial experience and of impeccable reputation who has at least five years out of the last ten performed the duties of a professor in an institution of higher education of university status, unless other minimum qualification requirements are established in the Law on Higher Education and Research. The activity of a candidate for the position of the Rector shall have to be such as to prove that they understand the University mission, foster the values of the University, are motivated to enhance the quality of the University activity, and possess the knowledge, experience and skills necessary for the discharge of the duties of the Rector. The right to stand for election to the position of the Rector may also be exercised by a person not working at the University at the time of their nomination. A person who is a member of the Council or who, by the first day of the Rector's term of office, will have reached the statutory retirement age may not be elected Rector.

2. The Rector shall be elected for a term of five years.

3. A person shall be elected to the position of the Rector by an open competition. The Description of Procedure for the Election to the Position of the Rector shall be established by the Council acting in accordance with the provisions of this Statute.

4. An open competition to fill the position of the Rector shall be announced by the Council at least four months before the expiry of powers of the outgoing Rector.

5. An open competition and elections to the position of the Rector shall be organised (including the registration of candidates to the position of the Rector) and their outcome determined by the Central Electoral Commission. Members of the Central Electoral Commission may not stand for election to the position of the Rector.

6. Candidates shall nominate themselves for election to the position of the Rector.

7. At the expiry of the time period for nomination of candidates for the position of the Rector established in the Description of Procedure for the Election to the Position of the Rector, the

Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission shall submit the application documents of all the persons registered as candidates for election to the position of the Rector to be discussed by the Senate. After discussing the candidates, the Senate shall present its conclusions on their suitability to take the post of the Rector. In the event where the Senate presents a conclusion that a person standing for the election is not suitable to take the post of the Rector, the Council shall have to evaluate such a conclusion.

8. The Rector shall be elected by the Council voting by secret ballot except in cases indicated in Paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of this Article. If a new Rector is not elected before the expiry of the powers of the outgoing Rector, likewise if members of the Council are not able to gather to a lawful meeting due to illness or *force majeure* circumstances, provisions of Paragraph 23 of this Article shall apply.

9. The Rector shall be considered elected upon receiving the votes of at least seven members of the Council, except in cases indicated in Paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of this Article.

10. In the event where not more than two candidates participate in the election of the Rector and neither of them receives the majority of votes stipulated in Paragraph 9 of this Article cast by Council members voting by secret ballot, this voting shall be considered the first election round and the second election round – repeated voting – shall be held where the Rector shall be elected by a simple majority of every Council member participating voting openly either for or against the candidates who participated in the first round. In the case of a tie, the Council member chairing the meeting shall have the casting vote.

11. In the event where three or more candidates participate in the election of the Rector and neither of them gets the majority of votes stipulated in Paragraph 9 of this Article cast by Council members voting by secret ballot, this voting shall be considered the first election round and the second election round – repeated secret voting – shall be held with the participation of the candidates who received the highest or equal number of votes during the first round. If neither of the candidates receives the majority of votes specified in Paragraph 9 of this Article in the repeated voting, the third election round shall be held and the Rector shall be elected by at least a five-vote majority of every Council member participating in the meeting voting openly either for or against the candidates who received the highest or equal number of votes in the second round. In the case of a tie, the Council member chairing the meeting shall have the casting vote.

12. In the event where three or more candidates participate in the election of the Rector and one of the candidates gets a majority of votes, though less than the majority of votes specified in Paragraph 9 of this Article cast by the Council members voting by secret ballot, and the second highest number of votes is received by several candidates, this voting shall be considered the first election round and a two-stage second election round – repeated voting – shall be held, in the first stage of which only the candidates who received the second highest number of votes during the first round shall participate. During this stage, a candidate shall be selected by a simple majority vote of Council members voting openly either for or against each of the candidates participating in that stage. In the case of a tie, the Council member chairing the meeting shall have the casting vote. The second stage of repeated voting shall be held with the participation of the candidate who received the highest number of votes during the first election round and the candidate selected during the first stage of repeated voting. In the event where neither of the candidates receives the majority of votes established in Paragraph 9 of this Article in the second stage of repeated voting, the third election round provided for in Paragraph 11 shall be held.

13. An employment contract with the elected Rector shall be concluded by the Chairman of the Council acting on behalf of the University.

14. The same person may hold the office of the Rector for no longer than two consecutive terms. This provision shall also apply in the instances where a person did not serve as the Rector for a full term of office (any of the two), except in cases of holding the office of the Rector *ad interim* in accordance with the procedure established in the Statute. This provision shall likewise apply in instances related with a change of the legal form or name of the University under the procedure stipulated in the law.

15. The ceremony of inauguration of a new Rector shall be held the following day after the last day of the term of office of the outgoing Rector.

16. Before assuming the office, the new Rector shall give a solemn oath to the University – read the Oath of Office and sign it. This provision shall be likewise applied to a Rector elected for the second consecutive term of office. The Oath of Office shall be received by the Chairman of the Senate.

17. Refusal of an elected Rector to orally read the Oath of Office or to sign thereof, reading or signing of the Oath of Office with a stipulation, shall mean that the elected Rector fails to acquire the powers of office, and a new person shall have to be elected by applying *mutatis mutandis* the provisions of this Article.

18. The text of the Rector's Oath of Office and the ceremony of the Rector's inauguration shall be defined in the Protocol of Academic Rituals of the University.

19. The Rector's powers shall terminate:

- 1) upon the expiry of the time period specified in Paragraph 2 of this Article;
- 2) upon the death of the Rector;
- 3) upon the resignation of the Rector;
- 4) upon the termination of the Rector's powers by the Council on any of the grounds stipulated in Paragraph 21 of this Article.

20. A resolution of the Council on the termination of the Rector's powers shall be adopted by a majority of at least seven votes of the Council members.

21. The powers of the Rector may be terminated by a resolution of the Council in the following instances:

- 1) upon a gross violation of professional duties committed by the Rector;
- 2) upon a refusal of the Council to approve a repeatedly submitted statement of revenue and expenditure for the current year, a repeatedly submitted report on the implementation of the revenue and expenditure estimate for the previous year, or an annual report on the activities of the University;
- 3) on any other grounds established in the Code of Labour of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Higher Education and Research, and the Statute.

22. Upon the expiry of the Rector's powers on any of the grounds stipulated in Parts 2 to 4, Paragraph 19 of this Article or upon the expiry of the employment contract in any other cases, the Council shall, based on a proposal from its Chairman, immediately authorise the Vice-Rector or one

of the Pro-Rectors to exercise the powers of the Rector for an interim period until a new Rector is elected. In the event of an absence of a Council resolution on a temporary delegation of the Rector's powers until a new Rector is elected, this office shall be temporarily assumed by the Vice-Rector or, in the absence thereof, by the eldest Pro-Rector.

Article 45. Pro-Rectors and the Vice-Rector

1. Pro-Rectors administer the sphere of activity or management of the University delegated to them by the Rector.

2. Appointment and discharge of Pro-Rectors, their number, competence, functions and powers shall be determined, and their temporary substitution regulated, by the Rector. The Rector shall be entitled to delegate part of their powers to be exercised by Pro-Rectors.

3. Based on a proposal from the Rector, the Council shall appoint one of the Pro-Rectors to assume the duties of the First Pro-Rector – Vice-Rector. The Vice-Rector shall be a standing deputy of the Rector *ex officio*. In the event where the Rector is unable to discharge the duties when ill or away, they shall always be substituted by the Vice-Rector. In the absence of the Vice-Rector, the Rector shall be temporarily substituted by one of the Pro-Rectors authorised by an order of the Rector.

4. Pro-Rectors shall be responsible and accountable to the Rector. The Rector may revoke decisions of the Pro-Rectors.

5. Pro-Rectors shall be entitled to participate at the Senate meetings with the right of advisory vote.

6. The length of the term of office of Pro-Rectors shall be related with the term of office of the Rector: upon the election of a new Rector, the powers of the Pro-Rectors appointed by the previous Rector shall expire. The Council may temporarily extend the length of office of the Pro-Rectors appointed by the outgoing Rector until new Pro-Rectors are appointed by the new Rector.

7. With the exception of the grounds for termination of Pro-Rectors' term of office indicated in Paragraph 6 of this Article, discharge of Pro-Rectors shall be governed by general legal acts that regulate labour relations.

Article 46. The Chancellor

1. The Chancellor shall assist the Rector in the management of property and assets of the University, administration of finances, management of internal procedures of the University, and provision of material and organisational conditions necessary for the activity of the Senate and the Council.

2. The Chancellor shall be responsible and accountable to the Rector. The Rector may revoke decisions of the Chancellor.

3. Appointment and discharge of the Chancellor, their competence, functions and responsibility shall be determined and their temporary substitution regulated by the Rector. The Rector shall be entitled to delegate part of the Rector's responsibilities that conform to the purpose of this office as defined in Paragraph 1 of this Article to be performed by the Chancellor, as well as

authorise the latter to be in charge of certain administrative spheres of the University specified in a relevant order of the Rector.

4. The Chancellor shall be entitled to participate at the Senate meetings with the right of advisory vote.

5. The length of the term of office of the Chancellor shall be related with the term of office of the Rector: upon the election of a new Rector, the powers of the Chancellor appointed by the previous Rector shall terminate. The Council may temporarily extend the length of office of the Chancellor appointed by the outgoing Rector until a new Chancellor is appointment by the new Rector.

6. With the exception of the grounds for a termination of the Chancellor' term of office established in Paragraph 5 of this Article, discharge of the Chancellor from office shall be governed by general legal acts that regulate labour relations.

Article 47. The Rector's Office and advisory structures

1. The Rector's Office shall be an advisory collegiate body.

2. Members of the Rector's Office *ex officio* shall be: the Vice-Rector, Pro-Rectors, the Chancellor, heads of the core academic units, President of the Students' Representation, and other members appointed by the Rector.

3. The composition of the Rector's Office and its rules of procedure shall be approved by the Rector.

4. The Rector shall be likewise entitled to form a strategic action planning group and other standing or *ad hoc* advisory bodies.

CHAPTER FIVE UNIVERSITY ASSETS AND FUNDS

Article 48. University assets

1. The University assets shall consist of:

1) fixed tangible assets belonging to the State by the right of ownership and in possession of the University;

2) assets in the ownership of the University;

2. The assets possessed, used and disposed of by the University by the right of ownership shall consist of the following:

1) assets invested by the State;

2) income received from research activity, implementation of studies, experimental, social, cultural and technological development, economic activity, and other services supplied regardless of their source;

3) funds and other assets received as sponsorship under the Law on Charity and Sponsorship of the Republic of Lithuania;

4) other funds, except State budget funds;

5) donated property;

6) inherited property;

7) proprietary rights arising from results of intellectual activities, including scientific or artistic works and objects of industrial property rights, other intellectual property objects;

8) stocks (shares) or other securities granting the rights of a member of a legal person or other property rights;

9) other lawfully acquired assets, except assets that may not belong to the University by the right of ownership in accordance with other laws;

3. Acting under the procedure established in the Statute, the University shall be independent in its possession, use and disposal of the assets possessed by the right of ownership. Any change of the University's legal form or its name shall neither eliminate nor alter the University's rights to the assets possessed before the implementation of the said changes.

4. Under conditions and procedure established by the Council, the University shall establish legal persons of limited civil liability and/or invest thereto, as well as take any other decisions related with such legal persons, providing they are pertinent to the organisation of studies or research activity and necessary for the achievement of those purposes. The implementation of the property and non-property rights of the University, as a founder (member) of legal persons, shall be ensured by the Rector.

5. Members of the University community shall have access to the University assets in accordance with the procedure and under the conditions specified in University by-laws.

6. The historically formed architectural ensemble of the University, which extends over a section of the Old Town between the streets of Universiteto, Šv.Jono, and S. Skapo, is a monument of cultural heritage under the protection of UNESCO and a symbol of historic continuity of the University activity. It may not be transferred into the ownership of third persons.

Article 49. Funds of the University

1. The funds of the University shall be possessed, used, and disposed of in the manner determined by the Council for the implementation of the mission, objectives of activity and tasks of the University.

2. The University shall manage its revenue and expenditure in accordance with its estimate of revenue and expenditure for a current year approved by the Council.

3. Accountancy of the funds in the disposal of the University shall be executed in the procedure established by laws and the Rector.

4. Following the procedure established by the Council, the funds of the University may be used to provide support to present and/or former University employees and students, as well as to academic, cultural, sports events and any other activity that conforms to the University mission.

Article 50. Support to students

1. The University funds shall be used to finance and support the Students' Representation, likewise to support other student organisations, students' academic, cultural and sports events, and to provide premises necessary for the activity of the Students' Representation and other student organisations.
2. Not later than by 15 February of each year, the Students' Representation and other student organisations shall submit reports to the Rector on the utilisation of funds provided by the University. Those reports shall be publicly announced.
3. Part of the University funds may be allocated for student scholarships.

CHAPTER SIX FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 51. Reorganisation of the University

1. The University may be reorganised in any of the ways stipulated in the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter, the Civil Code).
2. A resolution on the reorganisation of the University shall be passed by the Seimas based on a proposal from the Council or based on a proposal from the Government after consulting the opinion of the Council.
3. Resolutions on a reorganisation of the University by affiliating other legal persons shall be passed by the Seimas based on a proposal from the Council or, in the existence of circumstances defined in Paragraph 2, Article 2.96 of the Civil Code, by the Council based on a proposal from the Rector and after consulting the opinion of the Senate. In the event where the University participates in a reorganisation, the Statute shall be neither amended nor supplemented.

Article 52. Restructuring of the University

1. A resolution on a restructuring of the University shall be passed by the Seimas based on a proposal from the Council or a proposal from the Government after consulting the opinion of the Council. Along with the resolution on a restructuring of the University, a new Statute shall to be approved.
2. A change of the legal form of the University may not constitute lawful grounds to narrow the boundaries of the University autonomy, change, abolish or in any other way invalidate the legal guarantees of inviolability of its territory, the buildings possessed by the University including any current and fixed tangible and intangible assets of historic, artistic, bibliographic or any other cultural value.

Article 53. Liquidation of the University

1. The University may be subject to liquidation on the grounds established in the Civil Code for liquidation of legal persons.

2. A decision on a liquidation of the University shall be passed by the Seimas based on a proposal from the Council or a proposal from the Government and after consulting the opinion of the Council. A decision on the liquidation of the University shall be taken by the Council exclusively upon previously consulting the opinions of both the Senate and the University academic community.

3. A decision on the liquidation of the University shall be passed in the form of a law.

Article 54. Amendment and interpretation of the Statute

1. Amendments to the Statute shall be approved by the Seimas based on a proposal from the Council without violating the autonomy granted by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and this Statute.

2. No provisions of this Statute may be interpreted in a way that could narrow the autonomy of the institution of higher education as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the Statute.