

## THE SENATE OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024

In 2024, the activities of the Senate of Vilnius University, established in the summer of 2022 and headed by Prof. Eglė Lastauskienė (deputies Prof. Dr Darius Abramavičius and Prof. Dr Rimvydas Skyrius; from September 2024 – Prof. Dr Darius Abramavičius and Dr Indrė Isokaitytė-Valužė), continued; the Quality and Development Affairs (chairperson Prof. Virginija Jurėnienė, deputy chair Assoc. Prof. Dr Arūnas Mickevičius), Research Affairs (chairperson Assoc. Prof. Dr Ramūnas Aleksiejūnas, deputy chair Assoc. Prof. Dr Justina Poškienė), and Studies Affairs (chairperson Assoc. Prof. Dr Nerijus Šepetys, deputy chair – student Julija Jarutytė) Committees continued their work as well.

The Senate consists of 46 members in total: 36 representatives of core academic units, nine student representatives, and the Rector of the University (*ex officio* member of the Senate). Last year, the Senate underwent changes in its composition: Prof. Vytautas Dikčius was elected a new member of the Senate from the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, replacing the long-standing Senate member Prof. Rimvydas Skyrius, whereas the election in the Faculty of Physics to the place of Prof. Dr Justinas Čeponkus who resigned in December 2024 was not yet finished during the preparation of this report. Vilnius University Students' Representation has also appointed its representatives for a new one-year term. The full composition of the [Senate](#) and its [committees](#) is available on the University's website and on the [Senate section of the University's Intranet](#).

In 2024, the Senate held ten meetings and eight electronic ballots, adopting 89 resolutions. The Senate carried out activities and performed functions directly prescribed in or arising from the Statute of Vilnius University and adopted decisions on relevant issues concerning studies, research, and general affairs. Some of the Senate's resolutions were subsequently submitted to the Council of the University for consideration in accordance with the legal acts of the University. Members of the Senate actively participated in Senate meetings (average participation rate of 80.74 per cent, compared to 83.33 per cent in 2023 and 84.67 per cent in 2022) and the meetings also attracted the attention of other members of both the academic and non-academic communities of the University.

The Senate met in Kaunas and Šiauliai within the same calendar year for the first time, in addition to its traditional awayday strategy meetings, which also included members of the Rector's team. The University's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats have been analysed in detail in the latter meetings, and the insights presented will be relevant to the preparation of the new Strategic Plan of the University this year. At the Senate meetings, great attention was paid to the elections of the University's governing bodies – the Council and the Rector, as well as to the use of artificial intelligence at the University, and on the updated criteria for awarding *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas.

The most significant decisions adopted at different meetings are discussed below.

**At the meeting of 30 January 2024 (Minutes No. SP-7)**, the Senate considered the Draft Vilnius University Revenue and Expenditure Estimate for 2024. During this meeting, the results of the annual and five-year evaluation of the Research Council of Lithuania and the activities of the Central Academic Ethics Commission were also analysed, the minimum competitive score for the participants in the admission process to Vilnius University was discussed, and changes in study programmes and the cost of studies for foreign students were approved.

**At the meeting of 20 February 2024 (Minutes No. SP-8)**, the Senate focused on doctoral studies issues, discussed the results of this study cycle, the problems of joint doctoral studies, and analysed the results of the survey of doctoral students. The Senate established a working group for the review of the legal acts regulating the election to the University Council.

**At the meeting of 19 March 2024 (Minutes No. SP-9)**, the draft annual performance report and the draft report on the implementation of the revenue and expenditure estimate were approved. Admission issues were also an important focus: study programmes were approved and improved, and amendments to the rules for admission as well as the cost of study programmes for

participants in the admission process were approved. The Senate also heard the presentations on the annual report of the Central Dispute Resolution Commission and on the updated criteria for *Magna Cum Laude* diplomas prepared by a working group established by the Senate, and approved the Study Quality Guide.

**The meeting of the Senate of 16 April 2024 (Minutes No. SP-10)** was held at Kaunas Faculty. During the meeting, President of VU SA Lijana Savickienė presented the most relevant issues of students

the solutions or improvement of which the Senate could contribute to. The Senate approved the updated Regulations of the Faculty of Medicine and the procedure for the election of Council members. The issues of marketing of the admission process and the use of artificial intelligence in the study and research processes at Vilnius University were discussed in detail.

**At the meeting of 21 May 2024 (Minutes No. SP-11)**, the Senate announced the election of the new University Council, approved the amendments to the Regulation of Doctoral Studies and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Commitments of the Research Assessment Reform Agreement of Vilnius University, as well as heard the report on the implementation of the 'Openness to Equality and Diversity' strategy. Klėja Merčaitytė, the newly elected President of the Students' Representation, read the Pledge of Commitment to the University. The Senate passed a total of 13 resolutions at this meeting.

**At the meeting of 18 June 2024 (Minutes No. SP-12)** Prof. Juozas Šulskus was granted the title (status) of an Affiliated Professor of Vilnius University, Assoc. Prof. Feliksas Kuliešius, Dr Arvydas Kregždė, and Dr. Aušra Vektarienė were granted the title (status) of an Affiliated Researcher, and Angelė Matilde Kazlauskas, Sigita Pranas Kazlauskas, and Gediminas Vaitiekūnas were granted the honorary name (status) of a Vilnius University Patron. After intensive discussions, the Senate approved the Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence Usage at Vilnius University. Amendments to the Regulations of the Faculty of Philology, Regulations of the Central Electoral Commission, and the Concept of Interdisciplinary Studies were also approved.

**The meeting of 24 September 2024 (Minutes No. SP-18)** was held at Šiauliai Academy for the first time. During it, Dr Indrė Isokaitė-Valužė was elected Deputy Chair of the Senate. Among the most important issues discussed were the presentation on student admission review, studies marketing, and the activities of Šiauliai Academy, the approval of updated compositions of the Senate committees and commissions formations, and the establishment of a working group on updating the Model Regulations of a Core Academic Unit.

**At the meeting of 22 October 2024 (Minutes No. SP-20)**, the awards for the most-read books of Vilnius University Press were held, and presentations on the activities of the Health and Sport Center and the overview of the processes of the University's teaching staff and research/art staff recruiting competitions, evaluation of activities, and certification were heard. The Senate approved the Description of the Conditions and Procedure for Recruiting Vilnius University Teaching Staff by Way Other Than Open Competition.

**At the meeting of 19 November 2024 (Minutes No. SP-31)**, Prof. Dr (HP) Alfredas Račkauskas, Prof. Dr Meilutė Ramonienė, Prof. Dr Rimvydas Skyrius, and Prof. Dr Rita Šerpytė were granted the title (status) of a Professor Emeritus and Prof. Dr Virgilijus Sakalauskas was granted the title (status) of an Affiliated Professor. Amendments to the Regulation of the Residency Studies were approved and the activities of the ARQUS Alliance and the Culture Centre were presented at the meeting.

**At the meeting of 17 December 2024 (Minutes No. SP-33)**, 12 members of the community were granted the pedagogical titles of Professor and 18 – the pedagogical titles of Associate Professor, amendments to the Description of the Procedure for the Development, Implementation and Improvement of Study Programmes at Vilnius University were approved, and proposals submitted during the strategic meeting of the Senate and the structure of the draft University Performance Report were presented.

The issues that required prompt decision-taking were resolved by electronic voting of the Senate members, without convening a meeting. In 2024, eight such ballots were organised during which nine resolutions were adopted.

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

- by a solemn meeting held in the St. Johns' Church, the end of the academic year 2023/2024 was celebrated;
- on 1 September 2024, the beginning of the new academic year was commemorated by a flag-hoisting ceremony in the Library Courtyard, the

festive procession of students, staff, and alumni on Gediminas Avenue in Vilnius, and continued celebration in the Grand Courtyard of Vilnius University;

- the end of the calendar year 2024 was commemorated during the celebratory meeting held at the Theatre Hall.

The members of the Senate were enhancing their competency and improving teamwork skills during their awayday training sessions in Kairėnai and Palanga, where the focus was on the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities of Vilnius University, as well as the election of the Rector of the University.

The resolutions adopted at the Senate meetings, the documents approved by them, the meeting agendas, and other relevant information on the activities of the Senate were published on the [University's website](#), on the new [Senate section of the Intranet](#), and in electronic newsletters distributed to the Community.

Chairperson of the Senate Prof. Dr Eglė Lastauskienė

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