

Faculty of Science Regulations Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

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Contents

GENERAL	2
Article 1. General	2
Article 2. Terms	2
Article 3. The Faculty Board	2
Article 4. External advisory boards	2
Article 5. Working Conditions, Safety and Environment Committee (WCSEC)	3
MANDATE	3
Article 6. Dean	3
Article 7. Vice Dean of education	3
Article 8. Vice Dean of research	4
Article 9. Managing Director	4
Article 10. Sub-mandate	4
Article 11. Use of the mandate	4
THE DEPARTMENTS	5
Article 12. Departments	5
Article 13. The head of department	5
Article 14. Departmental regulations	6
THE FACULTY SERVICES	6
Article 15. Support units	6
EDUCATION	7
Article 16. Organization of the education	7
Article 17. Examination board	7
RESEARCH	8
Article 18. Organization of the research	8
Article 19. Faculty research institutes	8
EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION	8
Article 20. Employee and student participation	8
FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS	9
Article 21. Implementation	9
Appendix 1: Overview of Academic Departments	10
Appendix 2: Overview of Interfaculty and Faculty Research Institutes	11
Appendix 3: Faculty Education Portfolio	12
Appendix 4: Overview of programme committees	14
Appendix 5: Examination board	16

GENERAL

Article 1. General

- 1.1 These are the faculty regulations of the Faculty of Science of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. All appendices to these regulations form an inextricable part of the regulations. The appendices will be updated if necessary.

Article 2. Terms

- 2.1 Terms that are used in these regulations have the meanings assigned to them by the Vrije Universiteit. The following terms also have the stated meanings:
- Board Regulations: the Board Regulations (Bestuursreglement) of the Vrije Universiteit;
 - EB: the Executive Board (College van Bestuur) of the Vrije Universiteit;
 - FB: the Faculty Board (Faculteitsbestuur) of the Faculty of Science.

BOARD

Article 3. The Faculty Board

- 3.1 The Faculty Board (FB) is entrusted with the leadership of the faculty, in accordance with the provisions of the Board Regulations.
- 3.2 A member of the Faculty Board may not occupy a position or role that is accountable to the Faculty Board.
- 3.3 Two students and one employee, who are not members of the Faculty Student Council (FSC) (Facultaire Studentenraad, FSR) or the Work Council (Onderdeelcommissie, ODC) respectively, will be given the opportunity to attend the meetings of the Faculty Board. They have an advisory vote in these meetings. The students will be nominated for the FB by the FSC. The employee will be nominated for the FB by the Work Council.
- 3.4 The FB can appoint advisors, who are invited to formal and informal meetings of the FB.
- 3.5 The minutes of the meetings of the Faculty Board are public. The FB may decide to deal with agenda points in confidence. This will be reported in the minutes.

Article 4. External advisory boards

- 4.1 The Faculty Board, on the advice of the EB, can establish an external advisory board consisting of external social stakeholders and/or members of the national or international academic community. The Faculty Board appoints the members. This advisory board meets at least once per year and issues solicited and unsolicited advice to the Faculty Board with regard to the position of the faculty in the local, national and international context. The Faculty Board informs the EB of this advice.
- 4.2 The Faculty Board establishes an advisory board for each programme (opleiding) or group of programmes (groep van opleidingen) on the recommendation of the Director of Education, as stated in [Article 16](#). The advisory board in any event includes an alumnus of one of the programmes falling within the group, as well as

a stakeholder from the field of work in which graduates of the programme or programmes work.

- 4.3 The Director of Education informs the Faculty Board of the advice that has been given. The advice of the advisory boards is included in the annual reports of the programmes in question. The Director of Education gives substantiated feedback to the advisory board on the actions that are taken as a result of the advice that has been given.

Article 5. Working Conditions, Safety and Environment Committee (WCSEC)

- 5.1 The faculty has a Working Conditions, Safety and Environment Committee.
- 5.2 The committee consists of at least:
- four employees (including the chairperson);
 - one student who is enrolled for a programme established in the faculty;
 - optionally, other experts from outside of the faculty.
- 5.3 The members of the committee are appointed by the Faculty Board; the student member, nominated by the FSC, is appointed for a term of office of one year, and the employee members for a term of office of three years.
- 5.4 The Faculty Board appoints the chairperson, who is nominated by the committee, from among the members of the committee.
- 5.5 All members of the committee can be reappointed.
- 5.6 On the instructions of the Faculty Board, the committee advises the board through the mediation of the Managing Director with regard to all matters in connection with working conditions, safety and the environment in the faculty.

MANDATE

Article 6. Dean

- 6.1 The responsibilities and authorities of the Dean are established in the Board Regulations of the VU.

Article 7. Vice Dean of education

- 7.1 Subject to the provisions of the Board Regulations, the Vice Dean of education receives the mandate from the Faculty Board to:
- a. give hierarchical leadership to the Director of Education, as well as functional leadership to the head of the education office and to staff members on the basis of the Board Regulations;
 - b. implement the quality assurance for education in the faculty;
 - c. regularly evaluate the Teaching and Examination regulations (TER) (Onderwijs en Examenregeling, OER)
 - d. supervise the implementation of the Teaching and Examination regulations;
 - e. represent the Faculty Board in the context of the university's quality cycle for education;
 - f. consult with and make agreements on behalf of the Faculty Board with the faculty participation council (facultaire medezeggenschap) in the field of education;
 - g. consult with and make agreements on behalf of the Faculty Board with the

study associations (studieverenigingen) of the faculty.

Article 8. Vice Dean of research

- 8.1 Subject to the provisions of the Board Regulations, the Vice Dean of research receives the mandate from the Faculty Board to:
- a. implement the quality assurance for research in the faculty;
 - b. represent the Faculty Board in the context of the university's quality cycle for research;
 - c. consult with and make agreements on behalf of the Faculty Board with the faculty participation council (facultaire medezeggenschap) in the field of research;
 - d. supervise the annual research programme.

Article 9. Managing Director

- 9.1 The Managing Director receives the mandate from the Faculty Board to:
- a. give leadership to the support services of the faculty listed in [Article 15](#);
 - b. act as the contracting party for the university services on behalf of the faculty;
 - c. represent the faculty in relation to partners such as funding bodies;
 - d. consult with and make agreements on behalf of the Faculty Board with the faculty participation council (facultaire medezeggenschap) in the field of operations;
 - e. consult with and make agreements on behalf of the Faculty Board with the study associations (studieverenigingen) of the faculty in the field of operations;
 - f. implement the policy in the field of working conditions, safety and the environment within the faculty.

Article 10. Sub-mandate

- 10.1 Staff members who have received a mandate on the basis of this section can issue sub-mandates within the framework of their mandate, provided this is with the approval of the Faculty Board.

Article 11. Use of the mandate

- 11.1 The financial mandate of the Dean and Managing Director is established in the management regulations of the VU.
- 11.2 In implementing their mandate, the Vice Dean(s) and the Managing Director take due account of the responsibility of the Faculty Board for the faculty, and of the ultimate responsibility of the Dean.
- 11.3 The Vice Dean(s) and the Managing Director inform the Faculty Board of their activities in the implementation of their mandate.
- 11.4 The Faculty Board regularly consults with the Vice Dean(s) and the Managing Director on the manner in which they fulfil the exercise of their mandate.
- 11.5 The Vice Dean(s) and the Managing Director consult in advance with the Faculty Board on the standpoints to be taken in the context of the exercise of their mandate.

THE DEPARTMENTS

Article 12. Departments

- 12.1 The faculty is subdivided into academic departments (wetenschappelijke afdelingen). The faculty also distinguishes clusters of departments. For an overview of the current departments within the faculty, see [Appendix 1](#).
- 12.2 A department is led by a head of department/scientific director (afdelingshoofd). The head of department is appointed by the Faculty Board from among the professors of the department for a term of office of three years. This term of office can be extended on one occasion by another term of three years. By way of exception, the Faculty Board can decide to deviate from the term of office and the number of reappointments.
- 12.3 Before proceeding to make an appointment, the Faculty Board can hold consultations with both the academic staff and the support staff of the department.
- 12.4 If an irreconcilable difference of insight arises between the Faculty Board and a head of department, the Faculty Board can prematurely rescind an appointment.
- 12.5 If the head of the department is ill for a prolonged period, or is otherwise prevented from performing his or her function as head of department for a prolonged period, then one of the professors or associate professors of the department, to be appointed by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the professors, acts as acting head of department.
- 12.6 In fulfilling his or her task the head of department is assisted by a management team.
- 12.7 The head of department organizes consultations between the management and the employees of the department, and works on a basis of support and consensus. If a head of department has a difference of opinion with a majority of the management team concerning a decision to be made, or one that has already been made, then he or she can submit the issue to the Faculty Board. Following consultations with the head of department and the management team the Faculty Board makes a decision if necessary.
- 12.8 The head of department is assisted by a department manager (afdelingsmanager) in respect of the operations of the department. The department manager is a member of the management team.

Article 13. The head of department

- 13.1 The head of department is entrusted with the organization and coordination of the activities of the department.
- 13.2 The head of the department has ultimate responsibility, within the guidelines and instructions issued by the EB and FB, for:
 - a. the management of the resources of the department and the assurance of a balanced budget;
 - b. the implementation of the personnel policy of the department, including the holding of annual interviews, or arranging for these to be held, as well as the facilitation of training and education;
 - c. the implementation of the policy with regard to working conditions, safety and the environment in respect of the department;
 - d. the establishment of the strategy and its translation into a strategic personnel

- plan;
 - e. the availability of sufficient employees with the necessary expertise for the programmes that fall under the academic expertise of the department. He or she consults on this with the Programme Director and the Director of Education.
- 13.3 The head of the department is accountable to the Faculty Board. The head provides the board with the requested information concerning the department.
- 13.4 The faculty holds meetings between heads of department (HODs) and the FB (HOD)/Afdelingshoofdenoverleg (AHO).
- a. The HODs meet a minimum of nine times per year for consultations with one another under the chairpersonship of the Dean of the faculty. In the Dean's absence he or she will be replaced as chairperson by one of the other members of the Faculty Board.
 - b. The HODs focus on policy issues, the state of affairs in respect of the education and research within the faculty, as well as with regard to the board, including the operations of the faculty.
 - c. The meeting of HODs issues advice to the FB. In principle the FB follows this advice, based on the intention to manage the faculty on the basis of support and consensus. If the FB decides to deviate from the advice issued by the HODs this will be notified to the HODs, stating the reasons.
 - d. The minutes of the meeting of heads of departments are public. The HODs may decide to deal with agenda points in confidence. This will be reported in the minutes.

Article 14. Departmental regulations

- 14.1 The department may have departmental regulations (afdelingsreglement).
- 14.2 The departmental regulations are submitted to the Faculty Board for approval after the draft has been discussed in the staff meeting of the department in question. Before giving its approval, the Faculty Board presents the regulations to the faculty joint consultation meeting (Facultaire Gezamenlijke Overlegvergadering, FGOV) for advice.
- 14.3 The departmental regulations are subordinate to the faculty regulations, and must therefore correspond with their provisions.

THE FACULTY SERVICES

Article 15. Support units

- 15.1 The faculty has the following faculty support units (facultaire ondersteunende diensten):
- a) the Faculty office (Faculteitsbureau: Secretariaat and BETA beleidsteam);
 - b) the Education office (Onderwijsbureau);
 - c) the VU Beta Electronics engineering group (dienst Elektronica Bèta VU);
 - d) the VU Beta Precision mechanics and engineering group (dienst Fijnmechanische Instrumentatie Bèta VU);
 - e) the accommodation service (dienst Huisvesting).
- 15.2 The support units listed in Article 15.1 are led by a head of unit. A head of unit is

accountable to the Managing Director.

- 15.3 Besides the faculty support units, the faculty is supported by the university services, as referred to in Article 30 of the Board Regulations. These services are also led by a head. The Managing Director is the contracting party of these heads ([Article 9](#)).

EDUCATION

Article 16. Organization of the education

- 16.1 The education in the faculty is organized into four educational domains (onderwijsdomeinen):
1. Information Sciences
 2. Natural Sciences and Mathematics
 3. Health and Life Sciences
 4. Earth, Ecological and Environmental Sciences
- For a summary of the programmes that fall under each of these educational domains, see [Appendix 3](#).
- 16.2 The tasks of the Vice Dean of education are described in [Article 7](#).
- 16.3 The faculty has one or more Directors of Education (Onderwijsdirecteuren), who assist the Vice Dean of education and can fulfil tasks for him or her. The Vice Dean draws up a task description for the Director of Education, in which in any event the responsibilities and authorities in respect of the educational domains are stated.
- 16.4 There is an education council (onderwijsberaad) for every educational domain in the faculty. In the education councils educational subjects are set out in the faculty education agenda and discussed under the chairpersonship of the Director of Education and in the presence of the Vice Dean of education. Each of these education councils includes a student who is appointed by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the FSC. This student has an advisory role.

Article 17. Examination board

- 17.1 The examination boards (examencommissies) of the faculty are listed in [Appendix 5](#), stating the programmes that fall under the examination board in question and the number of members of the board.
- 17.2 The members of the examination boards are appointed by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the Director of Education for a period of three years, and can be reappointed. This recommendation comes about in consultation with the department of the examination board and the Programme Director concerned.
- 17.3 The chairpersons of the examination boards concerned are appointed by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the Vice Dean of education. This recommendation comes about in consultation with the Director of Education and the heads of department.

RESEARCH

Article 18. Organization of the research

- 18.1 Provisions in respect of the organization of the research are set out in Article 23 of the VU Board Regulations.
- 18.2 The tasks of the Vice Dean of research are summarized in [Article 8](#) of these regulations.

Article 19. Faculty research institutes

- 19.1 The faculty is the coordinator of interfaculty research institutes (IRIs) (Interfacultaire Onderzoeksinstituten, IOZI's). An overview of the IRIs in which the faculty acts as coordinator is shown in [Appendix 2](#).
- 19.2 The faculty takes part in the interfaculty research institutes. An overview of the IRIs in which the faculty takes part is shown in [Appendix 2](#).

EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Article 20. Employee and student participation

- 20.1 The employee and student participation in the faculty (facultaire medezeggenschap) is exercised in accordance with the provisions of the faculty employee and student [participation regulations](#), as referred to in Article 36 of the Board Regulations and the student councils election regulations.
- 20.2 The Faculty Student Council has nine members, in accordance with the faculty employee participation regulations.
- 20.3 The participation of students of the Amsterdam University College (AUC) interuniversity partnership institute is exercised by the AUC student council; a committee of the Faculty Student Council of the VU Faculty of Science. The student council consists of five students from the AUC.
- 20.4 The AUC Student Council exercises the authority of the Faculty Student Council of the VU Faculty of Science as described in the faculty employee and student participation regulations, insofar as this concerns the AUC. The AUC participation elections are consequently held in accordance with the regulations of the VU and under the auspices of the VU electoral commission.
- 20.5 The FB financially compensates departments for their employees' membership of the Work Council for a percentage of the working hours agreed with the Work Council.
- 20.6 The faculty has programme committees (opleidingscommissies). The tasks, authorities and responsibilities of the programme committees are established in the faculty employee and student participation regulations. [Appendix 4](#) contains a list of the current programme committees, the programmes for which they are active and the number of their members.
- 20.7 The members of the programme committees who are members of staff are appointed by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the management of the departments that contribute to the programme. Their term of office is three years.

The term of office can be extended. The student members of the programme committee are appointed by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the programme committee, with the advice of the Programme Director. To this end the Faculty Board, together with the FSC, makes an invitation in good time to all students. A student member has a term of office of one year. The term of office can be extended twice consecutively.

FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 21. Implementation

- 21.1 These regulations enter into force on 4 February 2020. They are established and amended by the Faculty Board and approved by the Executive Board.

Appendix 1: Overview of Academic Departments

- Department of Earth Sciences
- Department 'Athena Institute'
- Department of Ecological Sciences
- Department of Environment and Health
- Department of Health Sciences
- Department of Informatics
- Department 'Institute for Environmental Studies'
- Department of Molecular Cell Biology
- Department of Physics and Astronomy
- Department of Neurosciences
- Department of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Department of Mathematics

Appendix 2: Overview of Interfaculty and Faculty Research Institutes

The faculty is coordinator of the following Interfaculty Research Institutes:

- Amsterdam Sustainability Institute (ASI)
- LaserLaB
- Network Institute
- Amsterdam Institute of Molecular and Life Sciences (AIMMS)

The faculty participates in the following interfaculty research institutes:

- Amsterdam Neuroscience
- CLUE+ (Interfaculty Research Institute for Culture, Cognition, History and Heritage)
- Amsterdam Public Health (APH, successor of EMGO+ since 2017)
- ICaR-VU (Institute for Cardiovascular Research of the VU)
- MOVE (Amsterdam Movement Science)
- VUmc-CCA (Cancer Center Amsterdam/VUmc Institute for Cancer and Immunology)

The faculty participates in the following other institutes/centres:

- Talma Institute
- Amsterdam Centre for World Food Studies (ACWFS)
- Advanced Research Center for Nanolithography (ARCNL)
- Sarphati Institute

Appendix 3: Faculty Education Portfolio

Educational domain: Earth, Ecological & Environmental Sciences (EEE)		
Ba/Ma	Opleiding	CROHO#
Bachelor	Aarde, Economie en Duurzaamheid	50668
Bachelor	Aardwetenschappen	56986
Master	Earth Sciences	66986
Master	Ecology	60607
Master	Environment and Resource Management	60045
Master	Hydrology	60807

Educational domain: Health & Life Sciences (HLS)		
Ba/Ma	Opleiding	CROHO#
Bachelor	Biologie	56860
Bachelor	Biomedical Sciences	59324
Bachelor	Gezondheid en Leven	50509
Bachelor	Gezondheidswetenschappen	56553
Master	Biomedical Sciences	66990
Master	Biomolecular Sciences	60616
Master	Global Health (research)	66903
Master	Health Sciences	66851
Master	Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in the Health and Life Sciences	60803
Master	Neurosciences (research)	60806

Educational domain: Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM)		
Ba/Ma	Opleiding	CROHO#
Bachelor	Farmaceutische Wetenschappen	56989
Bachelor	Mathematics	59322
Bachelor	Medische Natuurwetenschappen	50800
Bachelor	Natuur- en Sterrenkunde <i>Joint Degree with UvA, coordinator UvA</i>	55013

Bachelor	Scheikunde <i>Joint Degree with UvA, coordinator UvA</i>	55012
Bachelor	Science, Business & Innovation	50670
Master	Chemistry <i>Joint Degree with UvA, coordinator UvA</i>	65012
Master	Drug Discovery and Safety	66989
Master	Mathematics	66980
Master	Biomedical Technology and Physics	60800
Master	Physics and Astronomy <i>Joint Degree with UvA, coordinator UvA</i>	65016
Master	Stochastics and Financial Mathematics	60801
Master	Science, Business and Innovation	69320

Educational domain: Information Sciences (IS)		
Ba/Ma	Opleiding	CROHO#
Bachelor	Business Analytics	56856
Bachelor	Computer Science	50426
Bachelor	Information Sciences	56869
Bachelor	Artificial Intelligence	56983
Master	Business Analytics	66856
Master	Computational Science <i>Joint Degree with UvA, coordinator UvA</i>	65015
Master	Computer Science <i>Joint Degree with UvA, coordinator VU</i>	65014
Master	Information Sciences	60255
Master	Parallel and Distributed Computer Systems	60802
Master	Artificial Intelligence	66981
Master	Bioinformatics and Systems Biology <i>Joint Degree with UvA, coordinator VU</i>	65020

Appendix 4: Overview of programme committees

The faculty has four educational domains. The table below shows the associated programme committees, as well as the number of members per programme committee.

Information Sciences (IS)	
Bachelor Computer Science	6 leden
Bachelor Artificial Intelligence	6 leden
Bachelor Information Sciences Master Information Sciences	6 leden
Master Bioinformatics and Systems Biology	7 leden
Master Computer Science Master Parallel and Distributed Computer Systems	6 leden
Master Artificial Intelligence	6 leden
Bachelor Business Analytics Master Business Analytics	6 leden
Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM)	
Bachelor Farmaceutische Wetenschappen Master Drug Discovery and Safety	6 leden
Bachelor Medische Natuurwetenschappen Master Biomedical Technology and Physics	6 leden
Bachelor Science, Business & Innovation Master Science, Business & Innovation	6 leden
Bachelor Mathematics Master Mathematics Master Stochastics and Financial Mathematics	9 leden

NB Programme committees of joint degrees of which UvA is the coordinator

Bachelor Natuur- en Sterrenkunde	10 leden, vz VU
Master Physics & Astronomy	8 leden
Bachelor Scheikunde, Master Chemistry	8 leden, vz VU

Health and Life Sciences (HLS)	
Bachelor Biologie	6 leden
Bachelor Biomedical Sciences	8 leden
Bachelor Gezondheid en Leven	8 leden

Bachelor Gezondheidswetenschappen	8 leden
Master Biomedical Sciences	4 leden
Master Biomolecular Sciences	8 leden
Master Global Health	6 leden
Master Health Sciences	6 leden
Master Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in the Health and Life Sciences	6 leden
Master Neurosciences	8 leden
Earth, Ecological and Environmental Sciences (EEE)	
Bachelor Aarde, Economie en Duurzaamheid	6 leden
Bachelor Aardwetenschappen	6 leden
Master Earth Sciences	6 leden
Master Ecology	4 leden
Master Environment and Resource Management	6 leden
Master Hydrology	4 leden

Appendix 5: Examination board

- The faculty has an examination board.
- See [Appendix 3](#) for an overview of the programmes that fall under this examination board.
- The joint degrees fall under the examination board of the coordinating university. For this reason only the joint degree programmes for which it is stated in [Appendix 3](#) that the VU is the coordinator belong to the field of work of the respective VU examination board.