

Pursuant to Articles 35 and 36 of the Law on Higher Education (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia”, No. 82/2018) and Articles 71 and 72 of the Statute of the South East European University, the University Board, at its meeting held on 05.06.2020, adopted this:

STATUTE OF STUDENT PARLIAMENT AND ASSOCIATION

Student organization

Article 1

- (1) Student Parliament and Association (hereinafter referred to as Student Parliament) is a body of the South East European University (hereinafter referred as the University), in which student representatives are affiliated.
- (2) The University provides to Student Parliament and Student Ombudsperson with conditions and space for work and provides administrative technical assistance.

Financing

Article 2

- (1) Student Parliament work is funded by the University's financial resources, as well as other resources within the University's budget frameworks.
- (2) Student Parliament disposes with funds in the manner determined by the University budget.
- (3) The annual program and budget are approved by the Student Parliament and authorized by the University Board on an annual basis for the current academic year. The Student Parliament budget is overseen by the University. The Student Parliament is required to report to the University on a regular basis.

Student Parliament and Association (SPA)

Article 3

- (1) The Student Parliament is a body of the university in which the student representatives are members.
- (2) Student Parliament protects the interests of students, participates through its members in decision-making bodies and organs of the university and represents students within higher education as members of the academic community.

Competencies

Article 4

- (1) Student Parliament has the power to:
 - elect student representatives to the Senate and other university bodies,
 - adopt a plan and program for its work,
 - propose the Student Ombudsperson,
 - take care of the quality of student life and the quality of the study process, the student standard, the realization of student rights and interests and the cultural, social and intellectual improvement of students,
 - propose to the governing bodies a plan for financing student activities,
 - stimulate student activities outside the teaching process,
 - perform other activities of student interest.

- (2) Student Parliament consists of student representatives elected by the university students in regular elections of the Student Parliament.
- (3) In the Student Parliament students are represented by at least two faculty members with a one-year terms in office and eligible for another election.
- (4) President of the Student Parliament is elected from among the student representatives in Parliament for a one-year term and eligible for another election
- (5) Student Parliament and Association ensures a multilingual approach to all its work and activities and operates in Albanian, Macedonian and English.

Memberships

Article 5

- (1) The Student Parliament gives due consideration to broad representation and equality and equity to ensure that the interests of all students are actively represented.
- (2) The SEEU Student Parliament consists of representatives from each of the 5 faculties and the SEEU Skopje Centre, as follows:
 - 2 undergraduate representatives from each faculty in Tetovo;
 - 2 undergraduate representatives from SEEU Skopje Centre;
 - 1 Masters' representative from each Faculty in Tetovo;
 - 1 Masters' representative from SEEU Skopje Centre;
 - 1 candidate from the under-represented gender or non-majority language/ethnic communities
- (3) If there is a lack of representation in any area, the position remains vacant until the following election.
- (4) Student Parliament Elections are organized in accordance with the Student Parliament and Association Elections Guidelines.
- (5) Candidates who are the subject of disciplinary action or who are no longer legitimate students are not eligible to stand for office.

Mandate

Article 6

The mandate of elected representatives is as follows:

- Representatives are elected, with yearly elections as required, in October of each academic year.
- The mandate of Student Parliament representatives is one year and eligible for another election, from 1st December to 30th November of the respective academic year.
- The mandate of Student Parliament representatives may be extended until the election of new student representatives has been completed. No student representative whose mandate has been extended because of pending elections shall receive any remuneration.
- Representatives may stand for a maximum of two terms in office.

Leadership of Parliament

Article 7

- (1) The leadership of the Student Parliament consists of:
 - The President
 - 1 Vice-President (Tetovo/Skopje, with regard to equalities);
- (2) After the new members of the Student Parliament are confirmed, the Chairperson of the Election Commission initiates the first meeting of the Student Parliament and announces a competition for the positions mentioned above. The President and Vice-President are elected by Parliament for a mandate of 1 year with the right to be elected for one more term. All officers must be current members of Parliament.
- (3) The President and Vice-President come from different campuses, with due regard to equalities.
- (4) The Student Parliament also appoints a Secretary with a one year term of office to carry out the administration of Parliament meetings and general organization of activities.

External representation and membership of other bodies

Article 8

The Student Parliament sends representatives (not necessarily members of the Student Parliament) to the following external and university bodies:

- Inter-university Conference, which includes the President of each Student Parliament;
- Inter-university Student Parliament;
- University Board, represented by the President of the Student Parliament.
- SEEU Senate, five members elected from the Student Parliament for a mandate of 1 year.
- Rector's Directorate, President of the Student Parliament
- Teaching Scientific Council, one student representative for each of the three cycles of study is elected by the students of the appropriate group in the Faculty concerned. The mandate of the student representatives is two years.
- Board for Public Cooperation and Trust/Faculty Quality Teams.

Ombudsperson

Article 9

- (1) For protection of student rights, among full-time students of the University, a Student Ombudsperson is elected.
- (2) The appointment is done by the Senate of the University with a majority of the votes of the members, based on the public call, upon the proposal of the Student Parliament of the University but from the candidates from outside the Parliament. The public call is announced by the Student Parliament as soon as the Student Parliament bodies are elected.
- (3) The term in office of the Student Ombudsperson is two years, without right of reappointment.
- (4) Student Ombudsperson dismissal procedure can be initiated by Student Parliament, while dismissal decision is approved by the University Senate, by a majority vote of the total number of members.

Ombudsperson Competencies

Article 10

- (1) Student Ombudsperson acts upon a submission appeal by the student or on his/her own initiative if s/he finds that the student's right has been violated by University authorities or by a member of the University staff.
- (2) For his/her work, the Student Ombudsperson submits an annual report to the University Senate.
- (3) The competence, requirements for election, procedure for election and dismissal, and the work of the Student Ombudsperson are set out in the Rule for the work of the University Student Ombudsperson.

Committees with coordinators who are paid

Article 11

- (1) The Student Parliament retains the right to create suitable committees to carry out its work. There may be Coordinators who are paid for specified areas of work, which are reviewed annually. The coordinators organize committees, working groups, sub-committees with an annual, budgeted plan which is agreed by the Parliament and then operated and evaluated.
- (2) Key areas which might have a Coordinator that is paid are:
 - Information and Promotion with Sub-Committees for
 - Newsletter
 - Radio
 - Webpage
 - Information and publicity material
 - Community (student welfare and equalities, charity and community service)
 - Entertainment (parties, music, social events, evening activities for students who live on campus)
 - Culture and Sport (in liaison with the University Sports Head, a range of clubs which students want to organize)
 - Student Clubs

Student Clubs

Article 12

Student clubs are created by a group of students operating in certain areas within the University that are in the interest of SEEU students and are consistent with the principles of the Student Parliament and the university.

Student Clubs are created upon request by at least 3 students who are responsible for the way the club is run. Who should develop a concrete plan for the club's work and the same to present before the Student Parliament that estimates by majority vote whether opening the club is accepted.

For financing the club activities, the club makes a detailed request for the relevant activity which they submit to the Student Parliament, which makes a decision about the request.

Clubs can be dissolved in these cases:

- From the members themselves;
- From the Student Parliament if they find that the work that was promised has not been done;

- By the University itself if considers that is working in conflicting of interests and against the principles of the University.

Working time

Article 13

The Student Parliament and Student Ombudsperson publish the Office Working schedule on an annual basis which provides access over 6 working days.

Concluding Provisions

Article 14

This Statute comes into force on 01.12.2019.