

# FONTYS REGULATIONS ON THE PARTICIPATION COUNCILS AND DEGREE PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

(valid from 1 October 2025)

# **PREAMBLE**

- 1. The Fontys community in general lays great store on participation, which we consider to play an essential role in safeguarding the quality of our education, research and our organisation.
- 2. Fontys aspires to forms of participation in which students and employees both within and outside the councils and committees are actively and promptly involved in policy preparation and evaluation, and in safeguarding and improving the quality of the courses.
- 3. A precondition for effective participation is that the board, directors, employees and students work together in a culture of trust and recognition, and have an appreciation for one another's role, knowledge and skills.
- 4. Fontys expects all stakeholders in participation to adopt an open attitude, for stakeholders to be taken seriously, for them to listen to each other and provide clear feedback on what has been done with stakeholder input.
- 5. The Fontys practice of participation is based on undivided councils for students and staff as far as the Central Participation Council, the Institute's Participation Council and the Degree Programme Committees are concerned. Staff participation takes place in the Services Department Participation Council established in one or more departments. Fontys has opted for the participation system of the WHW. This means that the Works Councils Act does not apply.
- 6. Participation in the Central Participation Council, the Institute's Participation Councils and the Services Department Participation Council is related to the organisation's policy on strategic and tactical matters. Participation is also aimed at the organisation's integral policy and requires the involvement of students as well as staff.
- 7. The Degree Programme Committee focuses on providing advice about promoting and safeguarding the quality of the degree programme.
- 8. Participation follows having control.

# **REGULATIONS CONTENTS**

RI	GULATIONS CONTENTS	3
Cŀ	HAPTER 1 GENERAL	6
	Article 1: Definitions	6
	Article 2: Application	8
	Article 3: Levels of participation	8
	Article 4: Term of office	8
	Article 5: Termination of membership	8
	Article 6: Replacement	9
	Article 7: Exclusion	9
	Article 8: Confidentiality	. 10
	Article 9: Duty to announce and duty to inform	. 10
	Article 10: Advisory power, power of consent	. 10
	Article 11: Terms	. 10
	Article 12: Positions within the Participation Council and the (Joint) Degree Programme Committee .	. 11
	Article 13: Committees	. 11
	Article 14: Facilities	. 11
Cl	HAPTER II ELECTIONS	. 13
	Article 15: The right to vote and the right to be elected	. 13
	Article 16: The set-up of the elections	. 13
	Article 17: Election protocol	. 13
	Article 18: Time of the elections	. 14
	Article 19: Voting	
	Article 20: Electability	. 14
	Article 21: Nomination of candidates	. 14
	Article 21: Voting procedure	. 15
	Article 23: Election results	. 15
	Article 24: Announcement of the results	. 15
	Article 25: Objections	. 15
	Article 26: Premature vacancies	. 15
Cł	HAPTER III GENERAL DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PARTICIPATION COUNCIL	. 17
	Article 27: General duties of the PC	. 17
	Article 28: General powers of the PC	. 17
	Article 29: Section's right of consent	. 17
Cŀ	HAPTER IV CENTRAL PARTICIPATION COUNCIL	. 18
	Article 30: Central Participation Council	. 18
	Article 31: Composition of the Central Participation Council	. 18

	Article 32: Exercising the right of consent and the right to be consulted	18
	Article 33: General powers of the CPC	19
	Article 34: Right of consent, general	19
	Article 35: Right to consent of the staff's section	20
	Article 36: Students' faction right of consent	20
	Article 37: Right to give advice, general	20
	Article 38: Right to be consulted of the students' faction	21
	Article 39: Legal representation	21
	Article 40: Reporting	21
CI	HAPTER V DISPUTE SETTLEMENT CPC	22
	Article 41: Arbitration Board	22
	Article 42: Dispute regarding the right to consent	22
	Article 43: Dispute regarding the content of the Regulations on the Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees	
	Article 44: Dispute about the right to give advice	22
	Article 45: Dispute about the interpretation	. 22
	Article 46: The CPC's right to bring proceedings	23
CI	HAPTER VI INSTITUTE'S PARTICIPATION COUNCIL (IPC)	24
	Article 47: Institute's Participation Council	24
	Article 48: Composition	24
	Article 49: Decision-making process	24
	Article 50: Powers of the IPC	24
	Article 51: Right of consent, general	24
	Article 52: Staff's section's right to consent	25
	Article 53: Students' faction's right of consent	25
	Article 54: Right to give advice, general	25
	Article 55: Dispute regarding the right to consent	25
	Article 56: Dispute about the right to give advice	26
	Article 57: Reporting	26
CI	HAPTER VII SERVICES DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION COUNCIL (SDPC)	27
	Article 58: Services Department Participation Council	27
	Article 59: Composition of the Services Department Participation Council	. 27
	Article 60: Decision-making process	27
	Article 61: Right to consent	27
	Article 62: Right to give advice	27
	Article 63: Dispute regarding the right to consent	28
	Article 64: Dispute about the right to give advice	28
	Article 65: Reporting	28
CI	HAPTER VIII (JOINT) DEGREE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (DPC)	29

Article 66: Set-up of a Degree Programme Committee	29
Article 67: Composition	29
Article 68: Decision-making process	29
Article 69: Duties	29
Article 70: Powers	30
Article 71: Reporting	30
Article 72: Consultation and initiative	30
Article 73: Settlement of disputes	30
CHAPTER IX FINAL PROVISIONS	31
Article 74: Unforeseen circumstances	31
Article 75: Adoption and amendment of the regulations	31
Article 76: Legal protection	31
Article 77: Byelaw	31
Article 78: Official title	31
Article 79: Entry into force	31
APPENDIX I – FACILITATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PARTICIPATION COUNCILS AND DEGREE	
PROGRAMME COMMITTEES	32

# **CHAPTER 1 GENERAL**

# Article 1: Definitions

**Services Department** 

In these regulations, the following terms have the following meanings:

Right to advice and advisory power	Both terms are used in the WHW and the Fontys Regulations on the participation councils and degree programme committees.
Management Charter	The document describing the administrative relations between the administration, the primary process and the provision of facilities.
Center for Participation	Center within Fontys that supports and professionalizes the participation councils and the degree programme committees and their discussion partners.
Executive Board	Administrative and management body of Fontys as referred to in sections 10.2 and 10.3 of the WHW and as described in the articles of association and the WHW.
Arbitration Board	Board for the settlement of disputes as referred to in section 10.26 of the WHW.
Executive Committee	The executive committee of the Central Participation Council.
Director	Official appointed as such who is in charge of the management of an institute or services department.
Fontys	The Fontys foundation.
Faction	Elected members from the relevant section for the participation body. Each CPC, IPC and DPC has a staff's and a students' faction.
Section	This may refer to either the students' or staff's section.
(Joint) Degree Programme Committee (JDPC)	A committee established for related study programmes of an institute as referred to in section 10.3.c of the WHW.
Institution plan	The document which gives a description of the proposed policy adopted by Fontys, including its intentions with respect to the promotion of the quality of the courses and to enhance their set-up.
Right of consent and power of consent	Both terms are used in the WHW and the Fontys Regulations on the participation councils and degree programme committees.
Institute	Operational unit of organisation for Fontys' core competencies which is responsible for the execution of the primary process.
Participation Councils (PC)	Councils for participation, being: the Central Participation Council (CPC), the Institute's Participation Council (IPC), the Services Department Participation Council (SDPC).

technical support to the primary process.

Fontys operational unit which is responsible for the execution of the business process and provision of

TER Teaching and Examination Regulations.

Study programme A coherent set of units of study aimed at achieving narrowly defined

goals with respect to the knowledge, insights and skills a student having terminated the course programme should possess as referred

to in section 7.3 paragraph 2 of the WHW.

Degree Programme Committee (DPC)

A committee established for a particular study programme of an

institute referred to in section 10.3c of the WHW.

Staff member Anyone who works for Fontys with an employment contract based on

the collective labour agreement for higher professional education.

Supervisory Board The supervisory administrative body of Fontys as referred to in section

10.3d of the WHW and as described in the articles of association and

the WHW.

Reserve member Those members who, during elections for the Central

Participation Council for their sections, ended up in twelfth or thirteenth place, and may attend meetings of the Central Participation Council as if they were members. Reserve members do not have the right to vote at the meetings.

Both Institute's Participation Councils and (Joint) Degree Programme Committees have reserve members in accordance with this definition.

Student Those enrolled in a study programme in accordance with

Section 7.32 et seq. of the WHW.

WHW Higher Education and Research Act (Wet op het hoger onderwijs

en wetenschappelijk onderzoek), Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 593, 1992, and subsequent additions and/or amendments.

7

### Article 2: Application

- 1. The articles of the chapters I to III apply to all participation councils, unless the particular chapter provides otherwise.
- 2. Where the articles apply to the (J)DPC, this will be stated separately.
- 3. Where, in these regulations, reference is made to DPCs, this includes the JDPCs as well, unless the text expressly states otherwise. Where, in these regulations, reference is made to a study programme, 'JDPCs' must be read as 'study programmes'.

### Article 3: Levels of participation

- 1. Participation takes place at the following levels:
  - a. at Fontys level: the Central Participation Council (CPC);
  - b. at institute's level: the Institute's Participation Council (IPC);
  - c. at the level of a services department: the Services Department Participation Council (SDPC);
  - d. at the level of the study programmes(s): the (Joint) Degree Programme Committee ([J]DPC).
- 2. A subject matter can come up for participation on one level of participation only.
- 3. If a decision for which the Executive Board requires the prior consent or advice of the CPC will affect the particular institute or (a) particular services department(s), the IPC or SDPC concerned will be allowed to advise the CPC on the matter.
- 4. If a decision for which the director requires the prior consent or advice of the IPC concerns the TER, the relevant DPC will be given the opportunity to consult the IPC about it.
- 5. If a decision for which the director requires the prior consent or advice of the DPC concerns the TER, the relevant ICP will be given the opportunity to consult the DPC about it. For the TER of a joint degree programme agreements are made in the cooperation agreement between the universities of applied sciences that jointly offer this programme about the interpretation of this right of consent of the IPC.

### Article 4: Term of office

- 1. Members of the PC and the DPC are elected for a two-year-term of office, on the understanding that students have the option of standing for election for one year only.
- 2. Resigning members of the PC and the DPC are immediately eligible for reappointment.
- 3. Members of the PC and the DPC may be reappointed for no more than two consecutive terms and may therefore hold office for up to six consecutive years, on the understanding that they may subsequently be re-elected two years after their resignation.

### Article 5: Termination of membership

Membership of a PC and the DPC ends:

- a. on the expiry of the term of office as referred to in Article 4;
- b. when the member no longer belongs to the section on behalf of which he was elected;
- c. when the member sends a notice of termination addressed to the chair of the PC or the DPC;
- d. through termination of the employment with Fontys for members elected on behalf of the staff, and for the DPC also through termination of the membership if the staff member is no longer a lecturer for the relevant study programme(s) for which the DPC was set up;
- e. appointment of a member elected on behalf of the staff on a post which is incompatible with

- the membership (see Article 15, paragraph 4);
- f. through termination of the enrolment with Fontys for members elected on behalf of the students, and for the DPC also through termination of the membership if the student is no longer enrolled in the relevant study programme(s) for which the DPC was set up;
- g. when the member is placed under guardianship, the assets of the member become subject to administration or a debt structuring arrangement for natural persons is declared applicable to the member;
- h. on exclusion with due observance of the provisions laid down in Article 7;
- i. upon the death of the member.

# Article 6: Replacement

- In case of prolonged absence of a member, the PC and the DPC may decide to accept a
  proposal of the section involved to have this member replaced for the duration of their
  absence, though not exceeding the original term of office of the member who is thus
  replaced.
- 2. During this period of replacement, the absent member cannot exercise the rights arising from their membership of the PC and the DPC.
- 3. The replacement should preferably be chosen from the candidates on the basis of the latest election results of the section involved.
- 4. The reserve member of the relevant section receiving the most votes will be the first to be considered as a replacement CPC member.
- 5. If the election results for the section in question no longer contain any candidates, Article 26 Premature vacancies applies.

# Article 7: Exclusion

- 1. The PC and the DPC may exclude a member, including the chair and the secretary, of its own accord in accordance with the following paragraphs of this article.
- 2. A member can only be excluded if, in the opinion of the other members of the PC or the DPC, they have failed to comply with their obligations as laid down in these regulations and the WHW or internal regulations of the relevant PC or DPC, or act in contravention of the objective of Fontys.
- 3. Before they are excluded, the member involved must be given the opportunity to be heard on the matter by the PC or the DPC or a representation of the PC or the DPC, decided upon by a majority of at least two thirds.
- 4. The decision of the PC or the DPC to exclude a member must be taken by a majority of at least two thirds of the number of members, minus the member involved.
- 5. If not all members are present, the chair of the PC or the DPC will convene a new meeting to be held within three weeks, though no sooner than within one week. The notice convening the new meeting must at least state the place, time and subject of the (re-)vote. This new meeting may decide to exclude the member by a two-thirds majority of the valid votes, irrespective of the number of members present.
- 6. The member involved will receive a notice with the reasons of their exclusion by registered mail.
- 7. The PC or the DPC may decide that a member is not allowed to attend the meeting or a part thereof when a pre-eminently personal interest is on the agenda.
- 8. It will always remain possible to exclude a reserve member. The same procedure applies.

### Article 8: Confidentiality

- 1. Members and reserve members of the PC and the DPC have a duty of confidentiality with regard to all matters they hear of in their quality as member of the council of committee with regard to which the Executive Board or the director has imposed the duty to maintain confidentiality or of which they should understand the confidential nature.
- 2. The duty to maintain confidentiality does not end upon termination of the membership of the PC or the DPC.
- 3. The meetings of the PC and the DPC with the Executive Board or the director are public, unless the chair feels that the nature of the matter to be discussed or the accompanying information stands in the way of that.

### Article 9: Duty to announce and duty to inform

- 1. A request to the PC or the DPC to give its approval or advice must be done at such a moment that the council or DPC is still in a position to exert any influence on the decision.
- 2. Unless it is an urgent matter, the Executive Board or the director will submit the intended decision written and specific the PC and the DPC at least 10 working days before its meeting. It must also provide the reasons for taking the decision, the possible consequences and the intended measures to be taken in connection with the decision.
- 3. In addition, the Executive Board or the director respectively will inform the PC and the DPC in due time, without having to be asked, with any information that the PC and the DPC may, according to the standards of reasonableness and fairness, need in the discharge of their duties and, upon request, with any information that, according to the standards of reasonableness and fairness, these councils consider required in the discharge of their duties, as described in section 10.19, paragraph 5 and 6 WHW.
- 4. The PC and the DPC must be notified as soon as possible in writing as to how the advice will be followed.
- 5. If the Executive Board wishes not to follow the advice, or only to follow parts thereof, the PC and the DPC will be allowed to consult the Executive Board or the director before reaching a final decision.

### Article 10: Advisory power, power of consent

- 1. The PC or the DPC responds in writing to the Executive Board or the director to the request for consent or advice on a proposed decision.
- If the PC or the DPC does not give consent or gives a positive advice, the PC or the DPC will substantiate this in the written feedback to the Executive Board or the director.
   In that case, an attempt is made to reach an agreement between the PC or the DPC and the Executive Board or the director. See also Chapter V.

# Article 11: Terms

- 1. The PC and the DPC must inform the Executive Board or the director whether it will consent to the proposed decision as referred to in Article 9 within six weeks.
- 2. If, pursuant to these regulations, the Executive Board or the director submits a proposed decision for advice to the PC and the DPC, these must issue the advice within a term of 6 weeks.

3. The terms as referred to in this article need not be met if parties agree to a different term. If the holiday period is scheduled between these two terms, parties may depart from these two terms.

# Article 12: Positions within the Participation Council and the (Joint) Degree Programme Committee

- 1. The PC and the DPC will elect annually a chair, a deputy chair and, if the PC or DPC sees fit, a secretary from among its members. The chairperson and their deputy must come from different sections unless the situation described in article 19, paragraph 6 applies. Every section of the council elects its own chairperson and his/her deputy if the council decides so, on the understanding that the chair of the council cannot also be chair of one of the sections. The chair(s) and secretary may be re-elected each year. The chair or secretary has to follow a training course for chairmen or a training course voor secretaries or have experience with chairmanship or secretaryship.
- 2. The Executive Committee of the CPC consists of a chair, a deputy chair and the chairs of both sections. The equality of the sections is safeguarded.

#### Article 13: Committees

The PC may create committees, involving its members or not, within its field of activity if reasonably necessary for the fulfilment of its duties.

## **Article 14: Facilities**

- The Executive Board and the director must enable the PC and the DPC to fulfil their duties
  properly in accordance with the available budget, the material facilities and staff made
  available including the administrative secretarial and process support for policy making, as
  well as legal support and training. The training budget is determined by the Executive Board
  or the director and the PC in mutual consultation, or by the director and the DPC in mutual
  consultation.
- 2. A member of staff who is a member of a PC and the DPC must be given time off from his/her duties arising from his/her employment agreement with Fontys for the duties of the PC and the DPC.
- 3. Part of the annual work activities of the staff member arising from his/her employment agreement with Fontys must be dedicated to these duties in accordance with the level of participation. Appendix I to these regulations sets out the facilities for staff members, categorised by level of participation.
- 4. The student member of the PC and the DPC must be given the opportunity to fulfil their duties for the PC and the DPC, whereby it must be ensured that any negative effects on their study progress are minimal. The student member may be eligible for (financial) assistance in accordance with the provisions laid down in the <a href="Student Support Fund Scheme">Student Support Fund Scheme</a>.
- 5. Student members are facilitated according to the level of participation. Appendix I to these regulations sets out the facilities for student members, categorised by level of participation. If a student decides to accept this remuneration, this means that they will forgo graduation support as set out in the <a href="Student Support Fund Scheme">Student Support Fund Scheme</a>. If a student member is unable to or does not carry out the attendant duties of membership of the PC or the DPC, the facilitation can be stopped, as described in the <a href="Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees Procedure">Procedure</a>.

- 6. Before granting facilities to a staff member as referred to in paragraph 3, or to a student member as referred to in paragraph 5, they will be subjected to a marginal test performed by the chair of the PC and the DPC in order to determine their attendance of the meetings.
- 7. Members who are a member of more than one PC and/or the DPC are, in principle, entitled to a compensation based on their membership of all PCs and/or the DPC.
- 8. Basic training and study days are organized for PC and DPC members. Participation in study days and basic training is mandatory.

### Article 15: The right to vote and the right to be elected

- 1. Without prejudice to the provisions contained in these regulations, only students enrolled at Fontys have the right to vote and the right to be elected.
- 2. Without the prejudice to the other provisions contained in these regulations, only Fontys staff members have the right to vote.
- 3. Without prejudice to the other provisions contained in these regulations, the following staff members have the right to be elected:
  - staff members with an employment agreement with Fontys for an indefinite period of time;
  - staff members with an employment agreement with Fontys for a definite period of time of at least six months;
  - staff members with an employment agreement with Fontys either for an indefinite period of time or definite period of time of at least six months who are seconded outside of Fontys, <u>provided</u> this secondment is for a period of no more than six months and they continue to perform duties for Fontys for at least 50% of their employment.
- 4. Members of the Executive Board, secretaries, directors and their deputies and management team members cannot be members of a PC and the DPC. In addition, members of the Examination Board are excluded from membership of the DPC.
- 5. The student members of the PC and the DPC are directly elected by the students. For the members of the DPC, only students enrolled for the study programme for which the DPC was set up have the right to vote and to be elected.
- 6. The student members of the PC and the DPC are directly elected by the students. For the members of the DPC, only staff members who have a lecturer position with the study programme for which the DPC was set up have the right to vote and to be elected.
- 7. In a joint degree programme, it is possible that the members of the DPC from the institutions involved are appointed instead of elected. This is laid down in the relevant cooperation agreement.

### Article 16: The set-up of the elections

- 1. The PC or the DPC is responsible for the set-up of the elections.
- 2. An election committee, the composition of which is decided by the PC or the DPC, is responsible for the organisation of the elections. Members of the election committee are not eligible for appointment to the PC or the DPC for which they carry out the organisation of the election.
- 3. The PC and the DPC will lay down the election procedure in an election protocol (see Article 17).
- 4. In this election protocol, the IPCs, SDPCs and the DPCs may label the seats of their PC or DPC.
- 5. The election committee determines the election results. The performance of the other duties of the election committee have been laid down in the election protocol.
- 6. The election committee may decide to deviate from the terms that must be observed in the elections.
- 7. The Executive Board will, in mutual consultation with the PC or the DPC, set up an 'Election Appeals Committee' for the resolution of election disputes. The Elections Appeal Committee consists of the official secretary of the CPC and a lawyer from the Legal Affairs department.

# Article 17: Election protocol

 The PC and the DPC will lay down further rules with regard to the elections in an election protocol. This election protocol must include the following, at least:

- a. the composition, appointment, duties and performance of the election committee;
- b. how and which decisions of the election committee can be appealed with the Election Appeals Committee;
- c. how the dates for the nominations and elections are published;
- d. how the lists with candidates and results are made available for inspection;
- e. the composition, duties and working method of the Election Appeals Committee;
- f. the requirements to which a nomination is subjected.
- 2. Article 16, paragraph 4 will apply by analogy.

## Article 18: Time of the elections

- 1. Elections are called for once every two years on the understanding that the election for the students' section may be held annually.
- 2. The PC or the DPC must determine the date of the nomination of candidates and of the elections in due time. The election dates will be determined and announced no later than two months before the elections will take place.
- 3. The elections are scheduled on a number of consecutive days.

### Article 19: Voting

- 1. The election of members of the PC and the DPC is held by secret ballot and digitally.
- 2. Votes are cast per students' section or staff's section, on the understanding that the votes for the members of the SDPC are cast by the staff of the Services Department and votes for the DPC are cast by the staff members who are lecturers with the study programme of the DPC, and for students that are enrolled for the study programme of the DPC.
- 3. Members of the PC and the DPC are directly elected from a list stating persons and with a single preference.
- 4. Every voter may cast one vote on the list of their section.
- 5. If the number of candidates on the joint lists for a section does not exceed the number of positions to be filled in the PC or the DPC for the section involved, there will be no elections held for that section, and the proposed candidates will be deemed elected.
- 6. If the number of candidates on the joint lists for a section is lower than the number of positions to be filled in the relevant section or if there are no candidates at all, the seats will not be occupied during the following term of office, unless the PC or the DPC decides to have new elections for the seats now unoccupied.

# Article 20: Electability

The electability of staff and students is determined by the digital election program, which is linked to Fontys' personnel and student administration.

# **Article 21: Nomination of candidates**

- 1. No later than four weeks before the elections are held, students and staff members can stand up for membership. The election committee determines whether the candidates are eligible by virtue of Article 15 of these regulations and whether their nomination meets the requirements laid down in the WHW and the election protocol. If this appears not to be the case, the election committee must notify the candidate in writing within one week after the expiry of the term for the nominations.
- 2. A nomination that does not meet the requirements will be invalid. The candidate will be giving the opportunity to rectify the omission within four days.

### Article 21: Voting procedure

- 1. Before the election date, the election committee will send every person entitled to vote a link to the digital election programme, containing the candidates and stating the organisation unit to which they belong.
- 2. Every person entitled to vote will cast one vote for a candidate from their own section per PC or DPC.
- 3. Voting by proxy is not possible.

### **Article 23: Election results**

- 1. The election committee will determine the number of votes cast per section on each candidate.
- 2. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes for the PC or DPC in their section will be elected.
- 3. If two or more candidates have gathered an equal number of votes, the election program will decide the winner in case of a digital vote.

### Article 24: Announcement of the results

- 1. The election committee will announce the results within a week of the final election day.
- 2. The results of the elections will be included in an election report drawn up by the election committee, which will be available for inspection with the secretary or the chair of the PC or DPC.
- 3. The election committee of the CPC will also announce which candidates are elected as reserve members of the CPC.

### Article 25: Objections

- 1. Within five days of the announcement of the results, any interested party can submit an objection to the election committee, against one of the following decisions:
  - a. the setting of the election date;
  - b. the validity of the nomination of a candidate;
  - c. the determination of the election results.
- 2. The elections commission hands down its reasoned decision on the objection within 4 weeks, unless there is a case of force majeure, and makes the necessary provisions. Its decision is binding.
- 3. If the interested party does not agree with the decision, he may lodge an appeal with the Elections Appeal Committee, as has been mentioned in Article 16, paragraph 7, within five days after the elections committee has sent its decision. The Election Appeal Committee judges whether the elections committee could reasonably have reached its decision considering all interests involved. The Election Appeals Committee hands down its decision, unless there is a case of force majeure, within four weeks. Its decision is binding.

### **Article 26: Premature vacancies**

- 1. When a seat becomes vacant prematurely, the candidate whose name comes first after the candidate who won the most votes in the latest elections on the list of the section with the vacancy will occupy this seat for the remainder of the term of office. In the case of the CPC, the reserve member from the relevant region is the first to be considered for the seat.
- 2. If there are no candidates on the list of the section with the premature vacancy, bye-elections may be held. (A) member(s) elected on this occasion occupies/occupy his/their seat(s) for the remainder of the term of office. When it is not possible to hold bye-elections because there

- are no candidates eligible for election, the seat will lapse for the remainder of the term of office.
- 3. In derogation from and in addition to the provisions laid down in paragraph 2, the CPC must be informed if there are no candidates available for either the students' section or the staff's section to become member of the IPC or the SDPC. The Executive Board and the CPC must jointly find a fitting solution, while the CMR's responsibility as deputy applies without reservation. For the DPC, the IPC must be notified. The director and the IPC will jointly come to a fitting solution. Until a fitting solution has been found, the IPC will perform the duties of the DPC.
- 4. The term of office of a seat prematurely occupied will end when the term of office of the member whose place has been taken would have expired.

### CHAPTER III GENERAL DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PARTICIPATION COUNCIL

### Article 27: General duties of the PC

- 1. In accordance with its abilities, the PC promotes openness, publicity, quality and mutual consultations, as referred to in section 10.19, paragraph 3 of the WHW.
- 2. In addition, within Fontys, the PC guards against discrimination on the grounds of religious or philosophical beliefs, race, skin colour, sexual preference or any grounds whatsoever and, in particular, promotes equal treatment of men and women as well as the participation of people with a handicap or chronic illness and foreign-born residents in the labour process, as referred to in section 10.19, paragraph 4 of the WHW.
- 3. The PC exerts itself to make a contribution to the realisation of the Fontys objectives and mission statement.
- 4. The council will exercise its right to give advice and right to consent after careful consideration of the relevant interests.

### Article 28: General powers of the PC

- 1. At least twice a year, the Executive Board or the director will offer the CPC, IPC and the SDPC the opportunity to discuss the general course of affairs within Fontys, the institute or the services department. In addition to this, parties meet if one of them makes a reasoned request to this end.
- 2. The PC may discuss any Fontys matter with regard to Fontys, the Institute or the services department. It may bring forward proposals or express its opinion on these matters to the Executive Board and the director, as referred to in section 10.19, paragraph 2 of the WHW.
- 3. The Executive Board or the director must give a reasoned response to these proposals within six weeks, in writing, in the form of a proposal. Before proceeding to its written response, the Executive Board or the director must provide the PC with an opportunity to discuss the matter.

# Article 29: Section's right of consent

If the prior right of consent of one section is required for a decision to be taken by the Executive Board or the director, the other section will be offered to opportunity to give its advice on that matter.

#### CHAPTER IV CENTRAL PARTICIPATION COUNCIL

### **Article 30: Central Participation Council**

- 1. Fontys has a Central Participation Council (CPC).
- 2. At least once per round of meetings and at least six times per year, the CPC and the Executive Board will convene a public consultative meeting.
- 3. In principle, the entire Executive Board must attend this meeting.
- 4. The CPC and the Executive Board are entitled to consult advisers during the meeting.
- 5. The meeting is chaired by the CPC chair, unless the parties decide otherwise by mutual agreement. The secretary of the CPC also takes the minutes.
- 6. The Supervisory Board consults biannually with the CPC pursuant to section 10.3d, paragraph 5 of the WHW.
- 7. At least twice per year, a consultation with a member of the Executive Board is organised for each section individually.

# Article 31: Composition of the Central Participation Council

- 1. The CPC has 22 seats, including 11 for the students' section and 11 for the staff's section.
- 2. The CPC's members are elected from the following regions and related numbers, while observing the equality of the sections per region:
  - Eindhoven/Den Bosch/Sittard

12 members

- Tilburg, Venlo and other regions

10 members

- 3. If there are insufficient candidates available from a region, the remaining seats will be taken by candidates from the other region, in which case the majority vote is decisive.
- 4. Both the students' and staff's sections may opt to appoint two reserve members pursuant to Article 24, paragraph 3.

### Article 32: Exercising the right of consent and the right to be consulted

- 1. The participation council may not exercise its right of consent or its right to be consulted if the matter at hand has already been provided for in or by virtue of the law or the collective labour agreement for higher professional education (cao-hbo), including those matters which have been provided for or belong exclusively to the talks on employment conditions between the Executive Board and the unions.
- 2. The staff's section may appoint one or more delegate(s) to attend the talks on employment conditions between the Executive Board and the unions.

### Article 33: General powers of the CPC

- 1. The powers with regard to safety, health and well-being as referred to in the Dutch Working Conditions Act (*Arbeidsomstandighedenwet*) and the Dutch Working Conditions Decree (*Arbeidsomstandighedenbesluit*) are exercised by the CPC (section 10.20, paragraph 1 under f WHW).
- 2. Furthermore, the CPC has the powers as referred to in section 10, paragraph 2, preamble and under d of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights Act, whereby section 21, paragraph 2 of the Dutch Equal Treatment (Men and Women) Act (*Wet gelijke behandeling van mannen en vrouwen*) applies by analogy (Section 10.22, under j. of the WHW).
- 3. The CPC may take legal action against the Executive Board if the latter does not fulfil its duties to the CPC arising from the WHW and these regulations.

# Article 34: Right of consent, general

If the Executive Board intends to take a decision (which includes a decision about cross-departmental or cross-institutional pilots) involving one of the following matters, it must seek the CPC's prior consent. These matters are:

- a. a change in the foundation basis, objectives or identity of Fontys;
- b. transfer, conversion, division or dissolution of Fontys or merger of Fontys with another institution; in relation to the request for consent for a decision to merge, the Executive Board, acting pursuant to section 10.16b, paragraph 6 of the WHW in conjunction with Section 10.20, paragraph 2 of the WHW, allows the CPC to take cognisance of the merger impact report as referred to in section 16.16a, paragraph 4 of the WHW well in advance of the request.
- c. significant change in the activities of Fontys (which in any case includes: the opening or closure of study programmes, locations and fulltime/parttime/dual or English variants and the merging of study programmes through a planning-neutral conversion);
- d. a cooperation of considerable importance as referred to in Article 11.2e of the articles of association;
- e. merger or division of an institute or a services department;
- f. the adoption or amendment of the institution plan in accordance with section 2.2 of the WHW or the general policy, as laid down in the strategic policy plans, including in the field of housing, information, marketing and communication, personnel, privacy and language;
- g. adoption or amendment of the Fontys Educational Year Calender;
- h. adoption or amendment of the organizational structure of Fontys, (not being a change in the job classification system);
- i. major change(s) to the organisation of the services department(s);
- j. the design of the system of quality care in accordance with section 1.18, paragraph 1 of the WHW, including the policy to be adopted as a result from the quality evaluation in accordance with section 2.9, paragraph 2, second sentence of the WHW
- k. main features of the annual budget and changes to the guiding principles for the budget and the distribution of resources across the policy areas of education, research, accommodation and administration, investments and staff, as referred to in the Framework Letter, pursuant to section 10.16b, paragraph 3 of the WHW, subject to the provisions of Article 32, paragraph 1;
- I. the adoption or amendment to the facilities and monies made available to the participation council;
- m. the adoption or amendment of the Management Charter;
- n. the adoption or amendment of the Regulations on the participation councils and degree programme committees;
- o. the adoption or amendment of the procedure for the appointment of directors and the <u>'Procedure for the Appointment of Vital Fontys Officials'</u>;
- the adoption or amendment of codes of conduct such as those for the use of computer facilities and the internet, privacy rules, complaints procedure and code of conduct for undesirable behaviour, code of Integrity, code of conduct for social media, application code, and code of conduct for student counsellors;

- q. the submission of a request for derogation as referred to in Section 10.37 of the WHW;
- r. selection of one of the participation systems laid down in Section 10.16a of the WHW.

## Article 35: Right to consent of the staff's section

The Executive Board requires the prior consent of the staff's section of the CPC for each decision to be taken by the Executive Board with regard to the following matters of Fontys, all in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article 29 of these regulations:

- a. the adoption or amendment of occupational health and safety policy and the general rules with regard to safety, health or well-being in relation to labour as referred to in the Dutch Working Conditions Act or the Dutch Working Conditions Decree;
- b. the adoption or amendment of the basic rules with respect to working hours;
- c. the adoption or amendment of the frameworks of the holiday and leave scheme;
- d. rules with respect to the consequences for the staff, in case an institute or important part of it or the Services Department is terminated, undergoes a major restriction of its activities or important part of it, including the merger of an institute with another part of the organisation, except if the power of consent in this regard is reserved to the trade unions on the basis of the collective labour agreement for higher professional education(cao-hbo).

# Article 36: Students' faction right of consent

If the Executive Board intends to take a decision on one of the following matters, it must seek the CPS's students' faction's prior consent. These matters are:

- a. the adoption or amendment of the students' charter and the Fontys Regulations House Rules and Disciplinary measures regarding the use of buildings, premises and facilities;
- b. the adoption or amendment of the template of the Teaching and Examination Regulations in accordance with Section 7.13 of the WHW, as laid down in the <u>overview of topics TER right of consent and advice</u>;
- c. the adoption of or amendment to the general facilities for students, including the students' contributions;
- d. the adoption or amendment of the financial support rules for students;
- e. rules with respect to the consequences for the students, when an institute or important part of it is terminated, undergoes a major restriction of its activities or important part of it, including the merger of an institute with another organisation unit.

### Article 37: Right to give advice, general

- 1. Without prejudice to the conditions of Article 34, the Executive Board will seek the prior advice from the PC for any decision to be made by the Executive Board, in any case with regard to:
  - a. the appointment or dismissal of members of the Executive Board, as laid down in the Management Charter;
  - b. filling vacancies in the Supervisory Board, as laid down in the Management Charter. The CPC has the right to nominate one member of the Supervisory Board. There must be at least two candidates on the list of nominees;
  - c. the budget, which must make clear, at least, the amount of the institutional tuition fee and the statutory tuition fee, as referred to in Section 6.7, paragraph 1, of the WHW (section 10.20a, paragraph 1 under b of the WHW);
  - d. matters concerning the objectives, the continued existence and proper course of affairs within the university, which includes an institutional merger as referred to in section 16.16, paragraph 1 of the WHW and a management merger as referred to in section

- 16.16, paragraph 2 (section 10.20a, paragraph 1, under a of the WHW).
- 2. The CPC will be given the opportunity to provide the Supervisory Board with advice on the profiles as referred to in section 10.3d, paragraph 4 of the WHW (members of the Supervisory Board) and in section 10.2, paragraph 3 in conjunction with section 9.3, paragraph 2 of the WHW (members of the Executive Board).

# Article 38: Right to be consulted of the students' faction

- 1. The Executive Board seeks prior advice from the part of the participation council elected by and from the students' faction for each decision to be made by the Executive Board, in any case with regard to:
  - a. the general staff and appointment policy, provided that section 10.24, paragraph 2 of the WHW does not apply (section 10.20a, paragraph 2 under a of the WHW);
  - b. the policy with regard to the institutional tuition fee, as referred to in section 7.46 and the statutory tuition fee, as referred to in section 6.7, paragraph 1 of the WHW (section 10.20a, paragraph 2 under b of the WHW);
  - c. the regulations adopted by the Executive Board with regard to refunds of the statutory tuition fee, as referred to in section 7.48, paragraph 4 of the WHW (section 10.20a, paragraph 2 under c of the WHW);
  - d. the regulations adopted by the Executive Board with regard to the selection criteria and the selection procedure as referred to in section 6.7a, paragraph 1, under b, or section 7.26, 7.26a and section 7.53, paragraph 3 of the WHW, and insofar as the selection procedure is concerned, section 7.30b, paragraph 2 of the WHW (Section 10.20a, paragraph 2 under d of the WHW);
  - e. the regulations adopted by the Executive Board for the criteria and the procedure for granting dispensation from payment of the higher tuition fee, as referred to in section 6.7a, paragraph 1, under c, or Section 6.8, paragraph 6 of the WHW (Section 10.20a, paragraph 2 under e of the WHW);
  - f. the regulations adopted by the Executive Board in relation to the selection, as referred to in section 7.9b, paragraph 1 of the WHW (section 10.20a, paragraph 2 under f of the WHW);
  - g. the regulations adopted by the Executive Board in relation to Study Choice Checks and study choice activities, as referred to in section 7.31b, paragraph 5 of the WHW (section 10.20a, paragraph 2 under g of the WHW).

# Article 39: Legal representation

The chair or his/her deputy acts as CPC's legal representative inside and outside of court.

### Article 40: Reporting

The CPC produces an annual written report of its activities and ensures that the Executive Board and all stakeholders at the university have access to the report.

### Article 41: Arbitration Board

- 1. Fontys has joined the National Arbitration Board regarding Participation BVE and HBO, established by the Stichting Onderwijsgeschillen, residing in Utrecht.
- 2. The costs of legal proceedings conducted by the CPC will only be at the expense of the Executive Board if the Executive Board was informed of the costs being incurred in advance.

### Article 42: Dispute regarding the right to consent

- 1. In the event that a proposed decision requires the consent of the CPC and this consent is not obtained, the Executive Board will negotiate the matter with the CPC.
- 2. In the event that the CPC does not obtain consent for the proposed decision in the second instance either, the Executive Board will inform the CPC within four weeks whether it withdraws the proposed decision or will uphold it unchanged and will submit the dispute to the Arbitration Board. If this is not communicated within four weeks, the proposed decision will lapse.
- 3. The Executive Board will submit the dispute to the Arbitration Board with reference to the balance made of the interest involved.
- 4. Obtaining the consent or failing to obtain the consent must be understood to include the parties reaching agreement or not.

# <u>Article 43: Dispute regarding the content of the Regulations on the Participation Councils and Degree</u> Programme Committees

- In the event that the Executive Board does not obtain the required consent for a proposal to adopt or amend the Regulations on the Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees, the Executive Board will inform the CPC or the CPC will inform the Executive Board within four weeks whether the motion will be submitted to the Arbitration Board. If this is not communicated within four weeks, the motion will lapse.
- 2. If the Executive Board submits the dispute to the Arbitration Board, Article 42, paragraph 3 applies by analogy. The CPC's submission of the dispute to the Arbitration Board must include its reasons.

### Article 44: Dispute about the right to give advice

- 1. If the Executive Board takes a decision without following the advice of the CPC, as is required pursuant to the WHW or these regulations, or not following this advice completely, the implementation of that decision will be suspended by four weeks, unless the CPC has no objections against the immediate implementation of that decision.
- 2. Within four weeks of the events as referred to in the first paragraph of this article, the CPC can submit the dispute to the Arbitration Board if the CPC is of the opinion that the implementation of the decision seriously prejudices the interests of Fontys or of the CPC.
- 3. With regard to the submission of a dispute, the CPC can be subrogated to the rights of a Degree Programme Committee insofar as this is in line with the advice of the Degree Programme Committee.

# Article 45: Dispute about the interpretation

If the Executive Board and the CPC disagree about the interpretation of the provisions of the

WHW or these regulations, the Executive Board or the CPC can submit this dispute to the Arbitration Board which gives its binding decision.

# Article 46: The CPC's right to bring proceedings

- 1. A decision of the Arbitration Board may be appealed to the Netherlands Enterprise Court at the Amsterdam Court of Appeal.
- 2. The CPC may take legal action if the appeal serves to have the Executive Board comply with obligations towards the participation council.
- 3. The appeal will be lodged by means of a notice of appeal, within one month of the date of the decision of the Arbitration Board. The counterparty will be informed of the appeal.
- 4. An appeal can only be lodged based on the grounds that the Arbitration Board has failed to apply the law correctly.
- 5. A judgment of the Enterprise Court may not be appealed to the court of cassation.
- 6. In derogation from Section 237 of the Dutch Code of Civil Procedure it is not possible to order the participation council to pay legal costs.

### CHAPTER VI INSTITUTE'S PARTICIPATION COUNCIL (IPC)

### Article 47: Institute's Participation Council

- 1. Every institute has an IPC.
- 2. The IPC will exercise its right to be consulted and right of consent after careful consideration of the interests.

### **Article 48: Composition**

1. The number of members of the IPC depends on the number of students of an institute.

if there are fewer than 700 students:
 if there are between 700 and 1400 students:
 if there are more than 1400 students:
 10 members

2. The IPC has an equal representation of students and staff.

3. The IPC may decide to depart from Article 18, paragraph 3, on the understanding that two votes can be cast simultaneously per election. The IPC will lay this down in an election protocol as referred to in Article 16, paragraph 3.

# Article 49: Decision-making process

- 1. The IPC can take decisions if at least half plus one of the number of members is present at the meeting.
- 2. If no decision can be taken due to the quorum as referred to in paragraph 1 not being present, the decision can be taken at the next meeting. In such case, no quorum is required.
- 3. The IPC takes decisions by a simple majority of the votes.

# Article 50: Powers of the IPC

- 1. The IMR has the right of consent and advice as elaborated in these regulations.
- 2. If an institute consists of only one study programme, the director may determine that the duties and powers of the Degree Programme Committee are to be discharged and exercised by the IPC.
- 3. If the students' section of the IPC has the right of consent with regard to the Teaching and Examination Regulations, the DPC will be given the opportunity to provide advice on this in due time in advance.

### Article 51: Right of consent, general

The director must seek the IPC's prior consent for decisions on each of the following matters regarding the institute, within the framework created by the Executive Board:

- a. the adoption of amenment to the institute's internal organisation; (which in any case includes: changes to the organisation chart, cutting or addition of jobs, changes to the size of the MT);
- b. the adoption or amendment of plans relating to the institute's vision, policy and development;
- c. the adoption or amendment of the basic assumptions underlying the institute's budget policy; in other words the policy decisions that form the basis for the distribution of funds in the institute's budget;
- d. regulations in the field of safety, health or well-being in relation to labour;
- e. the adoption or amendment of the policy plan with respect to quality care following the recommendations and conclusions in evaluation reports, in particular the self-evaluation, external programme reviews, accreditations and Fontys student surveys.

# Article 52: Staff's section's right to consent

The director must seek the IPC staff's section's prior consent for each of the following decisions to be taken on the affairs of the institute:

- a. the adoption or amendment of personnel management policy;
- b. the adoption or amendment or the rules with respect to staff member's holidays, leave and working hours;
- c. the adoption or amendment of staff professional development schemes, all this within the frameworks created by the Executive Board.

# Article 53: Students' faction's right of consent

The director is required to ask the IPC students' faction prior consent for each of the decisions to be taken on the following affairs of the institute within the framework created by the Executive Board:

- a. the adoption or amendment in the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the study programme(s) of the institute in accordance with Section 7.13 of the WHW, as laid down in the overview of topics TER right of consent and advice;
- b. the adoption or amendment of the student's policy, including the facilities for students;
- c. the adoption or amendment of policy with respect to specific contributions by students.

### Article 54: Right to give advice, general

- 1. The director must seek the IPC's advice on those matters pertaining to the continued existence and proper course of affairs of the institute or its study programmes.
- 2. Two members of the IPC and a student member of the DPC are members of the Selection Committee and advise the Executive Board on the appointment of a new director, as described in the Procedure for the Appointment of Vital Fontys Officials.

# Article 55: Dispute regarding the right to consent

- 1. In the event that, as evidenced by a decision of the IPC, the director does not obtain the required consent for a proposed decision, there will be considered to be an internal dispute from that moment onwards, unless the director communicates within five working days that he/she will submit an amended proposed decision, or the IPC communicates, within that same term, that it consents after all.
- 2. The director will report any internal dispute as referred to in the first paragraph to the Executive Board within ten working days, while the IPC will report it to the CPC, also within ten working days. The mere notification of the dispute by the director and the IPC requires the Executive Board to follow the procedure described below in paragraph 3 and paragraph 4.
- 3. Within twenty working days of being notified of the internal dispute, the Executive Board can submit a mediatory proposal to the parties.
- 4. If the Executive Board does not submit a mediatory proposal or its efforts to reach a compromise fail, it may impose a decision on the parties. Such a decision requires the CPC's consent. If the Executive Board does not impose a decision or does not obtain the required consent for a decision as referred to in the preceding sentence within one month, there will be considered to be a dispute, which the Executive Board or, where appropriate, the CPC will

- submit to the Arbitration Board.
- 5. The provisions laid down in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this article will also apply by analogy if the director and the IPC do not agree on the question whether the IPC's consent must be sought for a decision the director intends to take.

### Article 56: Dispute about the right to give advice

- 1. If the director takes a decision without following the advice of the IPC, as is required pursuant to the WHW or these regulations, or not following this advice completely, the PC will be given the opportunity to consult with the Executive Board or the director before the decision is definitively taken.
- 2. The director will report any internal dispute as referred to in the first paragraph to the Executive Board within ten working days, while the IPC will report it to the CPC, also within ten working days. The mere notification of the dispute by the director and the IPC requires the Executive Board to follow the procedure described below in paragraph 3.
- 3. If the Executive Board maintains the decision of the director, the CPC may, within four weeks of being informed of that, submit the dispute to the Arbitration Board if the CPC is of the opinion that the implementation of the decision seriously prejudices the interests of Fontys or of the CPC.

### Article 57: Reporting

The IPC produces an annual written report of its activities based on the format made available for this purpose by the Center for Participation and ensures that the director and all stakeholders at the institute have access to the report.

### CHAPTER VII SERVICES DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION COUNCIL (SDPC)

### Article 58: Services Department Participation Council

- 1. Fontys has SDPCs.
- 2. The SDPC will exercise its right to be consulted and right of consent after careful consideration of the interests.

### Article 59: Composition of the Services Department Participation Council

- 1. Depending on the size of the services department, a SDPC will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five persons, who will be directly elected from the staff of the services department.
- 2. An SDPC of a department with more than 100 FTE has, in any case, a chair, a secretary and no more than three other members. A Services Department Participation Council of a department with less than 100 FTE has, in any case, a chair, a secretary and no more than one member. If a SDPC consists of fewer than three members, the SDPC may continue to function as if it were complete.
- 3. In the event that no SDPC can be formed for a services department, Article 25, paragraph 3 will apply by analogy.
- 4. The SDPC may decide to derogate from Article 19, paragraph 3, on the understanding that two votes can be cast simultaneously per election. The SDPC must make more detailed provisions on this subject matter in the election protocol as referred to in Article 16, paragraph 3.

### Article 60: Decision-making process

- 1. The SDPC can take decisions if at least half plus one of the number of members is present at the meeting.
- 2. If no decision can be taken due to the quorum as referred to in paragraph 1 not being present, the decision can be taken at the next meeting. In such case, no quorum is required.
- 3. The SDPC takes decisions by a simple majority of the votes.

# Article 61: Right to consent

The director must seek the SDPC's prior consent for decisions on each of the following matters of the Services Department within the framework created by the Executive Board:

- a. the adoption of or amendment to the department's internal organisation; (which in any case includes: changes to the organisation chart, cutting or addition of jobs, changes to the size of the MT);
- b. the adoption or amendment of plans relating to the department's vision, policy and development;
- c. the adoption of the basic assumptions underlying the department's budget policy; in other words the policy decisions that form the basis for the distribution of funds in the department's budget;
- d. the adoption and amendment of personnel management policy;
- e. regulations with regard to staff professional development;
- f. regulations in the field of safety, health or well-being in relation to labour;
- g. the adoption or amendment of regulations with regard to staff holidays, leave and working hours.

# Article 62: Right to give advice

1. The director shall require the advice of the SDPC for matters relating to the continued existence and proper running of the Services Department.

2. Two members of the SDPC form part of the Selection Committee and advise the Executive Board on the appointment of a new director, as described in the <a href="Procedure for the Appointment of Vital">Procedure for the Appointment of Vital</a>
<a href="Fontys Officials">Fontys Officials</a>.

Article 63: Dispute regarding the right to consent Article 55 will apply by analogy.

Article 64: Dispute about the right to give advice Article 56 will apply by analogy.

# Article 65: Reporting

The SDPC produces an annual written report of its activities based on the format made available for this purpose by the Center for Participation. The SDPC ensures that the director and all stakeholders at the Services Department have access to the report.

# CHAPTER VIII (JOINT) DEGREE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE (DPC)

### Article 66: Set-up of a Degree Programme Committee

- 1. The director will set up a Degree Programme Committee (DPC) or a Joint Degree Programme Committee (JDPC) for every study programme or group of related study programmes of an institute. Where a study programme comes in different varieties (full-time, part-time and/or dual), a single DPC will be set up.
- 2. If the director of an institute with two or more related study programmes wishes to set up a JDPC, he will require the consent of the IPC involved. If the director wishes to divide a JDPC into seperate DPC's, the consent of the IPC is also required.
- 3. If an institute consists of only one study programme, it may be determined that duties and powers of the DPC are to be discharged and exercised by the IPC (section 10.3c, paragraph 6 of the WHW).
- 4. In the case of a joint degree programme, it is possible that the members of the DPC from the institutions concerned are appointed instead of elected, whereby the members come from the institutions that jointly offer the joint degree programme. This is laid down in the relevant cooperation agreements.

### Article 67: Composition

one student.

- 1. Every DPC will consist of an even number of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight members. The JDPC will consist of an even number of members, but in view of the last full sentence of paragraph 2 no maximum of eight members. The director of an institute will determine the number of members of the DPC and seek the advice of the IPC on this matter.
- 2. Half of the members of the DPC will consist of students associated with the relevant study programme (or group of study programmes). The other half of the members of the DPC will consist of staff associated with the relevant study programme (or group of degree programmes) in a lecturer position.
  In a JDPC, each study programme must be represented by at least one staff member or
- 3. The persons listed in Article 15, paragraph 4 are excluded from membership of the DPC.
- 4. Where a study programme is provided in different variants (full-time, part-time and/or dual), students from each of the variants of the study programme must preferably be represented.
- 5. At the request of the DPC, the director will be present at meetings of the DPC.

## Article 68: Decision-making process

- 1. The DPC can take decisions if at least half plus one of the number of members is present at the meeting.
- 2. If no decision can be taken due to the quorum as referred to in paragraph 1 not being present, the decision can be taken at the next meeting. In such case, no quorum is required.
- 3. The DPC takes decisions by a simple majority of the votes.
- 4. The DPC will exercise its right to be consulted and right of consent after careful consideration of the interests.

### Article 69: Duties

- 1. The DPC is charged with providing advice on and promoting and safeguarding the quality of the study programme (section 10.3c, paragraph 1 of the WHW).
- 2. The DPC will assess the manner in which the Teaching and Examination Regulations are

- implemented on an annual basis (section 10.3c, paragraph 1 under b of the WHW).
- 3. In accordance with section 10.3c, paragraph 1 under e of the WHW, the DPC is charged with providing the IPC and the director with solicited and unsolicited advice on all matters concerning the education of the relevant study programme. The DPC will send its advice and proposals to the director, and to the IPC for its information.
- 4. In accordance with section 10.3c, paragraph 1 under d, the DPC is charged with issuing advice on the visitation report (section 5.13, paragraph 4 WHW).

### Article 70: Powers

- 1. In accordance with Section 10.3c of the WHW, the DPC has the right of consent or advice with regard to adoption or amendment of the Teaching and Examination Regulations of the study programme as laid down in the <u>overview of topics TER right of consent and advice</u>;
- 2. If the DPC has the right of consent as referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, the IPC will be given the opportunity to advise on this in advance and there will be the opportunity to consult
- 3. The DPC has the right of consent with regard to the selection of a manner of composing the DPC other than election (section 10.3c, paragraph 1 under b in conjunction with section 10.3c, paragraph 4 of the WHW).
- 4. The DPC has the right to be consulted on policy plans and implementation plans made on the basis of recommendations and conclusions in evaluation reports, in particular the self-evaluation, external programme reviews, accreditations and Fontys student surveys.
- 5. Two members of the IPC and a student member of the DPC are members of the Selection Committee and advise the Executive Board on the appointment of a new director, as described in the Procedure for the Appointment of Vital Fontys Officials.

### **Article 71: Reporting**

- 1. The DPC produces an annual written report of its activities based on the format made available for this purpose by the Center for Participation to the DPC and the director.
- 2. The DPC ensures that the director and all stakeholders at the Services Department have access to the report.

### Article 72: Consultation and initiative

- 1. At least twice a year, the director will give the DPC the opportunity to discuss the general course of affairs with regard to the study programme with him/her.
- 2. In addition, the director and the DPC will meet if the director or the DPC so request in writing, stating reasons.
- 3. The director may mandate the consultation with the DPC to the supervisor of the relevant study programme.
- 4. If the DPC's advice is not followed, this will be substantiated.

### **Article 73: Settlement of disputes**

Disputes will be settled in line with Article 55 and Article 56 of these regulations, on the understanding that 'IPC' must be read as 'DPC', 'Executive Board' must be read as 'director' and 'CPC' must be read as 'IPC'.

### **CHAPTER IX FINAL PROVISIONS**

### Article 74: Unforeseen circumstances

If there are any matters related to the subject matter of these regulations which have not been provided for, the Executive Board submits a proposal correcting this defect for advice to the CPC. The Executive Board gives its decision after having obtained this advice.

### Article 75: Adoption and amendment of the regulations

- 1. The Executive Board will submit the Fontys Regulations on the Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees, which includes any changes thereto, to the CPC in the form of a proposed decision.
- 2. The CPC can make proposals to the Executive Board for amendment of the Fontys Regulations on the Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees.
- 3. The decision to adopt or amend the Fontys Regulations on the Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees requires a majority of at least 2/3 of the number of votes cast at a meeting at which at least 3/4 of the members is present. If the quorum is not present, a new meeting will be convened within one month of the last, at which a decision may be taken by a simple majority and no quorum requirement will apply.
- 4. Without prejudice to the conditions of the first paragraph, the Executive Board will discuss the contents of these regulations and the implementation thereof with the CPC every five years. The selection of the participation system may not be changed within five years after having made the choice.

# Article 76: Legal protection

The Executive Board will ensure that (candidate) members and former members of the PC and the DPC will not experience any harm as a result of their position.

### Article 77: Byelaw

The PC and the DPC will draw up byelaws to govern its internal running, which must not conflict with these regulations.

The byelaws must, in any case, include rules on the way its meetings are held, the voting procedure, the decision-making process and minutes.

# Article 78: Official title

These regulations may be referred to as 'Fontys Regulations on the Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees'.

### Article 79: Entry into force

These regulations come into force on the day following that on which the Executive Board adopts the regulations, having obtained the consent of the Central Participation Council on the basis of the Fontys Participation Regulations that have applied since 10 April 1997.

Amended and readopted on 26 August 2025, subject to the consent of the CPC, which consent was obtained on 29 September 2025.

# APPENDIX I – FACILITATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PARTICIPATION COUNCILS AND DEGREE PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

Facilities staff (FTE)					
	СРС	IPC*	SDPC*	(J)DPC*	IPC/(J)DPC*
Member	0.15	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.15
Faction/vice chair	0.25	0.15		0.10	0.20
Chair	0.35	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.20

Facilities Students (hours)**					
	CPC	IPC*	SDPC*	(J)DPC*	IPC/(J)DPC*
Member	336	168		84	252
Faction/vice chair	420	252		168	336
Chair	588	252		168	336

<sup>\*</sup> For the facilities for the IPC, SDPC, (J)DPC and IPC/(J)DPC, these numbers serve as a guideline, with the institute or the service being required to at least grant the facilities as referred to here. In consultation with the relevant director, the IPC, SDPC, (J)DPC and IPC/(J)DPC are free to agree on additional facilities.

The <u>Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees Procedure</u> provides the practical details of this facilitation.

With regard to the decentralised councils (IPC-(J)DPC-IPC/(J)DPC), it is usual practice for the chair of the body to also chair the faction they belong to. The chair of the other faction then automatically fulfils the role of vice chair. Two members of the decentralised bodies (staff member and student) are eligible for facilitation of the chair, faction chair or vice chair.

### Additional participation

In addition to the relevant facilities for the CPC, an amount may be reserved from the annual CPC budget for the deployment of additional participation. This may consist of: the engagement of internal or external experts and/or the set-up of one or more participation committees for the benefit of a certain subject or file. The CPC will report on the use of this facility on an annual basis.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The student facilities are awarded by calendar year and are divided equally across 12 months. The hourly rate is included in the Participation Councils and Degree Programme Committees Procedure. The amount of the hourly rate is determined once every two years.