

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

UNIVERSITIES ACT 645/1997 (Amendments up to 1453/2006)

Chapter 1 General provisions

Section 1 – *Application*

(1) The universities referred to in this Act are:

1. University of Helsinki,
2. University of Joensuu,
3. University of Jyväskylä,
4. University of Kuopio,
5. University of Lapland,
6. University of Oulu,
7. University of Tampere,
8. University of Turku,
9. University of Vaasa,
10. Åbo Akademi University,
11. Lappeenranta University of Technology,
12. Tampere University of Technology,
13. Helsinki University of Technology,
14. Helsinki School of Economics, and Business Administration,
15. Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration,
16. Turku School of Economics, and Business Administration,
17. Academy of Fine Arts,
18. Sibelius Academy,
19. University of Art and Design, and
20. Theatre Academy.

(Amendment 1027/2002)

(2) Attached to the University of Helsinki is the Swedish School of Social Science as a separate Swedish-language unit.

Section 2 – *Autonomy*

(1) The universities shall have autonomy.

(2) During the preparation of acts and decrees exclusively concerning the universities, the universities shall have an opportunity to issue statements on the matter.

(Amendment 1251/1999)

Section 3 – *Persons belonging to a university*

- (1) The university shall consist of teachers, researchers, other personnel and students.

Section 4 – *Mission*

- (1) The mission of the university shall be to promote free research and scientific and artistic education, to provide higher education based on research, and to educate students to serve their country and humanity. In carrying out their mission, the universities shall interact with the surrounding society and promote the societal impact of research findings and artistic activities. (Amendment 715/2004)
- (2) The universities shall seek to cooperate amongst themselves with a view to a viable division of work.
- (3) Åbo Akademi University, the Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration, the University of Helsinki, the Helsinki University of Technology, Sibelius Academy, the University of Art and Design, and the Theatre Academy shall be responsible for ensuring that a sufficient number of Swedish-speaking persons are educated to meet national needs.
- (4) The universities shall arrange their activities with a view to achieving a high international level of research, education and teaching in conformity with ethical principles and good scientific practices.

Section 5 – *Evaluation*

- (1) The universities shall evaluate their education, research and artistic activities and their effectiveness. The universities shall also take part in external evaluation of their activities.
- (2) The universities shall publish the findings of the evaluations they undertake.

Chapter 2 Research and teaching

Section 6 – *Autonomy of research, arts and teaching*

- (1) The universities shall have autonomy in research, arts and teaching. Teachers must, however, observe the statutes and regulations in force concerning educational and teaching arrangements.
- (2) The teaching of the universities shall be public. For well-founded reasons, access to teaching may be restricted.

Section 7 – *Degrees and other education*
(Amendment 715/2004)

- (1) The universities shall confer lower and higher university degrees, and scientific, artistic and professional postgraduate degrees. The universities may also provide continuing professional education and open university education.
- (2) Education leading to a lower university degree shall be based on the upper secondary school curriculum or education of a corresponding level. Education leading to a higher university degree shall be based on the lower university degree or education of a corresponding level unless provided by a Government Decree that the education is based on the upper secondary school curriculum or education of a corresponding level, or unless otherwise decided by the university. Scientific, artistic and professional postgraduate education shall be based on the higher university degree or education of a corresponding level.
- (3) Provisions pertaining to the degrees conferred by the universities, the objectives of the degrees, the structure of the studies and other study requirements, and the degrees to be conferred by each university shall be enacted by Government Decree. Provisions pertaining to the status of university degrees in the system of higher education degrees shall be enacted by Government Decree. Provisions pertaining to more specific educational responsibilities, university degree programmes, fields and programmes of specialisation, and the specialisation fields and programmes to be provided by each university shall be enacted by Ministry of Education decree on the proposal of the university.

Section 8 – *Tuition fees*

- (1) Education leading to a university degree shall be free of charge for the student.
- (2) Open university instruction and continuing professional education shall be subject to the provisions of the Act on the Charge Criteria of the State (150/1992).

Section 9 – *Languages of instruction and examination*
(Amendment 715/2004)

- (1) The language of instruction and examination of the universities shall be Finnish unless otherwise provided below.
- (2) The languages of instruction and examination of the University of Helsinki, the Helsinki University of Technology, the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy, the University of Art and Design, and the Theatre Academy shall be Finnish and Swedish. The language of instruction and examination of Åbo Akademi University, the Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration, and the Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki shall be Swedish.

- (3) On its own decision, the university may use some other language alongside Finnish or Swedish as a language of examination in accordance with provisions enacted by Government Decree.

Chapter 3 Organisation

Section 10 – Chancellor

- (1) Both the University of Helsinki and Åbo Akademi University shall have a chancellor. Any of the other universities, if it so wishes, may have a chancellor, who shall come under provisions enacted by decree. Two or more universities may have a joint chancellor.
- (2) The chancellor shall promote science and scholarship, look after the general interests of the university and supervise its activities. The chancellor shall confirm the standing orders and other corresponding general regulations of the university. The other tasks of the chancellor shall be governed by provisions laid down elsewhere in acts and decrees.
- (3) The chancellor shall be a person who has a distinguished record in working for research or the university system. The chancellor shall be appointed for a five-year term at a time by the President of the Republic on the proposal of the Government from a shortlist of three candidates nominated by the electoral college of the university.
- (4) The qualifications, the term of office and the appointment and certain tasks of the chancellor of Åbo Akademi University shall come under the provisions of the Act on Swedish-Language Higher Education (1354/1990).

Section 11 – University senate and its tasks

- (1) The supreme executive body of the university shall be the university senate, whose mission shall be to develop the university's activities and:
1. to adopt the economic and action plans and other large-scale plans of the university;
 2. to decide the overall lines of resource allocation;
 3. to issue statements on all important matters of principle concerning the university; and
 4. to adopt the standing orders and other corresponding regulations of the university.
- (2) Other tasks may be assigned to the university senate by decree and by the internal regulations of the university.

Section 12 – *Composition of the university senate*

- (1) The university senate shall be presided over by the rector. In addition, the university senate must include representatives of the following groups:
 1. the professors and associate professors of the university;
 2. other teaching and research staff and other personnel; and
 3. the students.
- (2) Members representing any one of the groups referred to in subsection 1 shall constitute less than half of the total membership of the university senate. The members of the university senate may have deputies.
- (3) The total number of members on the university senate and the number of persons representing the groups referred to in subsection 1 shall be determined in the standing orders. At least one member shall and at most one third of the university senate members may be selected from amongst persons who do not belong to the personnel or the students of the university, as decreed in the standing orders. (Amendment 715/2004)

Section 13 – *Rector and vice-rectors*

- (1) The rector shall direct the activities of the university and deliberate and resolve matters relating to its general administration, unless otherwise provided in acts, decrees or university regulations.
- (2) The rector shall be elected for a five year term at a time. The rector shall be elected by a university electoral college. The requirement for the rector elect is that he /she has a doctorate or has been appointed professor at some university and has demonstrated good leadership skills in practice. However, as rector of the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy, the University of Art and Design, and the Theatre Academy may be elected a person who has been appointed to the post of associate professor, senior assistant or lecturer. (Amendment 715/2004)
- (3) The university may have one or more vice-rectors as decided by the university senate.

Section 14 – *Organisation of teaching, research and services*

- (1) The university senate shall decide the division of the university into faculties or other units and into departments or institutes subordinate to them with a view to the organisation of teaching and research.
- (2) The university may have multi-member administrative bodies for the development of teaching and research and the assessment of study attainments and for the nomination of candidates for professorships and associate professorships, provided that these tasks have not been assigned to the multi-member administrative body of a faculty or other unit. The composition of the administrative body shall be subject to the provisions of Section 12(1) regarding the university senate.

- (3) The university may have independent institutes which are not subordinate to any of the faculties or departments referred to in subsection 1. The decision to establish these institutes shall be made by the university senate.
- (4) The university may have units in common with other universities and with other institutes and organisations. Provisions concerning the administration of these institutes shall be enacted by decree, where needed.

Section 15 – *Administration of university units*

- (1) The activities of a faculty or other unit referred to in Section 14(1) shall be directed by a dean or some other director. In addition, the unit shall have a multi-member administrative body. The composition of the administrative body shall be governed by the provisions of Section 12 (1) and (2) regarding the university senate.
(Amendment 556/2005)
- (2) The total number of members on the administrative body of a unit and of members belonging to groups referred to in Section 12(1) shall be determined in the university standing orders. The university standing orders may also determine that a minimum of one third of the members may be selected from amongst persons who are not staff or students of the university. For the purpose of appointing professors and associate professors, it is, however, possible to appoint additional members as provided in the university standing orders . (Amendment 556/2005)
- (3) The multi-member administrative body of a faculty or other unit referred to in subsection 1 shall elect the dean or other director from amongst the professors and associate professors unless otherwise provided by decree in regard of any of the universities.
- (4) Provisions concerning the administration of an independent institute shall be laid down in the university standing orders. As members of the administrative body of a department may be appointed persons who do not belong to the personnel or the students of the university.

Chapter 4 Personnel and administrative language

Section 16 – *Structure of personnel*

- (1) The university shall have professorships. In addition, it shall have teaching and research personnel and other personnel to execute other tasks.
- (2) The university shall have docents.
- (3) The appointment of professors and associate professors shall be enacted separately.

Section 17 – *Administrative language and language proficiency requirements*

- (1) The administrative language of the universities shall be Finnish. The administrative language of the Åbo Akademi University and the Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki shall be Swedish.
- (2) However, everyone shall have the right to use Finnish or Swedish in the conduct of his/her business and to receive a document in the language he/she uses.
- (3) Provisions pertaining to the teachers', researchers' and officials' requisite proficiency in Finnish and Swedish shall be enacted by decree, notwithstanding the provisions of the Act on the Language Skills of Civil Servants (149/1922). Provisions concerning the requisite language skills of teachers at Åbo Akademi University shall be laid down in this Act below.

Chapter 5 Students

Section 18 – *Admission* (Amendment 715/2004)

- (1) The students shall be admitted by the university. A student shall be admitted to study for both a lower and higher university degree, for only a higher university degree or for a postgraduate degree. A student may also be admitted to study only for a lower university degree.
- (2) The university may restrict the number of students. A student may accept only one student place in one degree programme during one academic year.
- (3) The university shall decide upon the admission criteria. Whenever it is impossible for the university to admit all the applicants owing to a need to restrict the number of students, the university shall apply consistent admission criteria to all the applicants. Applicants may be divided into separate groups in the selection on the basis of different educational backgrounds. In this case, consistent admission criteria shall be applied to applicants belonging to the same group. For the purpose of ensuring the educational needs of one language group, it shall be possible to deviate from the consistent admission criteria to a limited extent.
- (4) In student selection, use shall be made of the applicant register provided for in the Applicant and Matriculation Examination Registers Act (1058/1998). Student selection may be arranged as a joint application to several universities. Provisions concerning the student selection process and joint application may be enacted by Government Decree.

Section 18a – *Eligibility for education leading to a university degree*
(Amendment 715/2004)

- (1) Eligible for education leading to only a lower university degree or to both a lower and a higher university degree shall be a person who has passed the matriculation examination referred to in the National Matriculation Examination Decree (1000/1994), a polytechnic degree, a higher vocational qualification, a vocational upper secondary qualification, a vocational qualification awarded on the completion of education of at least three years in duration, a foreign degree or qualification which gives eligibility for higher education in the awarding country, or whom the university otherwise deems to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies. The provisions of this subsection concerning eligibility shall also be applied to eligibility for education organised to lead directly to a higher university degree without the intermediate step of a lower university degree.
- (2) Eligible for education leading to a higher university degree shall be a person who has an applicable lower university degree, an applicable polytechnic degree, an applicable foreign degree or qualification which gives eligibility for corresponding university education in the awarding country, or whom the university otherwise deems to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies. The university may require a student admitted by it to complete supplementary studies in order to acquire knowledge and skills needed for the education.
- (3) Eligible for education leading to a scientific, artistic or professional postgraduate degree shall be a person who has completed an applicable higher university degree, a foreign degree or qualification which gives eligibility for corresponding university education in the awarding country, or whom the university otherwise deems to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies.
- (4) Further provisions pertaining to eligibility for education leading to a professional postgraduate degree shall be enacted by Government Decree.

Section 18b – *Starting education leading to a higher university degree*
(Amendment 715/2004)

- (1) A student may begin studies in only one programme leading to a higher university degree based on one and the same lower university degree during one academic year.

Section 18c – *Student registration*
(Amendment 715/2004)

- (1) A student admitted by the university who has notified of his/her acceptance of the student place shall enrol at the university in a way determined by the university in question, after which he/she is registered as a student. Each academic year the student must register as being present or absent in a way determined by the university.
- (2) A student who has not enrolled in the manner referred to in subsection 1 shall forfeit his/her right to study. If such a student later wishes to start or continue his/her studies, he/she must apply to the university to be readmitted as a student.
- (3) A student who has not enrolled in the manner referred to in subsection 1 shall forfeit his/her right to study. If such a student later wishes to start or continue his/her studies, he/she must apply to the university to be readmitted as a student.

Section 18d – *Normative duration of study for lower and higher university degrees*
(Amendment 556/2005)

- (1) The normative duration of study for the lower (Bachelor's) degree shall be:
 - a. in education leading to the degree of Bachelor of Fine Art three and a half academic years, and
 - b. in education leading to other lower university degrees three academic years;
- (2) The normative duration of study for the higher (Master's) degree shall be:
 - a. in education leading to other lower (Bachelor's) degrees, three academic years;
 - b. in education leading to the degree of Licentiate of Veterinary Medicine, three academic years,
 - c. in education leading to the degree of Licentiate of Medicine, three academic years as regards programmes including the lower university degree and six academic years as regards programmes not including the lower university degree;
 - d. in education leading to the degree of Licentiate of Dentistry, two academic years as regards programmes including the lower university degree and five academic years as regards programmes not including the lower university degree;
 - e. in education leading to the degrees of Master of Music and Master of Psychology, two and a half academic years; and
 - f. in education leading to other degrees, two academic years.
- (2) The university shall arrange teaching and study guidance in a manner which enables full-time students to gain their degrees in the time referred to in this Section.

Section 18e – *Right to study*
(Amendment 556/2006)

- (1) A student has the right to complete studies leading to the lower of higher university degree in the manner laid down by the university in the degree regulations and the curriculum.
- (2) A student admitted to study for both the lower and the higher university degrees has the right to complete the degree in a time exceeding the aggregate normative duration of study referred to in Section 18d by a maximum of two years. A student admitted to study only for the lower university degree has the right to complete the degree in a time exceeding the normative duration of study by a maximum of one year. A student admitted to study only for the higher university degree has the right to complete the degree in a time exceeding the normative duration of study by a maximum of two years.
- (3) The duration of study shall not include leave due to voluntary military service or conscription or to prolonged maternity or paternity or parent leave. The duration of study shall not include absence of a maximum of four months for which the student has registered herself or himself as absent in conformity with Section 18c.
- (4) The student is considered to start degree studies at the date when he or she accepts the study place in the university.

Section 18f – *Extension of right to study*
(Amendment 556/2006)

- (1) The university shall grant extension to the duration of study on application to a student who has not finished his or her studies in the time referred to in Section 18e if the student presents a goal-oriented and feasible plan for completing the studies. In the plan the student must indicate the studies to be completed and the timetable for completing the degree.
- (2) The duration of study shall be extended if it is possible for the student, in view of the number and extent of the completed, valid study entities and the missing parts, as well as former decisions to extend the duration of studies, to complete his or her studies in a reasonable time. In granting the extension to the duration of study, the university shall consider the life situation of the student.
- (3) A student who has not completed his or her studies in the time referred to in Section 18e or in an extended time referred to in subsection 1 and a student who has not been granted extension to the duration of study shall lose his or her right to study.
- (4) If a person who has lost the right to study wishes to continue his or her studies at a later point, he or she must reapply for admission.

Section 19 – *Disciplinary action*

- (1) A student who has committed an offence against teaching or research at the university may, as a disciplinary measure, be given a caution or be suspended for a maximum of one year. Provisions concerning the procedure shall be enacted by decree.

Chapter 6 Special provisions pertaining to the University of Helsinki

Section 20 – *The right of the Chancellor to speak at Government sessions*

- (1) The Chancellor of the University of Helsinki shall have the right to be present and speak at the Government sessions which concern matters pertaining to the University of Helsinki.

Section 21 – *Konsistori*

- (1) The senate of the University of Helsinki shall be called *konsistori*.

Section 22 – *Tasks of the multi-member administrative body of a faculty or a corresponding unit*

- (1) The tasks of the university administrative body shall be:
 1. to develop instruction and research;
 2. to make proposals for the action and economic plan and the budget and to determine the grounds for the allocation of funds;
 3. to deal with matters pertaining to the appointment of professors and associate professors;
 4. to deal with matters relating to doctoral dissertations and licentiate theses; and
 5. to deal with and resolve other matters submitted to its deliberation and decision under a decree or under the university standing orders.

Section 23 – *Swedish-language instruction and Swedish-speaking vice-rector*

- (1) The University of Helsinki shall have a minimum of 27 chairs for Swedish-speaking instruction in disciplines determined in a decree.
- (2) The University shall have a committee for the development and coordination of Swedish-speaking instruction.
- (3) One of the vice-rectors shall be a professor appointed to a chair instituted for Swedish-speaking instruction, unless the rector is a person appointed to such a chair.

Section 24 – *Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki*

- (1) Provisions pertaining to the Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki shall be enacted by decree and by the university standing orders as provided in the decree.
- (2) The posts of this unit shall not be contained in the number of posts referred to in Section 23(1).

Section 25 – *National Library* (Amendment 556/2006)

- (1) Attached to the University of Helsinki is the national library. It shall be responsible for maintaining the collection of national cultural heritage and other collections in its field of operation and for the relevant diffusion of knowledge and information service.
- (2) The mission of the National Library shall be to develop national services and offer them to university libraries, public libraries, polytechnic libraries and specialist libraries and to promote national and international cooperation in the library field. The mission of the National Library shall also be governed by the provisions of the Legal Deposit Act (420/1980).

Section 25 – *Board of the National Library* (Amendment 556/2006)

- (1) The National Library shall have a board of directors. The board shall have a maximum of 13 members, who shall have personal deputies. The members and deputies of the board and the chair from amongst the members shall be appointed by the Senate of the University of Helsinki.
- (2) After consulting the libraries, the Ministry of Education shall submit a proposal to the Helsinki University Senate concerning the members and personal deputies representing the Ministry and libraries. On the proposal of the University of Helsinki, the Helsinki University Senate shall appoint the same number of members and their deputies as proposed by the Ministry of Education. In addition, three board members shall be appointed on the joint proposal of the Ministry of Education and the University of Helsinki.
- (3) The mandate of the board shall be enacted by decree.

Section 26 – *Education of persons proficient in Swedish*

- (1) In the admission of students to disciplines which are taught in the Swedish language only at the University of Helsinki, care must be taken to ensure that a sufficient number of Swedish-speaking people can be educated to meet the national need. The University may reserve a quota in the intake for applicants proficient in Swedish.

Section 27 – *The rights and property of the University of Helsinki*

- (1) The University of Helsinki shall have the right to operate one pharmacy in the City of Helsinki. The University shall continue to have all the rights, privileges and liberties and the property and income which it possesses at the coming into force of this Act.
- (2) The assets of the University referred to in subsection 1 and its donated and bequeathed funds shall be managed separately from the appropriations allocated to the University in the state budget. The decisions on the use of the assets shall be made by the University Senate. The University shall take any legal action concerning this property in its own name and exercise the right to be heard in a court of law and in dealings with authorities as regards the property.
- (3) With regard to the assets referred to in subsection 1, the University shall be exempt from tax and from fees payable to the state, unless otherwise enacted regarding some tax or fee.

Chapter 7 Special provisions pertaining to Åbo Akademi University

Section 28 – *Special mission*

- (1) Åbo Akademi University, hereinafter Åbo Akademi, shall especially satisfy the educational and research needs of the Swedish-speaking population and take account of the bilingualism of the country in its activities.
- (2) The units of Åbo Akademi at Vaasa shall constitute the University of Ostrobothnia, whose joint activities shall be managed by a multi-member administrative body.

Section 29 – *Requisite language skills: teachers*

- (1) A requirement for a teaching post at Åbo Akademi shall be full proficiency in the Swedish language and an ability to understand the Finnish language. The decision on the degree of proficiency in Swedish and Finnish required of a foreigner or a non-native Finnish citizen shall rest with Åbo Akademi.

- (2) Åbo Akademi shall have a language board to which the proficiency in Swedish referred to in subsection 1 can be demonstrated.

Section 30 – *Requisite language skills: students*

- (1) The requirement for admission to Åbo Akademi shall be that the applicant has sufficient proficiency in Swedish to pursue studies using that language, unless otherwise decided by Åbo Akademi.

Section 31

Section 31 has been repealed by Act 1453/2006.

Section 31 – *Property*

- (1) Åbo Akademi shall have the right to accept property in its own name and use it for its activities. Åbo Akademi shall take any legal action concerning this property in its own name and exercise the right to be heard in a court of law and in dealings with authorities as regards the property.
- (2) The assets and donated and bequeathed funds referred to in subsection 1 shall be managed separately from the appropriations allocated to Åbo Akademi in the state budget.

Section 32 – *Provisions pertaining to certain posts*

- (1) The professorships and associate professorships instituted at Åbo Akademi since the first of August 1981 shall be permanent posts at Åbo Akademi.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1, after obtaining the opinion of the foundation called "Stiftelsen för Åbo Akademi", Åbo Akademi may change the fields of instruction and the duties of these posts and, within the resources at its disposal, upgrade an associate professorship to a full professorship.

Chapter 8 Appeals

Section 3 – *Rectification procedure* (Amendment 556/2006)

- (1) A person who has applied for entry to university may apply to the university in writing for a rectification of the decision concerning admission. A student may apply for a rectification of the grading of a study attainment and certain other decisions pertaining to studies, which shall come under provisions to be laid down by decree.

- (2) A student may apply to the university in writing for a decision concerning the forfeiture of the right to study within 14 days of receiving the notification of the decision.
- (3) Further provisions concerning the rectification procedure referred to in subsection 1 shall be enacted by decree.

Section 34 – *Appeal*

- (1) An appeal against a university decision shall be lodged with the administrative court under whose jurisdiction the university's head office comes, as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996), unless otherwise provided in this Act or other statutes.

Section 35 – *Ban on appeals*

- (1) No appeal may be lodged against a university decision pertaining to the election of the chancellor, the rector, the vice-rector, the head of a unit and the chair of a multi-member administrative body, or to the university standing orders or other general regulations. A decision pertaining to a grant or subsidy may not be appealed against.
- (2) A decision for which a rectification may be requested under Section 33 may not be appealed against. An appeal against a decision concerning requested rectification may be lodged with the administrative court. However, a decision concerning the rectification of the grading of a study attainment cannot be appealed against.
(Amendment 1271/2001)
- (3) No appeal may be lodged against a decision issued by an administrative court regarding admission to university referred to in Section 18, forfeiture of the right to study referred to in Section 18f or a disciplinary action referred to in Section 19.
(Amendment 556/2006)

Section 36 – *Implementation of a decision on suspension*

- (1) A decision to suspend a student may be carried out irrespective of an appeal pending against it, unless otherwise provided by the university or an administrative court. (Amendment 1271/2001)

Chapter 9 Further provisions

Section 37 – *Electoral college*

- (1) The electoral college shall be composed of representatives of the professors, the associate professors, other teaching and research staff, other personnel, and students. The composition of the electoral college shall additionally be subject to the provisions of Section 12(2).
- (2) Further provisions pertaining to the members and election of the electoral college shall be enacted in the university standing orders, except as regards the University of Helsinki, the composition of whose electoral college is laid down by decree.

Section 38 – *University training schools*

- (1) Attached to a university which provides teacher education shall be a sufficient number of training schools to meet the needs of teaching practice and the development of teacher education; the training schools may provide basic and preschool education and upper secondary education. The pupils of the training school are not students of the university.
- (2) The provision of the instruction referred to in subsection 1 and the discontinuation of the activity shall come under statutes concerning basic education, preschool education and upper secondary education in state educational institutions. The same provisions shall apply to a decision to expand the instruction and education of the training school to include more age groups or a decision to effect a reduction in the activities of the school. The activities may be reduced or discontinued when the need for education decreases or ends.
- (3) The training school shall have a board appointed by the university, which may include members who do not belong to the university.
- (4) Further provisions concerning the activities and administration of the training school may be enacted by decree and in the university standing orders.

Section 39 – *University funds*

(Amendment 1453/2006)

- (1) The university shall have the right to accept donated and bequeathed funds and funds transferred from foundations or private organisations into a university fund which is separate from the State. The university fund assets may be used to finance university activities. The university fund assets may also be used to hire personnel under civil service contract to the university and to establish civil service posts.
- (2) The university fund shall be managed separately from the funding allocated to the university in the state budget and the university fund shall be kept apart in

bookkeeping from the state accounting. The university fund shall take legal action concerning the fund and its assets in its own name and exercise the right to be heard in a court of law and in dealings with authorities as regards them. The university fund shall be liable for its obligations with its own property and the State shall not be responsible for them.

- (3) The university senate shall act as the board of the university fund, which is responsible for administering the university fund and for appropriately organising its operation, for deciding on the use of the university fund assets and for organising the supervision of the bookkeeping and financial administration.
- (4) The university fund shall come under the provisions of the Accounting Act (1336/1997) and the Auditing Act (936/1994) concerning bookkeeping, the closing of the accounts and consolidated financial statements and their publication and audit.
- (5) A post established with donated and bequeathed funds and a post established with university fund assets shall encompass the same rights and duties as any other corresponding post.
- (6) The exemption from taxes of the university fund shall come under the provisions concerning corporations in tax legislation.
- (7) The Åbo Akademi University shall in addition have the rights, benefits and freedoms and the assets and income it has at the coming into force of this Act. The provisions of this Section shall also apply to these rights, assets and income.

Section 40 – *Student union and student nation*

- (1) All the university students who have been admitted to programmes leading to the lower or higher university degree shall belong to the student union. The student union may also accept other students of the university as members.
- (2) The purpose of the student union shall be to act as liaison for its members and to promote their societal, social and intellectual aspirations and their aspirations regarding studies and students' status in society.
- (3) The student union shall have self-government. Further provisions and regulations shall be enacted by decree and the student union rules.
- (4) Students may form student nations, which shall have self-government. Provisions pertaining to student nations shall be enacted by decree, where needed.

Section 41 – *University standing orders and regulations*

- (1) The university standing orders shall determine the competence, the tasks, the term of office, the number of members and the election of the members of the administrative bodies; the appointment and hiring of personnel; and other administration of the university unless otherwise provided in acts and decrees.
- (2) In its standing orders or other regulations the university may also decree internal matters other than those referred to in subsection 1, unless otherwise provided in acts or decrees.

Section 42 – *Decision-making*

- (1) In case of a dispute, matters other than those referred to in subsection 3 shall be resolved by the multi-member administrative body by simple majority. If the votes are equally distributed, the motion seconded by the chair wins. However, in a vote on a matter concerning an appointment to a post or a disciplinary action against a student, the procedure shall be the procedure applied by a panel of judges in a court of law.
- (2) A study attainment may be graded only by those members or deputies who have a study attainment of a corresponding level or who have been appointed professors. At the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy, the University of Art and Design, and the Theatre Academy also members or deputies who have been appointed lecturers may take part in the grading of study attainments. (Amendment 1059/1998)
- (3) If a decision concerns the election or appointment of one person, it shall be made by majority vote. If no candidate receives more than half of the votes in the first round, the new election shall be between the two candidates who have received the largest numbers of votes. When a decision concerns election or appointment of more than one person, it shall be made by qualified majority. If the votes are equally divided, the result shall be decided by lot.

Section 43 – *Further provisions*

- (1) Further provisions pertaining to the implementation of this Act will be issued by decree.

Section 44 – *Implementation*

- (1) Provisions concerning the implementation of this act will be enacted separately by decree.