



# **ACADEMIC STATUTES**



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## MISSION

Two related phenomena and two categories of people in need of training led Domuni-Universitas, in 1998, at the very beginning of the Internet, to develop distance learning. Globalisation has turned the world into a *global village* and, at the same time, Internet-based education has continued to develop, allowing everyone to study wherever they are and whenever they are available. Two new groups of people can now access education: those who live far from a university centre and those who are not available during office hours because they have a family and a job.

Domuni-Universitas was founded on 21 November 1998, at the instigation of the General Chapter of Bologna (ACG Bologna 1998, 79), by joint decision of the Dominican Provinces of France and Toulouse. Through this act, the two Provinces sought to create an online Dominican university, open to the international community, faithful to the intellectual mission of the Order of Preachers and dedicated to the search for truth. The *Compendium "Domuni and the Dominicans"* traces the history of the links between Domuni Universitas since its origins and the Order of Preachers. It highlights the institutional and spiritual continuity that unites Domuni-Universitas with the intellectual mission of the Order, in fidelity to its tradition of study, research and preaching.

To achieve this, it was necessary to create a new university. Technological progress sometimes leads to "disruptive innovations": the Internet requires the research and implementation of a renewed pedagogy, mobilising the many resources offered by constantly evolving teaching platforms. To meet these challenges, Domuni-Universitas intends to offer significant added value in terms of pedagogy.

Teaching and research take place online, on the distance learning platform called Domuni-Universitas. These collaborative online spaces constitute the Domuni-Universitas study and research community. Similar to buildings, these digital spaces are places of study, meeting and work for teachers and students, accessible anywhere and at any time.

In the spirit of the apostolic constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*, Domuni-Universitas is committed to promoting a theology and academic reflection that is both transdisciplinary and transcultural, open to dialogue between different fields of knowledge, cultures and traditions (Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*, § 4).

Through its networked existence, the use of digital technologies and its teaching in five languages, it enables intellectual and spiritual communion that transcends geographical and linguistic boundaries. In this way, Domuni Universitas responds to the Church's call for open thinking, capable of combining rigorous research with an openness to other cultures and contributing, in fidelity to the Gospel, to this "courageous cultural revolution" (Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*, §3).

Thus, the technology used, the resources deployed and the diversity of the students require a specific mode of operation: that of a network. The internet promotes an organisation based on interconnection and the autonomy of each actor. The values of freedom, participation and shared responsibility are thus consistent with the technology used and the courses offered.

In order for transcultural and transdisciplinary education to flourish in academic freedom, in the

service of the search for truth, it is necessary to have an organisation based on democratic governance. These statutes, which are evolving and adaptable, are intended to clarify the principles and ensure their implementation.

Domuni is part of the Dominican tradition, marked by the participation of all in the life of government and by a demand for intellectual excellence, lived in fidelity to the Church. Thus, the scientific community exercises its responsibility according to academic customs, in the spirit of academic freedom (Apostolic Constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, § 12).

# 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

## Section 1. Name and legal status

### Art. 1 Name

1. The institution is called "Domuni-Universitas". "Domuni" may be used officially as the institutional name.

### Art. 2 Status

1. Domuni-Universitas is an institution of higher education and research, governed by French law, founded under the auspices and supervision of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), in particular the French Dominican Provinces, following the General Chapter of the Order of Preachers held in Bologna in 1998 (ACG No. 79).
2. The institution has been established in France since 2 February 1999, under UAI number 0313102D, in accordance with current French legislation and the provisions of the Education Code relating to private higher education (Articles L.731-1 et seq.).
3. Domuni-Universitas is a legal entity under private law, of an associative nature, and autonomous within the limits of the law.
4. Domuni-Universitas has its registered office in the city of Toulouse. It may establish offices, local support centres, teaching platforms and develop academic training and research programmes in appropriate locations in order to achieve its aims and objectives, in accordance with the law.
5. As a non-profit organisation recognised as being of general interest, the institution invests any economic surpluses in its own development in order to consolidate its institutional mission and social role, improve its material, technological, educational and scientific resources, promote the human well-being of the university community and enhance quality in all its fields of activity.
6. Domuni-Universitas is organised in accordance with these statutes.

### Art. 3 An online university

1. Domuni-Universitas aims to offer high-quality university education, remotely, via the Internet, to students from all over the world, drawing on the intellectual network of the Order of Preachers, but without exclusivity, by partnering with all those who wish to collaborate.
2. Domuni-Universitas is organised democratically, according to the values of freedom of teaching and research, in the tradition of the Order of Preachers and fidelity to the Church.

## Section 2. Essential tasks

### Art. 4 Teaching

1. Domuni-Universitas offers online and/or face-to-face teaching in order to transmit knowledge, develop methodological skills, and foster critical and ethical thinking.
2. Domuni-Universitas provides courses in various languages and disciplines. It forms an indivisible whole, with a focus on interdisciplinarity and interculturality.

### Art. 5 Research

1. Domuni-Universitas conducts fundamental and applied research. Through its network organisation, it brings students and researchers into contact with partner institutions involved in society, in order to promote action research in particular.
2. It disseminates research results through various communication channels: teaching, scientific journals, databases, print and digital publications, open access resources, and any other appropriate means. It organises conferences and study days.
3. Researchers assume ethical responsibility for their research.
4. Research is organised through the *Domuni Research Institute (DRI)*. The DRI is governed by its own statutes.

### Art. 6 Lifelong learning

1. Domuni-Universitas offers various forms of lifelong learning, with a particular focus on flexibility in teaching and research, in terms of both time and space, in order to make them accessible to as many people as possible (those with professional and family commitments, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged populations).
2. This flexibility is accompanied by a scholarship system, which complements the accessibility measures.

### Art. 7 Innovation

1. By its very nature, Domuni-Universitas participates in the transfer of knowledge and technology in a situation of digital transition. It develops appropriate, innovative educational engineering.
2. To this end, Domuni-Universitas may provide services, either remunerated or not, to public or private institutions that wish to benefit from its expertise in this area. Any such services must benefit teaching or research.

### Art. 8 Promotion of the next generation

Domuni-Universitas prepares the next generation of scientists needed for research and teaching.

## 2. THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

### Section 1. University bodies

#### Art. 9 Definition

1. The university bodies are:
  - The teaching staff
  - The student body
  - The support staff
2. Lecturers, self-taught students, and anyone benefiting from Domuni Universitas teaching without being registered on the teaching platform do not belong to any body.

#### Art. 10 Structure

1. University bodies elect their representatives to the various university and faculty bodies in accordance with these statutes.
2. A person may only belong to one university body.
3. The teaching staff comprises permanent professors, assistant professors, partner professors and lecturers.
4. Students, including doctoral students, always belong to the student body, even if they are carrying out teaching, research or technical assistance duties.
5. Members of the support staff who are taking courses belong to the support staff.

### Section 2. The teaching staff

#### Art. 11 Composition and mission

1. The teaching staff include professors, assistant professors, partner professors and teachers. Lecturers do not belong to the faculty.
2. Full professors and assistant professors are members of the permanent teaching staff.
3. Distance learning has changed the role of the teacher. All members of the Domuni Universitas teaching staff contribute, at their own level, to the specific teaching programme at Domuni Universitas, in accordance with the faculty statutes. Some of them perform mentoring and tutoring tasks within each faculty.

#### Art. 12 Requirements for teaching

1. A professor must meet the following requirements:
  - Hold a doctorate,
  - Significant and recognised scientific publications,
  - Proven teaching skills at university level
  - Participation in the international scientific community
  - Knowledge of two languages used at Domuni-Universitas

2. An assistant professor must meet the following requirements:
  - Doctorate or final-year doctoral student
  - First scientific publications
  - Teaching skills currently being acquired
  - Knowledge of two languages used at Domuni-Universitas
3. A partner professor must meet the following requirement:
  - Full-time professor at a partner university institution that has signed an agreement with Domuni-Universitas and participates in a joint study programme.
4. A teacher meets the following requirements:
  - Master's degree
  - Teaching skills
  - Responsibility for one or more courses
  - Knowledge of two languages used at Domuni-Universitas

### **Art. 13 Approval of new members**

1. Each Faculty shall, at its Faculty Council meeting, evaluate and vote on the approval of new members of the teaching staff, define their terms of reference and submit them to the Rector, together with the complete file. This vote requires a simple majority.
2. The Rector appoints teaching staff members after receiving a favourable opinion from the Senate and the Faculty. This procedure ensures that recruitment complies with the academic, ethical and institutional requirements of Domuni-Universitas.
3. The teacher is initially admitted for a minimum period of twelve (12) months. The candidate becomes a lecturer. This period may be renewed indefinitely.  
On the recommendation of the Faculty Council, the Rector may determine a change in the category of a teaching staff member.

### **Art. 14 Responsibilities of permanent faculty members**

1. A permanent teaching staff member shall, in principle, teach at least five (5) courses per academic year, or perform an equivalent supervisory or educational management (mentoring) role.
2. A permanent teaching staff member must indicate their affiliation with Domuni-Universitas in their research work and academic presentations.
3. A permanent teaching staff member must publish the results of their research annually.

### **Art. 15 Activity**

1. A faculty member is hired for the entire academic year.
2. Any voluntary interruption of teaching activity during this period is subject to authorisation by the Dean.

**Art. 16 Lecturers**

Lecturers are hired by the Rector's Office, on the recommendation of the Faculty, for a specific number of courses.

## Section 3. The student body

**Art. 17 Regular students and external students**

1. Regular students are:
  - a. Registered on the teaching platform for an academic programme or a diploma course
  - b. Active in the technical sense
2. External students are:
  - a. Enrolled in a self-study course, without access to the teaching platform
  - b. Do not receive any monitoring, educational supervision or assessment
3. Ordinary students alone constitute the student body.

## Section 4. Support staff

**Art. 18 Duties**

1. Support staff perform the administrative or technical tasks necessary for the functioning of the Faculties.
2. They are responsible for organising assessments (assignments, examinations, defences) and archives, under the authority of the General Secretariat.
3. The support staff of the general administration perform their duties for the benefit of the entire university community.
4. Support staff participate in teaching and research, supervising students.

## 3. GOVERNANCE

### Section 1. The Grand Chancellor

#### Art. 19 Institution

1. Pending the possible institution of the Master of the Order of Preachers as Grand Chancellor, the Provincials of France and Toulouse jointly exercise the mission of Grand Chancellor of Domuni-Universitas.
2. The Grand Chancellor exercises ecclesiastical responsibility for the institution and guarantees its communion with the Order of Preachers and the Church.
3. His role is canonical and spiritual in nature; he does not intervene in the academic, administrative or financial management of the institution.

#### Art. 20 Role and mission

The Grand Chancellor ensures that Domuni-Universitas fulfils its mission in accordance with:

- the doctrine and discipline of the Catholic Church,
- the founding principles of the Order of Preachers,
- and the specific identity of Domuni-Universitas as a Dominican institution of higher education.

He represents the Order at Domuni-Universitas.

#### Art. 21 Powers

The Grand Chancellor:

- Approves the statutes and any amendments thereto prior to their promulgation
- Confirms the appointment of the Rector
- Promotes communion between Domuni-Universitas, other Dominican institutions and ecclesiastical authorities.
- Receives the Rector's annual moral and academic report on the life of Domuni-Universitas.

### Section 2. The Senate

#### Art. 22 Composition

1. The Senate is the collegiate governing body of Domuni-Universitas. It is composed equally of representatives elected by the university bodies and representatives appointed from the founding association.
2. The Rector and the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs are ex officio members of the Senate.
3. The elected representatives of the university bodies are: the Deans of the Faculties and one representative elected for this purpose from among the permanent teaching

staff, one representative of the student body and one representative of the support staff.

4. The representatives appointed by the founding association sit on the Senate on behalf of the founding Dominican Provinces, which the association legally represents. Each founding Province delegates three representatives accordingly.

#### **Art. 23 Bureau**

The Senate is self-governing. It elects its president, vice-president and secretary for a renewable two-year term. The president may not be a student.

#### **Art. 24 Election of faculty representatives**

1. The representatives of professors in the Senate are elected for four years by the general assembly of the teaching staff.
2. The terms and conditions of the election are set out in the teaching staff statutes.

#### **Art. 25 Election of the student representative**

1. The student representative to the Senate shall be elected for a four-year term by the student body.
2. The terms and conditions of the election are set out in the statutes of the student body.

#### **Art. 26 Election of the representative member of the support staff**

1. The representative of the support staff in the Senate shall be elected for a four-year term by the support staff.
2. The terms and conditions of the election are set by the statutes of the support staff.

#### **Art. 27 Convening**

1. The President shall convene the Senate at least three times a year.
2. He or she is also required to convene it when three senators request it, indicating the items to be discussed.

#### **Art. 28 Invited guests**

The President may, at the request of the Senate or on his or her own initiative, invite other persons.

#### **Art. 29 Voting**

1. Votes shall be taken by a show of hands. Any member present may request a secret ballot.

2. Decisions are taken by a majority of votes; in the event of a tie, the President has the casting vote.
3. Abstentions or blank ballots shall not be counted.

### **Art. 30 Elections**

1. Elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Senate decides otherwise.
2. Each position to be filled shall be subject to a separate ballot, unless the Senate decides to use a list ballot.
3. An absolute majority is required; however, in the third round of voting, a relative majority is sufficient.

### **Art. 31 Powers of the Senate**

1. The Senate approves the statutes of Domuni-Universitas, the Faculties, the various bodies (teaching staff, student body, support staff) — and any statutory text — as well as the annual and five-yearly reports of the Rector.
2. The Senate elects the Rector, in accordance with the procedure set out in the appendix to these statutes. The election is confirmed by the Grand Chancellor and a secret ballot of the board of directors of the Domuni Association (SIRET 42247252200016).
3. The Senate approves the Vice-Rector(s) on the recommendation of the Rector.
4. It ensures academic freedom.
5. It issues general recommendations to the Rectorate.
6. The Senate regularly evaluates the activities and functioning of Domuni Universitas, in conjunction with the Rectorate. It deliberates on general orientations, academic and institutional development projects and issues relating to university life. It ensures the quality of training, the relevance of research and the consistency of governance bodies. At the end of its work, it sends its opinions and recommendations to the Rector, in a spirit of transparency and accountability.
7. The Senate is organised into permanent or temporary committees according to the needs of the institution.

### **Art. 32 The Quality Assurance Committee**

1. The Quality Assurance Committee, as a standing committee of the Academic Senate, plays a central role in monitoring and evaluating academic and institutional policies.
2. It meets at least once a year to review results, make proposals for improvement and contribute to the continuous enhancement of quality within Domuni- Universitas. The Rector and the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs are ex officio members of the Quality Assurance Committee.
3. It is joined by five external academic members to ensure the independence and rigour of its work.
4. The external academic members called upon to sit on the Quality Assurance Committee are co-opted, with one member per Faculty and one member per founding Province.

**Art. 33 Honorary distinctions**

1. On the proposal of three of its members, the Senate may grant the title of honorary senator.
2. It may also, on the proposal of the Rectorate or at least ten members of the teaching staff, grant the title of honorary member of Domuni-Universitas.
3. The awarding of these titles requires a two-thirds majority of the members.

**Art. 34 Minutes**

1. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting.
2. The minutes shall be signed by the person who drafted them.

**Section 3. The Rectorate****Art. 35 The Rector**

1. The Rector shall be the executive, academic, administrative and financial authority of Domuni-Universitas, as well as its legal representative.
2. The Rector shall hold a doctorate or PhD, with significant experience in teaching and research, as well as in the management and administration of higher education and/or research institutions.
3. The Rector may not be absent for more than thirty calendar days. In the event of absence or resignation, the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs shall replace him or her for a maximum of three months. Within thirty days of the definitive absence or resignation, the Academic Senate shall initiate the process for a new election.

**Art. 36 Composition**

1. The Rectorate comprises the Rector and one or more Vice-Rectors chosen by the Rector and approved by the Senate.
2. The Secretary General shall attend meetings in an advisory capacity. The Director of Communications shall be involved in the deliberations as appropriate.
3. The Rectorate regulates its own organisation and functioning.

**Art. 37 Election and entry into office**

1. The Rector is elected six months before the expiry of the term of office of the incumbent Rector and takes office on 1 September.
2. The term of office of the Vice-Rector(s) shall coincide with that of the Rector.
3. The term of office of the Rector shall be five years.

**Art. 38 Additional powers**

The Rectorate:

1. adopts regulations and directives;

2. exercises the powers granted to Domuni-Universitas by the founding association, with the power of written delegation from the President in the form of a general mandate (Article 1984 of the French Civil Code);
3. concludes agreements;
4. supervises all organisational entities of Domuni-Universitas;
5. creates, modifies and abolishes positions;
6. manages the organisation of Domuni-Universitas;
7. convenes the conference of Deans;
8. draws up the annual report of Domuni-Universitas;
9. organises the archives of Domuni-Universitas, with the support of the General Secretariat;
10. regulates decision-making powers and signing authority.

## Section 4. Relations between the Faculties and the general administration

### **Art. 39 Principles of organisation**

1. Under the authority of the Rector, the general services of Domuni-Universitas comprise the General Secretariat and the services necessary for the implementation of the guidelines laid down by the Rector.
2. Domuni-Universitas is subdivided into Faculties. A Faculty is created or abolished by the Senate, on the proposal of the Rector.
3. Faculties may comprise geographical or thematic departments. Some departments are inter-faculty.
4. The Rector may place certain special areas under the responsibility of several Faculties.
5. The Rector regulates the organisation of the central administration. He or she creates the services and bodies necessary for the fulfilment of its tasks.

### **Art. 40 Staff**

The Rector is the appointing authority within the meaning of the law. He or she is responsible for the management of staff at all levels. The details are set out in a regulation of the Senate.

### **Art. 41 Finances, taxes and fees**

The financing and financial planning of Domuni-Universitas are the responsibility of the Rector. The details are set out in a regulation of the Senate.

### **Art. 42 Services for Domuni-Universitas**

1. Domuni-Universitas and its members, as well as the faculties and departments, are entitled to solicit and accept benefits in cash, in kind or in the form of services from

- public institutions, private individuals, organisations or companies for the fulfilment of their tasks and the development of Domuni-Universitas.
2. In doing so, they shall comply with the principles of these statutes and, in particular, guarantee freedom of teaching and research.
  3. Support from public institutions, private individuals, organisations or companies that could damage the credibility or image of Domuni-Universitas is prohibited.
  4. Donations made to the funds of Domuni-Universitas, the faculties or the departments are managed by the financial department of Domuni-Universitas. In exceptional cases, the Rectorate may delegate the responsibility for managing donations to the faculties or departments, after consultation with the beneficiary association.
  5. When the purpose of a donation for a specific purpose has been achieved or is no longer achievable, the recipient shall decide, within the framework of the law and in agreement with the Rectorate and, as far as possible, with the donors, on the allocation of the balance, which must serve the interests of Domuni-Universitas.
  6. The details are set out in guidelines issued by the Rectorate.

#### **Art. 43 Intellectual property**

1. Inventions made by Domuni-Universitas collaborators in the course of research carried out at Domuni-Universitas belong to Domuni-Universitas, unless otherwise stipulated in contractual obligations.
2. Domuni-Universitas collaborators who, in the creation of copyright-protected works to which they hold such rights, have used the infrastructure or personnel of Domuni-Universitas and have received significant income from their works must pay a royalty.
3. The details may be set out in guidelines issued by the Rector's Office.
4. These guidelines may also stipulate that Domuni-Universitas collaborators who participate in the creation of a copyright-protected work are entitled to an appropriate share of the corresponding net income.

## **Section 5. General administration**

#### **Art. 44 Governance and structure**

1. The Rector is responsible for the general administration of Domuni-Universitas.
2. The Rector has a General Secretariat and general services at his or her disposal. He or she determines their structure and detailed organisation.

#### **Art. 45 Principles of administration**

1. The Rector sets the objectives for the general administration and its units and defines the priorities.
2. He or she evaluates performance and periodically reviews the objectives that have been set.
3. He or she ensures that staff are carefully selected and receive ongoing training.

**Art. 46 Rules governing meetings**

The rules governing meetings may not deviate from the following provisions:

1. A quorum is reached if half of the members with voting rights are present.
2. A meeting may be held in person or remotely using telematic means.
3. No decision may be taken on an item that is not on the agenda, unless the members present unanimously agree to amend the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.
4. Each member has only one vote and is not bound by instructions.
5. In the event of absence, a member may be represented at the meeting and give voting power to another member, their proxy, so that their vote is taken into account in the deliberations. The same proxy may only hold one proxy vote.
6. Each member may make proposals.
7. When personal interests are involved, the deliberations are confidential as regards their subject matter and outcome.
8. Members shall not participate in deliberations or voting on matters that affect their personal interests or those of their relatives. However, they must be heard beforehand.

**Section 6. The Conference of Deans****Art. 47 Convening**

The Rector shall invite the Deans of the Faculties to a joint conference with the members of the Rectorate at least once per semester.

**Art. 48 Responsibilities**

1. The Conference of Deans deals with important issues concerning the strategy and development of Domuni-Universitas with a view to decision-making by the competent bodies of Domuni-Universitas.
2. The Rector shall send the Deans a proposed agenda at least ten working days before the date of the conference. The Deans have the right to propose items for the agenda.

## 4. THE FACULTIES

### Section 1. Functioning of the Faculties

#### **Art. 49 Mission**

The Faculties are responsible for teaching and research. They ensure the succession of scientific talent and contribute to continuing education at university level.

#### **Art. 50 Statutes**

1. The Faculties are organised according to their own statutes.
2. The statutes of teaching and research units, in particular faculties and sections, are approved by the Rectorate and ratified by the Senate.

#### **Art. 51 Composition**

1. The following belong to a faculty:
  - a. the members of the teaching staff attached to it;
  - b. lecturers attached to it;
  - c. students enrolled in it;
  - d. the support staff attached to it.
2. Regular or external students who take courses in several faculties belong to the faculty of their main field of study.

#### **Art. 52 Bodies**

1. The bodies of a Faculty are:
  - a. the Faculty Council;
  - b. the Dean;
2. The Faculty statutes appoint a person responsible for each of the following areas: teaching, research, lifelong learning, and succession planning.

#### **Art. 53 Structure**

1. Faculties may be organised into sections or departments.
2. Faculties may pool resources through joint sections, departments or research institutes.
3. Sections, departments and institutes report administratively to the Rector's Office.
4. Sections are placed under the responsibility of a section coordinator who reports administratively to the Rectorate.

**Art. 54 Budget**

1. The budget for each Faculty is established annually by the Rectorate in conjunction with the Dean, in accordance with a dynamic management approach to the Faculty's development.
2. The procedures for preparing and executing the annual budget, as well as *reporting*, are specified in the Faculty's statutes.
3. The annual budget takes into account the number of enrolments during the year, on the understanding that, due to the spread of studies, enrolment is counted only once. It also takes into account the development of teaching and research, publication activities and any endowments.
4. It takes into account future courses, research objectives (supervision of dissertations, theses, symposiums, etc.) and publications (number of books).
5. The remuneration of the Dean may be indexed to the number of students, books, master's degrees, doctorates, symposiums, etc.
6. The remuneration of professors, all types of fees and services, as well as any agreements involving financial matters with a partner institution are handled by the General Secretariat, under the authority of the Rectorate.
7. The accounts are drawn up annually or half-yearly on 31 December and 30 June.

**Art. 55 Relations between the Faculties and the Rectorate and Senate**

In matters that fall within the competence of the Senate or the Rectorate and that specifically concern a Faculty, the Faculty shall be consulted and shall have the right to make proposals.

## Section 2. The Faculty Council

**Art. 56 Organisation**

The Faculty is administered by an elected council, headed by a Dean, elected by the Faculty Council.

**Art. 57 Composition**

1. The Faculty Council shall be composed of (0 to 100 students)
  - a. 3 members of the teaching staff;
  - b. one representative of the student body;
  - c. one representative of the support staff.
2. Seats on the Faculty Council (100 to 800 students)
  - a. 5 members of the teaching staff;
  - b. one representative of the student body;
  - c. two representatives of the support staff.
3. Seats on the Faculty Council (800 students or more)
  - a. 10 members of the teaching staff;

- b. 2 representatives of the student body;
  - c. two representatives of the support staff.
4. Professors from other faculties, sections, departments or inter-faculty institutes, as well as any lecturers, may be invited to attend meetings on matters that concern them, in an advisory capacity.
5. Partner professors and representatives of external partner institutions are invited to attend meetings for matters that concern them, in an advisory capacity.

#### **Art. 58 Convening**

1. The Faculty Council shall meet at least twice a year at the initiative and on the convocation of the Dean. It may only validly deliberate if half of its members are present or represented. A member may only receive a proxy from one absent member.
2. The meeting may be held in person or remotely by telematic means.
3. The Faculty Council shall meet when at least half of its members so request, indicating the agenda.

#### **Art. 59 Powers**

The Faculty Council deliberates on all matters concerning the Faculty, in particular:

1. establishing the Faculty's statutes and regulations applicable to the entire Faculty, subject to the approval of the Rectorate;
2. proposing study programmes to the Rectorate and supervising the quality of teaching and research;
3. defining the Faculty's broad lines of action for teaching and research;
4. proposing agreements between Domuni-Universitas and other universities, insofar as they concern the life of the Faculty;
5. propose to the Rectorate the conclusion of research contracts with other public or private institutions;
6. electing the Dean's Council and the Dean;

#### **Art. 60 Exclusive powers**

Examination deliberations and the awarding of degrees are reserved exclusively for the teaching staff.

### **Section 3. The Dean**

#### **Art. 61 Function**

1. The Dean heads the Faculty.
2. He or she may be assisted by Vice-Deans elected by the Faculty Council from among the members of the faculty. A member of the Rectorate may not be elected.

**Art. 62 Election of the Dean**

1. The Dean is elected from among the professors and assistant professors. A member of the Rectorate cannot be elected.
2. The Rector and the Grand Chancellor confirm the election.
3. The Dean is elected for a minimum term of four years and may be re-elected.
4. He or she takes office on 1 July.

**Art. 63 Powers of the Dean**

1. The Dean heads the Faculty.
2. He or she chairs the Faculty Council and implements its decisions.
3. He or she represents the Faculty, with power of substitution.

**Section 4. Sections and departments****Art. 64 Tasks and organisation**

1. A Faculty may be organised into several sections or departments.
2. A new section or department is created by the Rectorate. Similarly, the closure of a section or department is the responsibility of the Rectorate.
3. A section or department is coordinated by the section coordinator, who ensures its development and proper functioning in accordance with predefined specifications.

**Art. 65 Composition**

The following belong to a section or department:

1. the members of the teaching staff who carry out most of their teaching there.
2. lecturers attached to it.

**Section 5. The Academic Council****Art. 66**

1. Each semester, the Faculty Councils meet with the Rectorate (which chairs the meeting) and the General Secretariat, sitting as an "academic council". The academic council votes on the annual study plans and approves new courses.
2. The Academic Council approves academic/pedagogical projects common to the three Faculties (study sessions, study days, etc.).
3. It pools research and editorial projects.
4. It meets as a disciplinary committee, if necessary.
5. It reviews the work of the Quality Commission.

## 5. THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### **Art. 67 Name and purpose**

The Domuni Research Institute (D.R.I) is the multilingual research institute of Domuni-Universitas. It aims to create a centre of scientific excellence within Domuni-Universitas, bringing together the approaches of the research teams that make up the D.R.I in a spirit of transdisciplinarity and transculturality.

### **Art. 68 Organisation**

The D.R.I reports to the Rector and is governed by its own statutes.

## 6. ACADEMIC LIFE

### Preamble

Studies are organised into cycles in accordance with the Bologna standards (first cycle, second cycle, third cycle), (bachelor's, master's, doctorate). They are specified in the study regulations.

### Section 1. Study regulations

#### **Art. 69 Study regulations**

The study regulations organise the programmes leading to the award of degrees, under the authority of the Vice-Rector for Studies and Research. They specify:

1. the general structure of studies, the academic requirements to be met and the assessment of performance, subject to compliance with general standards;
2. the normal duration of studies and the deadlines to be met;
3. the qualifications obtained at the end of the study programmes.

#### **Art. 70 Powers of the Faculties**

1. The faculties are responsible for:
  - a. the preparation of study programmes;
  - b. updating study regulations;
  - c. proposing new courses;
  - d. deliberations of examination boards;
  - e. awarding academic degrees and titles;
  - f. awarding honorary doctorates;
  - g. awarding continuing education diplomas and corresponding titles.
2. Delegation to sections or departments is possible in the cases referred to in points (a) and (c) of paragraph 1.

#### **Art. 71 Languages of instruction**

1. The languages of instruction are French, English, Spanish, Italian and Arabic.
2. Other languages of instruction may be introduced.

#### **Art. 72 Examinations**

The examination charter is a general document applicable to the whole of Domuni- Universitas. It specifies the organisation of examinations for students and for all Domuni- Universitas staff responsible for organising them. It accompanies the study regulations relating to each course.

## Section 2. Degrees and titles

### **Art. 73 Academic degrees, academic titles, diplomas and continuing education titles**

1. The academic degrees are the Bachelor's, Master of Arts and PhD.
2. Continuing education diplomas include the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) (between 5 and 18 ECTS), the Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) (25 to 35 ECTS), which requires a Bachelor's degree, and the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) (60 to 70 ECTS), which requires a Master's degree.
3. The general administration keeps a register of graduates.

## Section 3. Ethical principles

### **Art. 74 Freedom of teaching and research**

1. Freedom of teaching and research is guaranteed.
2. This freedom is exercised within the framework of Domuni-Universitas' mission, study plans, multi-year planning, service agreements and strategic decisions.

### **Art. 75 Participation**

1. Members of the teaching staff, students body and support staff have the right to participate in accordance with these statutes.
2. The faculties participate in the decisions of Domuni-Universitas in accordance with these statutes.

### **Art. 76 Non-discrimination and equality**

1. The principle of non-discrimination applies.
2. Domuni-Universitas actively promotes gender equality through joint reflection and specific actions.
3. Domuni-Universitas guarantees equal representation of women and men within the university community.

### **Art. 77 Sustainable development**

1. Due to its digital nature, Domuni-Universitas strives to achieve a balance between environmental and socio-economic aspects in its operations.
2. In its teaching and research, Domuni-Universitas aims to promote reflection on the sustainable development of society.

### **Art. 78 Cooperation**

1. Domuni-Universitas cooperates with third parties in teaching and research.
2. Domuni-Universitas is at the heart of a network of educational and research institutions that is international, multilingual and intercultural.
3. Domuni-Universitas encourages exchanges of students, teachers and researchers.

**Art. 79 Quality assurance**

1. In carrying out its tasks, Domuni-Universitas guarantees the high quality of its services.
2. Quality is developed, assured and monitored at all levels and in all areas of activity through a monitoring process.
3. Quality assurance is based on recognised criteria and international standards.
4. Domuni-Universitas allocates adequate resources to the pursuit of quality objectives.
5. The principles of scientific ethics apply to all members of the university community.
6. The Quality Assurance Commission is a permanent commission established by the Rector's Office for the duration of its term of office. Governed by its own regulations, the Quality Assurance Commission develops the principles for steering quality assurance at Domuni-Universitas and supervises all tasks and missions inherent in the deployment of the institutional quality strategy. The Quality Assurance Commission is assisted in its daily work by the quality management department.

**Art. 80 Communication**

1. Domuni-Universitas' internal and external communication is adequate, rapid, open and transparent.
2. Minutes and other documents are accessible to all those who participated in the meetings.
3. The secrecy of deliberations may be imposed in certain cases.

**Art. 81 Data protection**

In carrying out their duties, members of the university community shall respect data protection, particularly personal data (law RS35-1) and in accordance with the GDPR (EU Regulation No. 2016/679).

## Section 4. Respect for university order

**Art. 82 Respect for university order**

Members of the university community and persons using Domuni-Universitas premises, facilities or computer programmes shall respect university order.

**Art. 83 Breaches of university order in general**

Breaches university order, any person who, intentionally or through gross negligence:

- a) hinders freedom of teaching and research, freedom of expression or information;
- b) seriously or repeatedly disrupts or prevents the normal course of studies, scientific work or teaching;
- c) seriously disrupts the bodies or authorities of Domuni-Universitas or the members of the university community or any other person working for  
Domuni-Universitas in the performance of their duties or mandate;
- d) seriously offends a member of the university community;

- e) disrupts or prevents activities in university buildings;
- f) uses the websites, in particular the public website and the teaching platform, the premises and facilities of Domuni-Universitas to carry out activities or make statements that are contrary to the law, in particular those that are offensive to the personality or that are discriminatory or sexist;
- g) endangers or injures persons on university premises;
- h) endangers or damages university buildings, facilities or grounds, enters them illegally or by force;
- i) commits or prepares criminally punishable acts on university premises or against members of the university community.

#### **Art. 84 Violation of the principle of scientific integrity and exam fraud**

1. Intentional or grossly negligent breaches of scientific integrity and exam fraud, whether intentional or through complicity in committing such acts, are also considered breaches of university order.
2. In particular, any person who violates the generally recognised rules of good scientific practice, who publishes the work and knowledge of another person under their own name in a written work or passes it off as their own, who submits a work written entirely or in part by a third party, falsifies research results by deliberately misrepresenting scientific processes or gives false information.
3. In particular, anyone who, during examinations, for personal gain or for the benefit of a third party, uses illicit means or tools, obtains examination questions illicitly, answers them illicitly with the help of a third party or copies from a third party commits examination fraud.
4. The Rectorate shall lay down in implementing provisions the details and procedure to be followed in cases of suspected breach of the principle of scientific integrity or examination fraud.

#### **Art.85 Measures and sanctions**

1. The Rector or, in urgent cases, the Vice-Rector shall take the necessary measures to maintain or restore order within the university.
2. The Rector's Office shall automatically take up any breaches of university order, conduct or arrange for an investigation to be conducted and, where appropriate, impose sanctions.
3. In the event of a breach of the principle of scientific integrity or in the event of examination fraud, the following measures may also be imposed:
  - a. cancellation by the Faculty of the result of the examination or work concerned;
  - b. withdrawal of the degree by the Rectorate.

## 7. LEGAL REMEDIES

### **Art. 86 Appeal procedure**

1. Students may submit a written appeal to the Academic Office to contest a mark or result for an assignment or examination.
2. The procedure is the same for all Faculties. The procedure is managed by the General Secretariat.
3. In the event of a protracted dispute, the appeal is brought to the attention of the Dean of the Faculty, who may, with his or her Council, rule on the matter.
4. For a dissertation or thesis, an *ad hoc* Appeals Committee may be appointed by the Rector's Office.

### **Art. 87 Legal remedies before the Domuni-Universitas Appeals Committee**

Decisions taken by the Domuni-Universitas Appeals Committee, the Rectorate, a Faculty or another teaching and research unit may be appealed to the Senate.

The Senate may, if the situation so requires, refer the parties to the designated Consumer Ombudsman.

*Adopted by the Academic Senate of Domuni-Universitas on the Solemnity of the Epiphany in the year 2026.*

*This is a translation; the reference document is the French document.*