

APPROVED BY

Resolution No. XIII-1229

of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 5 June 2018

## **STATUTE OF VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY**

The origin of Vytautas Magnus University is related to the establishment of Higher Courses of Study in Kaunas on 27 January 1920, which laid the foundation for the University of Lithuania, opened on 16 February 1922. The Department of Agronomy and Forestry of the Faculty of Mathematics and Nature of the University of Lithuania, which was transferred to Dotnuva in 1924, formed the core of Agriculture Academy. In 1930, the University was renamed to Vytautas Magnus University, in 1940 - to Kaunas University, while in 1946 – to Kaunas State University. In 1939–1940, the Faculties of Humanities, Law, and Sciences-Mathematics were transferred from Vytautas Magnus University to the reestablished Vilnius University; in 1949, the Faculty of Philology was also transferred to Vilnius University. In 1950, the University was closed, and two independent higher education institutions were established: Kaunas Polytechnic Institute and Kaunas Medical Institute.

On 28 April 1989, the act of reestablishing Vytautas Magnus University was proclaimed at a conference of Lithuanian and diaspora scientists “National Conception of Higher Education Institution and Kaunas University,” and the status of an independent higher education institution was granted to Vytautas Magnus University by the Law of 4 July 1989 “On the Reestablishment of Vytautas Magnus University.”

Vytautas Magnus University is the inheritor of part of the rights of the University which operated in Kaunas from 16 February 1922 to 31 October 1950.

In 1994, with the consent of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy of the University and the Faculty of Theology operating in the Interdiocesan Seminary of Kaunas since 1940 were transformed into the Faculty of Catholic Theology at Vytautas Magnus University.

In 2011, the Kaunas Faculty of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theater was integrated into Vytautas Magnus University, and it was reorganized into the academic unit of Vytautas Magnus University – Music Academy.

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In 2018, Vytautas Magnus University merged with Aleksandras Stulginskis University and Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences.

Having merged Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences was reorganized into Education Academy of Vytautas Magnus University with *sui iuris* rights. The origin of the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences is related to Pedagogical Institute – the first pedagogical school of higher education established in Klaipėda by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in 1935. In 1939, the Pedagogical Institute was moved to the capital and renamed to Vilnius Pedagogical Institute, which was awarded the name of Vilnius Pedagogical University on 20 May 1992. By Resolution No. XI-1398 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 19 May 2011 “On the Change of the Name of Vilnius Pedagogical University and Approval of the Statute of the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences,” the name of Vilnius Pedagogical University was changed to Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences.

Having merged, Aleksandras Stulginskis University was reorganized into Agriculture Academy of Vytautas Magnus University with *sui iuris* rights. The origin of Aleksandras Stulginskis University is considered to be in 1924 when the Department of Agronomy – Forestry of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of the University of Lithuania was moved to Dotnuva and became the core of the future Agriculture Academy. In 1946, Agriculture Academy was moved to Kaunas and named Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture, and the name of the Academy was changed to Lithuanian University of Agriculture. By Resolution No. XI-1558 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On Changing the Name of the Lithuanian University of Agriculture and on amending the Resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania “On Approval of the Statute of the Lithuanian University of Agriculture,” the University is granted the name of Aleksandras Stulginskis University.

Vytautas Magnus University is a higher education institution of classical liberal arts and sciences education (Latin *Artes Liberales*) which conducts studies based on interdisciplinary research in science and art, develops independent and critically thinking individuals who are able to cooperate in an intercultural environment and become responsible members of the Lithuanian and world community.

The mission of Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter referred to as the University) is to be a community institution of science, arts and studies, to continue the mission of the University of Lithuania founded in Kaunas in 1922, to observe liberal educational conditions, develop partnerships, actively participate in Lithuanian life, create its future and contribute to

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global culture and scientific development.

## CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

### SECTION 1 UNIVERSITY

1. The University shall be a state higher education institution, which carries out fundamental and applied research at the international level (hereinafter referred to as the Research), experimental, social, cultural development, develops professional art, conducts university studies based on these activities, provides university education and ensures conditions for lifelong learning.

2. The founder of the University shall be the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. The University shall have the rights of a legal entity that operates as a public institution, has its seal with the Lithuanian coat of arms, and its title and accounts in Lithuanian and foreign banks.

The headquarters of the University shall be in K. Donelaičio str. 58, LT-44248 Kaunas, the Republic of Lithuania. The title of the University in Lithuanian shall be Vytauto Didžiojo universitetas (abbreviation VDU), in Latin *Universitas Vytauti Magni* and in English *Vytautas Magnus University* (*Vytautas Magnus* shall not be translated in other languages or subject to declension).

5. In order to meet cultural, educational, economic, and other needs of the society, the University shall prepare Bachelors, Masters, and Doctors of Science in various science and study fields, capable of independent intellectual and creative work and having a broad general university education.

6. More than half of the teaching staff of the University shall be scientists and/or established artists or doctors of art. The subject and teaching competence of teachers is improved in accordance with the procedure established by the University.

7. The main aims and objectives of the University shall be as follows:

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### *IN DEVELOPING PERSONALITY*

7.1. To create conditions for a person to acquire higher university education based on the unity of studies, science, art, humanistic culture, and the principle of *artes liberales*;

7.2. To develop a universally educated, ethically and civically responsible, creative and entrepreneurial person, capable of perceiving himself/herself as an inheritor and nurturer of the values created by mankind, able to evaluate the changes critically and to act constructively under the conditions of dynamic life;

7.3. To create conditions for a person to learn and develop throughout the whole lifetime, to upgrade qualification and requalify;

### *IN MATURING THE SOCIETY*

7.4. developing a society that is susceptible to education, science, art, and culture, able to effectively use science and compete in a high-level market for technologies, products, and services in a sustainable environment;

7.5. in cooperation with society and economic partners, scientific, educational, artistic, and other cultural activities to promote the development of Kaunas and Lithuania;

7.6. share with world academia and world Lithuanians spiritual, scientific, artistic, and cultural achievements of the country;

7.7. to protect and foster natural, scientific, artistic, and cultural heritage, to introduce the society to it through collections, publications, and libraries, museums, exhibitions;

7.8. to mobilize Lithuanian scientists, educators, and alumni from all over the world, as well as university sponsors, for science, art, and studies at the University;

### *DEVELOPING STUDIES, SCIENCE AND ART*

7.9. to carry out studies providing a person with a research-based Higher Education qualification which corresponds to modern cognitive and technological levels;

7.10. to prepare scientists, strengthen the impact of science, art, and study on the progress of Lithuanian economy and culture and the dissemination of democratic and civil society;

7.11. to sustainably develop scientific and artistic knowledge in different fields, to

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conduct high-level research and experimental, social and cultural development necessary for the growth of the country's humanitarian, information and technological culture and international scientific and economic cooperation;

7.12. to join the common European research and art area, to develop links with the world academic community, and to disseminate the identity of Lithuanian culture.

## **SECTION 2**

### **UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY**

8. The University shall have the autonomy that includes academic, administrative, economic, and financial management activities that shall be based on the principles of self-governance, academic freedom, and respect for human rights as defined in the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Lithuania, and this Statute. The University autonomy shall be coordinated with the accountability for the society and the founder in accordance with the procedure established by the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

9. The University shall exercise the following rights:

9.1. to institute self-governing bodies under the regulations of this Statute;

9.2. to choose fields and forms of study and personality development, scientific research and experimental, social and cultural development, professional art activities, trends and forms of cultural and scientific knowledge dissemination;

9.3. to award qualification degrees and professional qualifications, scientific degrees, pedagogical and honorary ranks and invalidate them in accordance with the procedure laid down by the University;

9.4. to define the procedure of studies;

9.5. to design and approve study programs consistent with legal act requirements;

9.6. to provide other educational, qualification development, and expert services;

9.7. to admit and expel students;

9.8. to grant student scholarships from the financial funds of the University or the sponsors;

9.9. to publish study, science, art, and other literature;

9.10. to determine its infrastructure, internal work order, number of staff, their rights and responsibilities, payment for work conditions, job position requirements, procedures of organizing competitions to hold positions and procedure of employee accreditation in

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accordance with national laws and other legal acts;

9.11. to define the procedure on state budget assignation and use of other funding resources as well as work and service costs and prices;

9.12. to manage, use and have the University assets at its disposal;

9.13. to establish the forms of cooperation with Lithuanian and foreign legal entities and individuals, other organizations and their units;

9.14. to establish, in accordance with regulations of legal acts, legal entities with limited civil liabilities and invest in them acting in accordance with the conditions and procedure stipulated by the University Council, when the mentioned establishment and investment is related to the University study organization and scientific research work and experimental, social, cultural and artistic development and s necessary to meet the latter goals;

9.15. to establish associations of science, art, and study institutions or other associations;

9.16. to keep at its archives the manuscripts of scientists, agents of literature, culture, and art, to protect the University archival documents and other materials of value for the history of science;

9.17. to voice the view on education, science, art, culture, economy, legislation, and other issues important for the state;

9.18. to approve the rates of tuition fees in accordance with the procedure stipulated by legal acts;

9.19. to engage in economic and commercial activities which are inextricably linked to the operational objectives of the University agreeably to the law;

9.20. other rights agreeably to the legal acts.

10. The University may exercise activities defined in the Classification of Economic Activities in accordance with the University goals and objectives.

11. The University shall be obliged:

11.1. to ensure academic freedom for the academic community members;

11.2. to inform the founder and the society about the measures to assure study and scientific research quality, its financial, economic, and scientific activity and use of financial resources; the results of study program external quality assurance and accreditation;

11.3. in compliance with the procedure defined in the legal acts, to submit official information (statistical data and subject matter information), necessary for the management and monitoring of research, art, and study, to the institutions authorized by the Government of the

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Republic of Lithuania;

11.4. to consult students on employment opportunities, providing academic and social assistance during the implementation of the study program;

11.5. to monitor the employment and career of graduates;

11.6. to enable teaching staff to acquire the necessary knowledge and teaching skills and develop them;

11.7. to carry out other liabilities defined in legal acts.

### SECTION 3

#### ACADEMIC FREEDOM

12. The key disposition of the University activity shall be academic freedom that all the students, teaching staff, research and art staff, researcher workers and professors emeritus and rectors emeritus exercise in accordance with human rights, laws, other legal acts, and this Statute. The Statute shall ensure the following:

12.1. the freedom of thought, self-expression, outlook, and belief for all the University staff and students;

12.2. equal rights to participate in the competitions for the position of a teacher or research worker, also admission to studies competitions regardless of gender, race, political or religious beliefs, nationality, and citizenship;

12.3. the freedom of choice of science, art, and education activity methods and access agreeable to the accepted principles of Ethics;

12.4. the protection of the University staff and students against restrictions and sanctions as regards the declaration of their scientific findings or beliefs, except for the cases when the information declared is either the state or official secret and/or is the violation of the laws of the Republic of Lithuania; also the independence from ideologies and political institutions;

12.5. the rights of creative or intellectual authorship as they are defined in the laws of the Republic of Lithuania and international contracts;

12.6. unbiased and public reviews of scientific works;

12.7. the right for the teaching staff, research staff, and students to participate in the University self- governance bodies as stipulated by the regulations of this Statute.

13. The University academic community shall exercise academic freedom and base its

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activity on the Code of Ethics of Vytautas Magnus University approved by the Senate of the University (hereinafter referred to as the Senate).

### **SECTION 4 LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

14. The language of instruction at the University shall be the Lithuanian language. Other languages of instruction shall be introduced under the following conditions:

14.1. the expected outcome of the study is related to the knowledge of a foreign language;

14.2. the lectures are read or other academic discourse is presented by foreign higher education institution teachers or other foreign specialists;

14.3. the studies are provided in the study programs designed for international students;

14.4. the studies take place in accordance with joint study programs organized together with foreign higher education institutions;

14.5. the studies are conducted in accordance with study programs approved by the Senate and prepared to be taught in a foreign language;

14.6. the study course is prepared to be taught in a foreign language and approved by the order of the Rector of the University (hereinafter referred to as the Rector).

## **CHAPTER II UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE**

15. The University bodies of governance shall be formed, and their competence is defined according to this Statute, the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania, and the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania. The University shall have collegial management bodies: the University Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council), the Senate, and a sole administrative body, the Rector.

### **SECTION 1 THE COUNCIL**

16. The Council shall be a collegial management body of the University governance,

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ensuring the University's public accountability, social responsibility, and rapid and effective response to environmental change.

17. The Council performs the following functions:

17.1. upon approval of the Senate, submit to the Seimas for approval amendments to the Statute of the University;

17.2. upon the opinion of the Senate, approve the strategic activity plan of the University submitted by the Rector, which defines the mission and vision of the University, envisages the assets, financial and human resources necessary for the implementation of the strategic plan;

17.3. upon the opinion of the Senate, approve the plans for the restructuring of the University proposed by the Rector, which are necessary for the implementation of the strategic activity plan;

17.4. upon recommendations of the Senate, establish the order for the management, use, and disposal of the University financial resources (including resources for salaries of administrative and other staff) and the University-owned assets;

17.5. upon recommendations of the Senate, approve the procedure of the University Rector' election through the open competition;

17.6. elect, appoint for the position and recall the Rector;

17.7. consider the University Annual Income and Expenditure Estimates presented by the Rector and approve the report on its implementation;

17.8. approve the annual activity report of the University submitted by the Rector, which also discusses the implementation of the strategic plan;

17.9. upon recommendations of the Senate, approve the University reorganization or liquidation plans and submit them to the Seimas;

17.10. prepare the annual report of its activity and publicly announce it on the University website and present it to the University community annually before 1 April;

17.11. consider the submissions of the Senate and the Council of Education Academy and the Council of Agriculture Academy regarding the compliance of the resolutions adopted by the management bodies of the University with this Statute and the laws and implementing legislation of the Republic of Lithuania, the interests of Academies; make decisions on the legal acts and submit to the Senate or the Council of Education Academy and the Council of the Agriculture Academy a reasoned answer regarding the adopted decision;

17.12. appoint and dismiss the Chancellors of Education Academy and Agriculture

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Academy;

17.13. perform other functions stipulated by the Statute and other legal acts.

18. The University Council shall consist of 11 members:

18.1. one member shall be appointed and recalled by the Student Representative Council in accordance with its procedures;

18.2. five members of the University staff shall be appointed and recalled by the academic community following the procedure stipulated by the Senate;

18.3. Five members, who shall not belong to the University staff and students, shall be selected, appointed and recalled following the procedure stipulated by the Senate; one of these members shall be selected, appointed and recalled by the Student Representative Council following their procedures. These four members shall be selected through a open competition;

18.4. The Council members are elected separately for each of the ten seats defined by the Senate, taking into account the different interests of the University.

19. The composition of the Council shall be publicly declared by the Senate Chairperson.

20. The term of office of the Council shall be five years. The Senate Chairperson shall declare the new composition of the Council no later than a month before the end of the term of office of the Council members.

21. A member of the Council shall be a person of irreproachable reputation who meets the requirements stipulated by the Law on Higher Education and Research. In the Council's meeting, upon undertaking his/her duties, a member shall sign the commitment to follow the interests of the University and society and honestly perform the functions stipulated by the Law on Higher Education and Research.

22. The Council shall elect and recall the Chairperson of the Council by the majority of member votes. The Chairperson of the Council shall not be a member of the University staff or a student.

23. The Council shall approve its work regulations. The Council shall make decisions by the simple majority of participating member votes. Meetings of the Council shall be legitimate if they are attended by no less than seven members. The Council shall announce its decisions publicly on the University website.

24. Should a member of the Council fail to perform his/her duties stipulated by the Statute, the work regulations of the Council and the Law on Higher Education and Research or to sign the commitment indicated in this Statute and the Law on Higher Education and

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Research, the Chairperson of the Council shall have the right to address the person who appointed this member with a request for the latter's recall.

25. In case the mandate of a Council member is interrupted before the end of his/her term of office, a new member of the Council shall be appointed by the person who appointed the member whose mandate was interrupted in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the Law on Higher Education and Research and this Statute. The new member of the Council undertakes his/her duties after the new appointment is declared by the Chairperson of the Senate and the new member of the Council signs the commitment indicated by the Law on Higher Education and Research and this Statute.

26. The Rector may participate in the Council's meetings on the right of the advisory vote.

27. The members of the Council may be remunerated for their work from the University funds according to the procedure of payment for the University Council members determined by the Senate.

28. The Rector shall ensure proper organizational conditions for the Council activity.

## **SECTION 2 THE SENATE**

29. The Senate shall be a collegial body of the University academic self-governance.

30. The Senate shall perform the following functions:

30.1. determine the procedure of studies;

30.2. approve the study, scientific research and experimental, social, cultural development, art, and other programs and propose recommendations to the Rector on the accreditation of these programs and the issues of University structural reforms necessary for the implementation of these programs, evaluates the outcomes of the performed research, experimental, social, cultural development and the quality and level of all research, experimental, social, cultural development and art activities of the University;

30.3. approve the internal study quality assurance system and monitor its implementation;

30.4. determine qualification requirements for job positions of teaching and research staff; stipulates the procedure of their attestation and organization of competitions for undertaking positions;

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30.5. convene the meetings of the University academic community to consider important issues of the University activity; the decision to convene a meeting shall be announced on the university website and in other ways stipulated by the Senate not later than 10 calendar days before the meeting;

30.6. award honorary titles and other titles in accordance with the established procedure;

30.7. consider and coordinate with the Council proposals on amendments to the University Statute;

30.8. consider the strategic action plan of the University defining the mission and vision of the University which is submitted by the Rector, and submits an opinion on it to the Council;

30.9. consider the plans for the restructuring of the University submitted by the Rector, which are necessary for the implementation of the strategic action plan, and submits its opinion on them to the Council;

30.10. On the Rector's recommendation, by secret ballot, approve and recall heads of other academic units, except for the Chancellors of Education Academy and Agriculture Academy. Should the candidate be not approved by the Senate, the Rector shall propose another candidate;

30.11. form constant and temporary commissions and committees of the Senate;

30.12. approve regulations of academic units, the Study Regulations and other documents regulating academic affairs;

30.13. consider University annual activity reports submitted by the Rector;

30.14. consider and propose recommendations to the Council regarding the candidates' suitability for the position of the Rector;

30.15. approve the cost of studies and determine the total number of study places, taking into account the possibilities to ensure the quality of studies and science and art activities;

30.16. consider and propose recommendations to the Council regarding the University reorganization and liquidation plans;

30.17. consider and propose recommendations to the Council regarding the order of management, use and disposal of the University financial resources (including resources for salaries of administrative and other staff) and the University-owned assets;

30.18. consider and make decisions on other issues of studies, science, social and similar issues;

30.19. consider issues regarding the compliance of the resolutions adopted by the

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management bodies of the academic units with the Statute of the University and the laws of the Republic of Lithuania and legal acts implementing the laws. Following the outcome of the deliberations, it may apply to the Council for legal acts adopted by the management bodies of academic units;

30.20. perform other functions stipulated in this Statute and other legal acts.

31. The Senate shall be elected for a period of five years and shall consist of 61-71 scientists, established artists, and students. The Rector, Vice-Rectors, and Chancellors of Education Academy and Agriculture Academy shall be the members of the Senate ex-officio, but cannot be elected the Senate Chairperson.

32. The Senate shall consist of:

32.1. The members of the University academic community representing Education Academy, Agriculture Academy, and other academic units of the University, on the principle of equal representation according to the number of academic staff. The academic units of the University are represented in the Senate on the principle of parity. Persons holding positions of professor and chief research worker shall make no less than 25% of the members of the Senate; persons holding positions of associate professors and senior research worker shall make no less than 25% of the members of the Senate;

32.2. The members of the Senate ex officio shall make up to 8% of the Senate members; the members of the Senate ex officio can be the staff of other science and study institutions;

32.3. diaspora scientists and established artists, cooperating actively with the University, shall make no less than 3% of the Senate members;

32.4. University students of all cycles, appointed by the Student Representative Council, shall make no less than 20% of the Senate members;

32.5. University alumni and scholars employed in other institutions shall make no less than 7% of the Senate members; At least one member of the Senate shall be delegated by Education Academy and Agriculture Academy.

33. The composition of the Senate may be changed when a new academic unit of the University is established in accordance with the principles of formation of the Senate established in this Statute and not exceeding the maximum number of members of the Senate established in Clause 31 of this Statute.

34. The Senate shall approve the regulations of the Senate formation.

35. The Chairperson of the Senate shall be elected from University scientists or established artists by a secret ballot by a majority of votes during the first meeting of a new

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Senate. The candidate to the post of the Chairperson is nominated by members of the Senate.

36. The Deputy Chairperson and the Secretary of the Senate shall be elected from members of the Senate. The candidates to the Deputy Chairperson and the Secretary of the Senate are nominated by the Chairperson of the Senate.

37. To organize the Senate's activities, the Senate Executive Board shall be formed, consisting of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and heads of constant committees.

38. The meetings of the Senate shall be convened at least twice a semester. Extraordinary meetings of the Senate shall be convened when no less than 1/3 of the Senate members express their demand in a written form. In that case, the meeting shall be presided over by the Chairperson elected from the Senate members. The Senate's meetings shall be legitimate when attended by at least 2/3 of the Senate members.

39. Decisions of the Senate shall be adopted by the majority of the participating member votes. Decisions of the Senate shall be adopted by the majority of all member votes in cases:

39.1. when it is considered whether a person elected or appointed to the position by the Senate should continue holding the position;

39.2. when the pedagogical titles of professor and associate professor, Honorary titles of the University, and titles of professor emeritus, rector emeritus are to be awarded.

40. The decision with regard to appointing a person to the position or recalling from it, awarding of pedagogical and honorary titles, and other personal issues shall be adopted by secret ballot.

41. In order to inform the University community, the Senate shall publicly announce its decisions on the University website and present an annual report to the academic community on its activities by submitting a report on the activities of the previous calendar year.

42. The activities of the Senate shall be regulated by this Statute and the regulations of the Senate work.

### SECTION 3 THE RECTOR

43. The Rector shall be a sole management body of the University representing it and acting on its behalf.

44. The Rector shall:

44.1. undertake the management of the University and organize its work, ensuring the

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implementation of the University Strategic Action Plan;

44.2. admit and dismiss members of the University staff;

44.3. admit and expel students from the University;

44.4. grant incentives to the University students and staff and assign disciplinary penalties;

44.5. propose recommendations to the Senate regarding the rate of tuition fees;

44.6. approve other payments not related directly to the implementation of study programs;

44.7. bear responsibility for the University financial performance and proper management, use and disposal of its assets and resources;

44.8. submit the Annual Activity Report, which also discusses the implementation of the strategic activity plan of the University to the Senate for consideration and approval by the Council;

44.9. submit the Annual Income and Expenditure Estimate and the Report on the implementation of this estimate to the Council for approval and publicly announce it after it is approved;

44.10. announce the Annual Activity Report of the University approved by the Council;

44.11. submit the University Strategic Action Plan and the Structural Reorganisation Plan to the Senate to consider and to the Council to approve;

44.12. consider and make decisions regarding the management, use, and disposal of the University financial resources (including resources for salaries of administrative and other staff) and assets;

44.13. approve the University internal rules of procedure, position descriptions, instructions, regulations and statutes of the non-academic units and organizations of the University;

44.14. establish the structure and functions of the University's economy, finance, and other administrative and service units;

44.15. submit the candidates for Chancellors of Education Academy and Agriculture Academy to the Council;

44.16. approve the candidates for Chancellors of Education Academy and Agriculture Academy;

44.17. conclude agreements with individuals and legal entities of the Republic of Lithuania and foreign countries, other organizations and their branches on behalf of the

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University;

44.18. have the right to temporarily terminate decisions of the Councils of academic units and submit those issues to the Senate;

44.19. have the right to cancel orders of heads of University academic units;

44.20. convene meetings of the Rectorate;

44.21. having received student requests, complaints, or notifications in written form about the infringement of their rights stipulated in legal acts and their legally protected interests, assume an obligation to analyze them and respond in writing or delegate this obligation to another person within 15 calendar days;

44.22. perform other functions laid down in legal acts and this Statute.

45. The Rector shall be elected by the Council in accordance with its established procedure. The Council shall announce an open competition for the position of Rector. The Rector is considered elected having been supported no less than 7 votes of the Council members.

46. To be eligible to become the Rector, a person shall be of an irreproachable reputation, have an academic degree in science or art, or be an established artist and shall have experience in education and management.

47. The Rector's term of office shall be 5 years. The same person may be elected as the Rector for not more than two consecutive terms of office and not earlier than in 5 years after the expiry of his/her last term of office that was second in succession.

48. The contract of employment shall be signed for a term of office by the elected Rector and the Chairperson of the Council, acting on behalf of the University or another person authorized by the Council.

49. Should the University Annual Activity Report submitted by the Rector be rejected by the majority of its votes of the Council, the Rector may be recalled from the office by the majority of no less than 7 votes of the Council members.

50. Some of the Rector's functions shall be performed by University Vice-Rectors delegated by the Rector. Candidates for Vice-Rectors' positions shall be scholars upon the recommendation of the Rector and approved by the Council. The time period of Vice-Rectors' powers shall be the same as the time period of Rector's powers. When the Rector is ill, goes on a business trip, or for other reasons is unable to perform his/her duties, his/her duties may be performed by the Vice-Rector authorized by the decision of the Council.

51. Upon the expiry of the term of the Rector's and Vice-Rectors' office, these people

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shall be entitled to return without competition to the position of a teacher or research worker held before or during his/her term of office for a period of 5 years.

52. The Rectorate shall be the Rector's advisory body.

53. The Rectorate shall be comprised of the Rector, Vice-Rectors, heads of academic units, a person authorized by the Student Representative Council, and heads of other units appointed by the Rector. The Rector shall preside over the meetings of the Rectorate.

54. The Rectorate shall:

54.1. prepare drafts of the University Strategic Action Plan and Structural Reorganisation Plan;

54.2. consider issues related to studies, research, art, and economy;

54.3. prepare a draft of the University Income and Expenditure Estimate;

54.4. prepare the University Annual Activity Report;

54.5. prepare the norms of academic workload;

54.6. prepare drafts for the size of tuition fees and other payments not directly related to the implementation of study programs;

54.7. prepare the project for the Order on Admission to the University and consider the recommendations of Admission Commissions;

54.8. coordinate the work of the University units;

54.9. coordinate the University's relations with Lithuanian and foreign research, art, study, industry, and other institutions;

54.10. consider provisions and regulations of the University units and organizations;

54.11. prepare and consider drafts for the amendments in the Study Regulations;

54.12. consider drafts for income and expenditure estimates of University academic units;

54.13. consider the distribution of the University premises and territories among different units of the University;

54.14. consider the establishment and revocation of the University units;

54.15. consider the candidates for awarding Honorary Degrees and the titles of professor emeritus, rector emeritus;

54.16. perform other functions stipulated in legal acts and this Statute.

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## CHAPTER III UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE

### SECTION 1 UNITS

55. The University shall consist of academic and non-academic units:

55.1. The University academic unit shall be a unit of the University whose main activities include the implementation of studies and/or research, arts, experimental, social, and cultural development. The University academic units shall include academies that base their activities on *sui iuris* rights, other academies, faculties, branches, institutes, the Botanical Garden and other units treated as equivalent thereto.

55.2. The University non-academic units shall be units, representative offices, consulting centres, necessary for the performance of administrative functions and for the implementation of goals of economic activities; other units essential for studies, research, art, and student activities.

56. The University Education Academy shall be an academic unit that bases its activities on *sui iuris* rights. The Education Academy shall operate in accordance with the principle of academic self-governance and the regulations approved by the Senate. The Education Academy shall conduct and coordinate nationally and internationally competitive studies and research in educational sciences, as well as experimental, social, cultural development work, prepare educators, provide educational, professional development, expert and consulting services, publish academic and other literature in educational and training sciences. The Education Academy shall have its own stamp, flag, sign and other attributes. The members of the academic community of the Education Academy shall elect and recall one member of the Council who belongs to the University academic staff and shall elect and/or appoint a proportion of the members of the Senate in proportion to the number of their academic staff in accordance with the conditions set forth in Clause 32 of this Statute. The Education Academy may have academic units (faculties, institutes, centres, etc.), which shall be subject *mutatis mutandis* to the provisions of Section 2 of this Chapter, as well as non-academic units ensuring their activities. The Education Academy shall use the real estate transferred to Vytautas Magnus University by the Government by the right of trust under the Agreement of Trust, as well as other assets and infrastructure managed by it prior to the reorganization, necessary for

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the study process and research activities.

57. The University Agriculture Academy shall be an academic unit that bases its activities on *sui iuris* rights. The Agriculture Academy shall operate in accordance with the principle of academic self-governance and the regulations approved by the Senate. The Agriculture Academy shall have the right to independently manage its internal matters, to defend them in the collegial and sole bodies of the University, to act, within the competence assigned to it, in domestic and foreign public authorities, business, science and study institutions and international organizations. The Agriculture Academy shall conduct and coordinate nationally and internationally competitive studies in bioeconomy, agricultural sciences and in other fields closely related to agriculture and rural development, including technological and engineering studies, and research, experimental, social, cultural development work, provide professional development, expert, consulting, science commercialization and technology transfer services, publish academic and other literature. The real estate and other assets as well infrastructure necessary for the study process and research activities managed by Aleksandras Stulginskis University prior to the reorganization shall be assigned to the Agriculture Academy. The Agriculture Academy shall have its own stamp, flag, sign and other attributes. The members of the academic community of the Agriculture Academy shall elect and recall one member of the Council who belongs to the University academic staff and shall elect and/or appoint a proportion of the members of the Senate in proportion to the number of their academic staff in accordance with the conditions set forth in Clause 32 of this Statute. The Agriculture Academy may have academic units (faculties, institutes, centres, etc.), which shall be subject *mutatis mutandis* to the provisions of Section 2 of this Chapter, as well as non-academic units ensuring their activities (Test Station, Training Farm, Agricultural Science and Technology Park, Communication and Technology Transfer Centre, etc.).

58. The management bodies of the Academy that base its activities on *sui iuris* rights (hereinafter referred to as the Academy) shall be the collegial body – the Council of the Academy – and the sole body – the Chancellor of the Academy (hereinafter referred to as the Chancellor).

59. The Council of the Academy shall be formed, for a period of 5 years, of the number of members specified in the regulations of the Academy, elected by the Academy community in accordance with the procedure laid down in its regulations. The Council of the Academy shall elect the Chairperson of the Council by a majority of 2/3 of its members. The Chairperson of the Council of the Academy shall head the Council of the Academy and announce the

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resolutions adopted by the Council of the Academy. The Council of the Academy shall operate in accordance with the regulations approved by it and shall consider the most important academic and other issues of the organization of the activities of the Academy. The resolutions of the Council of the Academy shall be adopted by a simple majority of all members of the Council of the Academy. The said resolutions shall not conflict with this Statute and the resolutions of the Council and the Senate and shall be binding on all the employees and students of the Academy. Meetings of the Council of the Academy shall be legitimate if attended by at least 2/3 of the members of the Council of the Academy. The Council of the Academy shall perform the following functions:

59.1. submit to the Senate and the Council its opinion on amendments to the Statute of the University. Amendments to the provisions of the Statute of the University relating to the Academy shall be coordinated with the Council of the Academy;

59.2. submit to the Council its opinion on the management, use and disposal of the assets assigned to the Academy. Resolutions on changes in the management, use and disposal of the assets assigned to the Academy shall be adopted with the approval of the Council of the Academy;

59.3. nominate candidates to the position of the Chancellor of the Academy from the body of scientists and established artists of the Academy and submit the nominations of the candidates to the Rector;

59.4. establish the budget from the funds received from the University budget, revenues received by the Academy from economic, research activities, provided services and support;

59.5. consider and submit to the Senate and the Council proposals for changes in its internal structure;

59.6. consider and submit to the Senate for approval the study program, main research directions and/or artistic activities of the Academy, determine the directions and forms of personality development, research, experimental development, professional artistic activity and dissemination of cultural and scientific knowledge;

59.7. submit to the Senate proposals for the internal quality assurance of studies in the preparation of specialists, taking into account the specificity of the preparation of the said specialists;

59.8. determine the rights and duties of students of the Academy, taking into account the specificity of their preparation and the legal acts regulating the procedure of studies of the University;

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59.9. consider candidates for the pedagogical titles of professor and associate professor and submit its opinion to the Senate;

59.10. consider candidates for the titles of professor emeritus, honorary doctor and honorary professor and submit its opinion to the Senate;

59.11. convene meetings of the Academy community to consider important issues of the University activities;

59.12. approve its strategic action plan and provide the opinion of the Academy on the strategic action plan of the University;

59.13. initiate cooperation with other units of the University, natural and legal persons of the Republic of Lithuania and foreign countries, cooperation agreements with institutions and entities of the Republic of Lithuania, foreign science and studies and other institutions and individuals in the field of study, science and other matters, as well as joining associations, including international ones;

59.14. consider the resolutions adopted by the University management bodies and make decisions to appeal to the Council regarding a possible violation of the interests of the Academy due to the resolutions adopted by the Senate or the Rector's orders and the annulment of the said legal acts;

59.15. perform other functions laid down in legal acts and this Statute.

60. The Chancellor shall perform the following functions:

60.1. implement resolutions adopted by the Council, the Senate and the Council, the Rector's orders;

60.2. issue orders binding on the employees and students of the Academy. The said orders may be temporarily suspended by the Rector and recalled – by the Council of the Academy, the Senate or the Council;

60.3. bear the responsibility for the financial performance of the Academy, proper management, use and disposal of funds and assets assigned to the Academy;

60.4. submit to the Rector the annual draft estimate of revenue and expenditure of the Academy and to the Academy, a report on the implementation of the approved estimate;

60.5. submit proposals to the Rector for the admission of employees to the Academy;

60.6 bear the responsibility for internal procedures of the Academy;

60.7. submit proposals to the Rector for the admission and expulsion of the Academy students;

60.8. award incentives to and impose disciplinary measures on students in accordance

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with the procedure established by the Study Regulations;

60.9. submit proposals to the Rector for the increase or reduction of the cost of studies, the determination of the rate of fees that are not directly related to the implementation of the study programs;

60.10. report annually to the Council of the Academy on the activities of the Academy;

60.11. inform the Academy community about quality assurance measures in studies and research activities, research activities, results of external quality assessment and accreditation of study programs and quality assurance of internal activities, financial and economic activities;

60.12. provide the University administrative units with official information, statistical data and subject matter information necessary to ensure the management and monitoring of research and studies;

60.13. offer opportunities for teachers to develop research, subject and pedagogical competences, to acquire and develop the knowledge and skills essential for teaching;

60.14. each year announce on the Academy website the Annual Activity Report of the Academy, which specifies the results of the implementation of the strategic action plan;

60.15. the Chancellor may delegate part of his/her functions to his/her Deputy, who shall be appointed and recalled by the Rector on the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the approval of the Council of the Academy. The term of office of the Deputy Chancellor shall expire upon the expiry of the term of office of the Chancellor;

60.16. perform other functions laid down in this Statute and the regulations of the Academy, as well as those assigned by the Rector.

61. The University Music Academy, established on the basis of the Kaunas Faculty of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, shall be an academic unit that prepares professional musicians capable of creating and developing fields of art, culture and research, conducts research in the field of music, formulates and implements cultural policy. The activities of the Music Academy shall be organized in accordance with Section 2 of this Chapter.

62. The Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University shall be an academic unit that conducts studies and research in Catholic theology and religious sciences. The Faculty of Catholic Theology shall operate in accordance with its Statute, approved by the consensus of the Senate, the Conference of Lithuanian Bishops and the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.

63. The University Research Institute shall be an academic research unit that carries out

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research and experimental, social and cultural development work in a particular field (or fields) that are consistent with the objectives and mission of the University, provides a scientific base for studies of the University students and the preparation of scientists, as well as the development of scientific qualifications of the University teaching staff. The Institute shall organize its activities in accordance with the regulations approved by the Senate. The nomination of the Director of the University Research Institute from the body of scientists shall be approved and rejected by the Senate on the recommendation of the Rector. The Director of the University Research Institute shall be dismissed from office upon the expiry of the term of office of the Rector.

64. The University Botanical Garden shall be an academic unit that carries out research and experimental, social and cultural development work, engages in development activities, builds up collections of plants, creates expositions, performs functions of ecological education of the society and provides a research and study practice base for the students. The Botanical Garden shall operate in accordance with the regulations approved by the Senate. The nomination of the Director of the Botanical Garden from the body of scientists shall be approved and rejected by the Senate on the recommendation of the Rector. The Director of the Botanical Garden shall be dismissed from office upon the expiry of the term of office of the Rector. Upon the expiry of the term of office of the Director, this person shall be entitled to return without competition to the position of a teacher or a research worker held before or during his/her term of office and hold the said position for a period of 5 years.

65. By the order of the Rector, there shall be non-academic units established at the University to perform administrative functions and to implement goals of economic activities. The structure and functions of the said units shall be determined and their heads shall be appointed and dismissed from office by the Rector.

66. The University library shall be a non-academic unit that provides the members of the University community with access to information resources and services, essential for studies, research and artistic activities. The library shall operate in accordance with the regulations approved by the Rector. The Director of the library shall be appointed and dismissed by the Rector.

67. Other non-academic units essential for studies, science, art, consulting, student activities and social life shall organize their work in accordance with this Statute and the regulations approved by the Rector. The heads of the said units shall be appointed and dismissed by the Rector.

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68. The University shall organize its activity in accordance with the Law on Higher Education and Research, the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts. The University may establish branches and representative offices in the Republic of Lithuania and in foreign countries.

69. The decision on the establishment of the University branches and representative offices and termination of their activities shall be adopted by the Council. The heads of the University branches and representative offices shall be appointed and dismissed by the Rector.

### SECTION 2 MANAGEMENT OF ACTIVITIES OF ACADEMIC UNITS

70. The University academic units, except for the academies, that conduct research in one or several fields of research, implement art projects, provide study, consulting and other services, shall organize their activities in accordance with the regulations approved by the Senate. The nomination of the heads of the said units from the body of scientists or established artists shall be approved and rejected by the Senate on the recommendation of the Rector.

71. The University academic units shall organize their activities in their structural units (departments, study, science, art and consulting centres, laboratories, etc.) and/or in other forms (research clusters, study programs (or groups thereof) implementation committees, etc.). The structure of each University academic unit and the forms of the organization of its activities shall be laid down in the regulations of that unit.

72. The activities of the University academic unit shall be organized by the following bodies:

72.1. The Council of the University academic unit;

72.2. The Head of the University academic unit;

72.3. The advisory body headed by the Head of the University academic unit shall be the advisory body for the management of the University academic unit.

73. The Council of the University academic unit shall be formed for a period of 5 years in accordance with the procedure laid down in the regulations of that unit. The Head of the University academic unit shall be an ex officio member of the Council. At least 2/3 of the members of the Council shall be scientists, established artists; at least 20 percent, students from that University academic unit (excluding the Botanical Garden and research institutes) delegated by the Student Representative Council; and up to 10 percent, social partners. The

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Council of the University academic unit shall elect its Chairperson at its first meeting. The Head of the University academic unit may not be the Chairperson of the Council of the University academic unit.

74. The Council of the University academic unit shall perform the following functions:

74.1. adopt resolutions on the main issues related to the organization of the activities of the University academic unit and other issues;

74.2. consider issues related to the establishment, reorganization and/or abolition of the structural units of the University academic unit;

74.3. distribute funds centrally received by the University academic unit;

74.4. consider and submit to the Senate for approval the study programs, main research directions and/or artistic activities of the University academic unit;

74.5. consider candidates for the pedagogical titles of professor and associate professor and submit its opinion to the Senate;

74.6. consider candidates for the positions of professor, associate professor, chief research worker and senior research worker and submit its opinion to the Senate;

74.7. consider candidates for the titles of professor emeritus, rector emeritus, honorary doctor and honorary professor and submit its opinion to the Senate;

74.8. elect, through an open competition and by secret ballot, candidates to the positions of the heads of its structural units and forms of the organization of activities and submit the nominations of the said candidates to the Rector. Should the nominations submitted are not approved by the Rector, the Council shall nominate other candidates;

74.9. perform other functions laid down in legal acts and this Statute.

75. The resolutions of the Council of the University academic unit shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes. The said resolutions shall not conflict with the resolutions of the Council and the Senate and shall be binding on all the heads, employees and students of the University academic unit and its structural units. The said resolutions may be temporarily suspended by the Rector and recalled by the Council of the University academic unit or by the Senate.

76. Meetings of the Council of the University academic unit shall be convened at least twice a semester. At the proposal of at least 1/3 of the members of the Council of the University academic unit, an extraordinary meeting of the Council of the University academic unit shall be convened not later than within 5 days from the date of the submission of the proposal to the Head of the University academic unit. The proposal shall specify the issue on which the

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meeting is to be convened. Meetings of the Council of the University academic unit shall be legitimate if attended by at least 2/3 of the members of the Council of the University academic unit.

77. The Head of the University academic unit, acting in accordance with the requirements laid down in this Statute and the resolutions of the Council of the University academic unit, shall head the University academic unit, act on its behalf, represent its interests and bear the responsibility for the assets of the University academic unit. The nomination of the Head of the University academic unit from the body of scientists or established artists shall be approved by the Senate on the recommendation of the Rector. The Head of the University academic unit shall be dismissed from office upon the expiry of the term of office of the Rector. Upon the expiry of the term of office of the Head of the University academic unit, this person shall be entitled to return without competition to the position of a teacher or a research worker held before or during his/her term of office and hold the said position for a period of 5 years.

78. The Head of the University academic unit shall perform the following functions:

78.1. implement resolutions adopted by the Senate and the Council of the University academic unit, the Rector's orders;

78.2. issue orders binding on the employees and students of the University academic unit;

78.3. coordinate the activities of the structural units of the University academic unit;

78.4. take care of the organization of activities in the University academic unit;

78.5. bear the responsibility for internal procedures of the University academic unit;

78.6. submit proposals to the Rector for the admission and expulsion of the University students in accordance with the Study Regulations;

78.7. submit proposals to the Rector for the granting of incentives to and the imposition of disciplinary penalties on students in accordance with the procedure established by the Study Regulations;

78.8. report annually to the Council of the University academic unit on the activities of the University academic unit;

78.9. perform other functions laid down in legal acts and this Statute.

79. Orders of the Head of the University academic unit may be recalled by the Council of the University academic unit by the majority of all its members or by the Rector.

80. The Head of the University academic unit may delegate part of his/her functions to his/her deputies. The nomination of the Deputy from the body of teachers or research workers

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of the University academic unit shall be approved and rejected by the Rector on the recommendation of the Head of the University academic unit. The term of office of the Deputy shall expire upon the expiry of the term of office of the Head of the University academic unit. Upon the expiry of the term of office of the Head of the University academic unit, this person shall be entitled to return without competition to the position of a teacher or a research worker held before or during his/her term of office and hold the said position for a period of 5 years.

81. The advisory body for the management of the University academic unit shall consist of the Head of the University academic unit, deputies and other members of the University academic unit. The advisory body for the management of the University academic unit shall be presided over by the Head of the University academic unit.

82. The advisory body for the management of the University academic unit shall perform the following functions:

82.1. prepare a report on the activities of the University academic unit;

82.2. prepare strategic action plans of the University academic unit;

82.3. consider organizational issues;

82.4. prepare an estimate of the distribution of funds centrally received by the University academic unit;

82.5. perform other functions laid down in legal acts and this Statute.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

83. The University community shall consist of academia, employees of administration and non-academic units, alumni, communities of institutions established by the University and other stakeholders who take active part in the University activities.

84. The University academic community shall consist of students, teaching staff, research staff, other researchers, professors emeritus, rectors emeritus, associate teachers or researchers and other stakeholders directly involved in study, science, and art activities. Rights, duties and responsibilities of the academic community shall be stipulated by this Statute, other laws, documents approved by the University management bodies and other legal acts.

85. The members of the academic community shall be entitled to form and to join the University organizations.

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### SECTION 1 STUDENTS

86. The University students shall be persons enrolled in the study programs or doctoral studies. The University unclassified students shall be persons enrolled in the University non-formal adult education program or separate study courses (modules).

87. Student Identification Cards shall be issued to the University students in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.

88. The students shall be entitled to the following rights:

88.1. to study in the chosen study program;

88.2. to study according to an individual study plan following the procedure stipulated in the Study Regulations;

88.3. to study in more than one study program or other study courses at the University or in another higher education institution;

88.4. to assess the teaching quality of the courses studied and the quality of the provision of study equipment and facilities;

88.5. to choose teachers if the same course is taught by several teachers;

88.6. to propose their own final thesis topic or choose from several proposed topics;

88.7. to account for the assigned work by using alternative methods in case of disability which causes difficulties in accounting for the assigned work in accordance with the regular procedure provided for in the Study Regulations;

88.8. to apply to the University administration for the validation of the learning outcomes achieved at the University or any other Lithuanian or foreign higher education institution;

88.9. to apply in writing to the University administration and/or Dispute Resolution Commission for the violations of their statutory rights and legitimate interests;

88.10. to terminate and resume studies in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the Study Regulations approved by the Senate;

88.11. to take an academic leave without losing the student status and to continue studies after the academic leave in a state-funded position, provided that they held this position before taking the academic leave;

88.12. to exercise freedom of thoughts and attitudes;

88.13. to participate in the University management bodies;

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88.14. to undertake a voluntary practice or internship that is not part of the study program;

88.15. to elect the members of the Student Representative Council and to be elected to the Council; to join other associations freely;

88.16. in case of failure of the examination or other final assessment, to retake it once free of charge in accordance with the Study Regulations;

88.17. to exercise the rights established by this Statute and other legal acts.

89. The students shall have the following duties:

89.1. to achieve the learning outcomes set out in the study program description;

89.2. to comply with this Statute, the Study Regulations and the University internal rules of procedure;

89.3. to comply with the University Code of Academic Ethics.

90. Other students' rights and obligations as well as the procedure for granting incentives to and imposing disciplinary penalties on students shall be established in the Study Regulations in coordination with the Student Representative Council.

91. There shall be the Dispute Resolution Commission functioning at the University. This Commission shall settle disputes of students and the administration or other staff in connection with research and study activities. The University and its Student Representative Council shall each appoint an equal number of authorised persons to the Dispute Resolution Commission. The procedure for settling disputes and implementing decisions shall be established by the Senate, in agreement with the Student Representative Council.

92. The University students' self-governance:

92.1. the interests of the University students shall be represented in the management bodies, advisory and dispute resolution structures of the University and its units by the student representatives appointed by the Student Representative Council in accordance with its own procedures;

92.2. the general conference of the students shall be a meeting of the representatives (delegates) of the University academic units. The meeting shall be deemed legitimate if attended by more than half of the representatives (delegates) of the University academic unit. The meeting of the representatives (delegates) of the University academic unit shall elect the management bodies of the Student Representative Council in accordance with the approved regulations;

92.3 the Student Representative Council shall consist of the students elected by the

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representatives (delegates) of the University academic units. The Student Representative Council shall represent students of all study cycles proportionally. The Student Representative Council shall operate in accordance with the principles of universality, transparency and openness, its regulations, this Statute, laws and other legal acts;

92.4. the student representatives shall be delegated to the University management bodies in accordance with the principles of universality, transparency and openness and the procedure established in the regulations of the Student Representative Council. The student representatives shall have a decisive vote in the activities of the University management bodies;

92.5. the Student Representative Council shall represent the University students in national and international student organizations.

93. The Student Representative Council shall be entitled to obtain information and explanations from the University and its units on all issues pertaining to studies.

94. The University, acting in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the University Council, shall support the Student Representative Council and other student organizations, provide premises for them and fund their activities, as well as provide funds for the students' cultural, sports and public activities.

95. The Student Representative Council shall have the right to express its views on all issues of student concern. The meeting of the representatives of the University academic units shall have the right to request a reconsideration of the decisions made by the University management bodies in relation to the students.

96. The Student Representative Council and other student organizations shall, in accordance with the procedure established by the University Council, report to the Rector once a year on the use of the funds provided by the University.

## **SECTION 2 TEACHING STAFF**

97. The positions of the University teaching staff shall be as follows: professor, associate professor, lecturer, assistant.

98. A scientist or an established artist or a doctor of arts engaged in artistic activities may hold the position of a professor. A scientist who holds the position of a professor shall train scientists, teach students, conduct research and experimental, social, cultural development activities and direct them, announce research results. An established artist or a doctor of arts

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who holds the position of a professor shall train professional artists, teach students, participate in artistic activities and/or develop art research areas and direct them, announce research results.

99. A scientist or an established artist or a doctor of arts engaged in artistic activities may hold the position of an associate professor. A scientist who holds the position of an associate professor shall teach students, conduct research and experimental, social and cultural development activities, announce the results of these activities. An established artist or a doctor of arts who holds the position of an associate professor shall train professional artists, teach students, participate in artistic activities.

100. A scientist or a person with at least a Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification may apply for the position of a lecturer. A lecturer shall teach students, perform methodical work.

101. A person with at least a Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification may apply for the position of an assistant. An assistant shall direct practical training of students (practical work, trainings, student practice, etc.), assist in carrying out research and experimental, social, cultural development activities. The latter requirement may not apply to assistants in art studies of the University.

102. The qualification requirements for the positions of teachers, the organization of competitions for these positions and the procedure for the certification of the teaching staff shall be established by the Senate.

103. The teaching staff of the University may be released from pedagogical work for scientific and/or artistic research and for the improvement of scientific, artistic and pedagogical qualification for a maximum of one year during a five-year term of tenure or every five years in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Senate. For research (artistic) or pedagogical activities of that period the teaching staff shall be accountable to the Senate. During that period, a teacher shall be paid his/her average salary.

### **SECTION 3 RESEARCH STAFF**

104. The research staff of the University shall be researchers holding the positions of a chief research worker, senior research worker, research worker, junior research worker and postdoctoral fellowship holders.

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105. A scientist may hold the position of a chief research worker. A chief research worker shall train researchers, direct research and experimental, social, cultural development, announce research results.

106. A scientist may hold the position of a senior research worker. A senior research worker shall direct research and experimental, social, cultural development, announce research results.

107. A researcher may hold the position of a research worker. A research worker shall conduct research and experimental, social, cultural development, announce the results of these activities.

108. A person with at least a Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification may apply for the position of a junior research worker. A junior research worker shall conduct or assist in conducting research and experimental, social and cultural development activities and prepare to apply for doctoral studies.

109. Persons shall be appointed to the position of a postdoctoral grant holder in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania.

110. The minimum qualification requirements for the positions of research workers, except for the position of postdoctoral fellowship holders, shall be laid down by the Research Council of Lithuania.

111. The qualification requirements for the positions of researchers, except for the position of postdoctoral fellowship holders, and the procedure for organizing competitions for these positions shall be established by the Senate.

112. The qualification requirements for the positions of postdoctoral fellowship holders, the procedure for appointment to these positions and the financing of their traineeships shall be established by the Minister of Education and Science on the recommendation of the Research Council of Lithuania.

113. The status of an associate researcher or teacher may be granted by the decision of the Senate to a researcher or teacher who has worked at the University and maintains research or artistic relations with the University, i.e. prepares joint research or artistic publications with the University staff, conducts joint research, experimental, social, cultural development or art projects, advising them on scientific, artistic or pedagogical or similar matters but working elsewhere on a temporary basis (up to the end of their term of office and on a contract of indefinite duration for a maximum of five years). An associate researcher or teacher, if

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approved by the Senate, may return to his/her previous position without a competition and hold office until the end of the interrupted term. Periods of employment elsewhere shall also be included in the term of office.

### **SECTION 4 PROFESSORS EMERITUS**

114. The Senate may award the title of a Rector Emeritus to a person who has held the position of a Rector for at least one full term of office, for his/her special merits to the University, research, art, culture and politics in accordance with the regulations approved by the Senate.

115. Professors who have actively performed scientific or artistic and/or pedagogical work at the University may be awarded the title of a Professor Emeritus by the Senate for special merits in science or art in accordance with the regulations approved by the Senate.

116. Rectors Emeritus and Professors Emeritus have the right to continue to participate in research and other activities of the University in accordance with the procedure established by the Senate. A Rector Emeritus or Professor Emeritus shall, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Rector, be paid from the University's funds a monthly allowance of a Rector Emeritus or Professor Emeritus, fixed by the Council.

### **SECTION 5 UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION**

117. The University has the administration necessary for the performance of administrative functions of the University and its units, as well as the administrative and other staff necessary for the implementation of the tasks of the University's study, research and experimental, social, artistic and cultural development, economic activities.

118. The administration shall consist of the employees of the University, with the exception of the heads of the structural units of the academic units of the University, who shall have the right to give orders within the limits of their competence to subordinate employees. In addition to administrative duties, they may carry out pedagogical and/or research work.

119. The number of the administration staff and other employees of the University, their rights, duties and functions shall be established by the Rector.

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### SECTION 6

#### **RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE TEACHING AND RESEARCH STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY**

120. The teaching and research staff of the University shall have the following rights:

120.1. to participate in consideration of the Statute, its amendments, other internal acts and activities of the University;

120.2. within the limits of their competence to participate in competitions for implementation of research programs and obtaining of support from higher education and research funds and have the assigned funds at their disposition in accordance with the requirements of financial accountability;

120.3. to participate in competitions for internships in the Republic of Lithuania and abroad;

120.4. to receive from public authorities the information necessary for research work in accordance with the procedure laid down by legal acts;

120.5. to participate in various associations, trade unions and other organizations;

120.6. to independently publish their research and/or artistic works;

120.7. to work independently or join creative groups.

121. The teaching and research staff of the University shall comply with the requirements of the Code of Academic Ethics of the University, this Statute, the terms and conditions of their employment contract, other legal acts.

### SECTION 7

#### **ADMISSION TO THE POSITIONS OF TEACHERS AND RESEARCH WORKERS**

Persons shall be admitted to the positions of teachers or research workers of the University, except for postdoctoral fellowship holders and visiting teachers and research workers, by means of open competition for a five-year term of tenure. The procedure for organizing competitions to take the positions of teachers or research workers shall be established by the Senate.

123. At least 3 months before the end of the term of tenure of a teacher or research worker, an open competition for this position shall be announced, except as provided for in the Law on Science and Studies or other legal acts. A person who already holds this position may

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also participate in the competition. An announcement about the competition for this position shall be published on the websites of the University and the Research Council of Lithuania, and by means of mass communication.

124. A person, who has the second time in succession won the competition to hold the same position of a teacher or research worker, shall conclude an employment contract of unlimited duration for holding this position. Performance evaluation of this person shall be carried out every five years in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Senate. A teacher or research worker who fails the performance evaluation shall be dismissed from the position in accordance with the procedure established by law. Persons shall be accepted to a higher position of a teacher or research worker by means of open competition.

125. An extraordinary performance evaluation of a teacher or research worker of the University may be initiated in accordance with the procedure established by the Senate.

126. Candidates for the positions of teachers and research workers, with the exception of postdoctoral fellowship holders, shall be evaluated by the Admission Commission to be established in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Senate. At least 1/3 of the members of the Admission Commission shall be persons not employed at the University, at least one of whom shall be a student representative delegated by the Student Representative Council of the University. If a competition for the position of a chief research worker or professor is organized, at least one international expert shall be a member of the Admission Commission.

127. The Rector may invite teachers and research workers to work under a fixed-duration employment contract for a period not exceeding two years without a competition.

128. Employees shall be employed and dismissed by the Rector's order in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.

129. Labor disputes shall be examined by the Labor Dispute Settlement Commission in accordance with the procedure established by the Labor Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

## **CHAPTER V STUDIES**

### **SECTION 1 STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY SYSTEM**

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130. The University study system shall consist of degree studies to obtain a qualification degree or doctorate in science, arts, and professional studies for acquisition of a qualification or preparation for independent practical activities.

131. Degree study programs shall be as follows:

131.1. first cycle: Bachelor studies (a Bachelor's degree shall be awarded which gives the right to engage in professional activities and/or continue studies in Master's degree study programs). First cycle studies shall develop general erudition, provide theoretical fundamentals in the study field and develop professional skills necessary for independent work. These studies shall be focused on universal education, theoretical preparation and professional skills of the highest level;

131.1. second cycle: Master studies (a Master's degree shall be awarded which gives the right to engage in professional activities and/or continue studies in doctoral studies). Second cycle studies shall prepare students for independent research/artistic work or other work that requires scientific knowledge and analytical skills. Persons who have completed the second cycle theological study programs, upon agreement with the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, shall be awarded a degree of Licentiate in Theology;

131.3. integrated studies covering first and second cycle studies (a Master's degree shall be awarded which gives the right to engage in professional activities and/or continue studies in doctoral studies);

131.4. third cycle: doctoral studies in science or art (a degree of the Doctor of Science or Doctor of Arts shall be awarded).

132. Degree studies shall be full-time and part-time. Part-time studies may be less intensive, but the total duration of studies shall not be 1.5 times longer than the duration of full-time studies.

133. The University may carry out joint study programs with higher education institutions of the Republic of Lithuania or foreign countries, on completion of which a joint qualification degree is awarded, as well as programs on completion of which a double qualification degree is awarded. A double qualification degree shall be awarded when a study program meets the requirements set out in the descriptions of both study fields.

134. Upon completion of study programs of the first and the second cycles as well as of integrated studies, a diploma attesting the awarded qualification degree shall be issued together with a diploma supplement (addendum); upon completion of doctoral studies and defense of a dissertation, a diploma attesting a scientific (art) degree shall be issued. A

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supplement (addendum) of a diploma shall be a constituent part of the diploma, a document which provides information on the content of the acquired higher education. The University diploma blanks shall be original and registered in accordance to the procedure approved by the Minister of Education and Science.

135. Vocational study programs are designed to acquire a qualification or prepare for independent practical activities. Upon completion, a certificate of qualification shall be issued.

136. In order to meet the needs of the society and economy, the University may also organize non-formal studies aimed at re-qualification of persons, their qualification development and improvement of professional skills.

### **SECTION 2 DOCTORAL STUDIES**

137. Doctoral studies shall be comprised of studies, scientific research, preparation of the doctoral dissertation and its defense.

138. The purpose of doctoral studies shall be to train researchers who would be able to independently conduct research and experimental, social, cultural development work, and to solve scientific problems. Persons who have defended the doctoral dissertation shall be awarded a degree of the Doctor of Science.

139. The purpose of doctoral studies in the field of art shall be to train artists researchers who would be able to create, interpret and develop research based on art practice. Persons who have defended an art project shall be awarded a degree of the Doctor of Arts.

140. The organization of doctoral studies, the defense of dissertations and the order of granting a doctor's degree shall be laid down in the University's Provisions on Doctoral Studies, approved by the Senate, prepared according to the Regulations of Doctoral Studies of Science and Doctoral Studies of Art approved by the Minister of Education and Science.

### **SECTION 3 QUALITY ASSURANCE OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH**

141. The quality of research (artistic) activities and studies shall be ensured by the University's internal quality assurance system, external evaluation of studies, external evaluation of research activities and external evaluation and/or accreditation of the University.

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142. The internal quality assurance system of studies and research shall be based on the European Higher Education Area quality assurance provisions and the strategy of the University activity quality improvement approved by the Senate that outlines the means and ways of activity involving the academic community of the University, other employees and social partners into quality improvement activities.

143. The members of the University community, in accordance to their duties, shall be responsible for a continuous improvement of the internal quality assurance system of research and studies, as well as for the overall quality culture development at the University.

144. The University shall announce information about study programs, qualifications awarded, key indicators of research and study quality on the University website and in other ways.

145. The University shall constantly carry out self-assessment of research (artistic) activities.

146. The activities of the University shall be constantly improved with due regard to the conclusions of self-assessment and external evaluation.

## **SECTION 4**

### **STUDENT ADMISSION AND EXPULSION POLICY**

147. Persons who have passed at least one national maturity examination and have completed at least secondary education shall be admitted by way of competition to a study program of the first cycle and integrated study programs with due regard to learning results and/or entrance examinations or other criteria laid down by the University. The conditions and procedures for admission to the University's first cycle and integrated study programs shall be established by the Senate.

148. Persons with higher education qualification shall be admitted to the second cycle study programs in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Study Regulations.

149. Persons applying for studies in non-formal education programs or separate study courses (groups thereof) shall be admitted in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Study Regulations.

150. The following penalties may apply to students for a failure to comply with their duties in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Study Regulations: remark, reprimand, severe reprimand, expulsion from the University with the right to continue studies,

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expulsion from the University without the right to continue studies.

### **CHAPTER VI UNIVERSITY FUNDING AND ASSETS**

#### **SECTION 1 UNIVERSITY FUNDS**

151. University funds shall consist of the following:

- 151.1. state budget funds for studies;
- 151.2. resources of the basic funding of the state budget;
- 151.3. income received as payment for studies;
- 151.4. income received from research, experimental, social, cultural development, artistic activities, economic, research activities and rendered services;
- 151.5. funds from sponsorship;
- 151.6. funds received as inheritance or a gift;
- 151.7. funds of state investment programs and state investment projects;
- 151.8. funds received as competition-based program funding of research, experimental, social and cultural development;
- 151.9. funds of state funds;
- 151.10. funds allocated by international and foreign funds and organizations;
- 151.11. income received when managing, using and disposing of the University assets;
- 151.12. income received as the result of intellectual activity;
- 151.13. other funds received in legal ways.

#### **SECTION 2 FUNDS OF THE BASIC FUNDING OF THE STATE BUDGET**

152. The funds of the basic funding of the state budget shall be allocated for:

- 152.1. research, experimental, social, cultural development and artistic activities;
- 152.2. administration and economy;
- 152.3. maintenance of complex infrastructure facilities;
- 152.4. other needs.

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### **SECTION 3 STATE BUDGET FUNDS FOR STUDIES**

153. State budget funds for studies shall be allocated:

153.1. to cover the cost of studies in the state-funded study places in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts;

153.2. to compensate the cost of studies paid by students in the study places not funded by the state who have achieved the best results in their studies in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts;

153.3. social scholarships, study grants and other support.

### **SECTION 4 SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS**

154. Students may be granted social, incentive and study scholarships.

155. Social scholarships from the state budget funds may be granted in the manner prescribed by the Government to the University students of the first cycle, the second cycle and the integrated studies.

156. Incentive scholarships from the funds of the University or other funds may be granted to the best students taking into consideration their study results or other academic achievements. The University fund of incentive scholarships shall be composed and the said scholarships shall be granted in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Senate, after agreement with the Student Representative Council.

157. Other types of support may be provided to the University students from the state budget funds in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Government.

158. University students shall have the right to receive other support from legal entities, other organizations, their divisions and natural persons.

### **SECTION 5 COST OF STUDIES**

159. The University may admit students who have agreed to pay for their studies upon signing a contract.

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160. The cost of studies shall be determined by the University Council on the recommendation of the Rector. The cost of studies shall be indicated in the Description of Procedure for Admission to Vytautas Magnus University.

161. The cost of studies at the University shall be determined considering the expenses necessary for studies:

161.1. salaries of teachers, research workers and other employees related to studies;

161.2. to purchase goods and services related to studies;

161.3. to give incentives to students.

162. The cost of studies or part of it for persons studying in the places not funded by the state may be covered by the employers of the students, the University or other natural and legal persons.

### SECTION 6

#### **MANAGEMENT, USE AND DISPOSAL OF THE UNIVERSITY ASSETS**

163. The assets of the University shall include land plots, buildings and other tangibles as well as funds, securities, property rights, results of intellectual activity, information, actions and their results, other property and non-property values.

164. The University shall manage, use and have the assets at its disposal, following the principles of public benefit, efficiency, rationality, accountability to the public and autonomy of economic activities.

165. The University shall exercise the right of inviolability of land plots, buildings and other assets intended for research and study purposes. Only the Government, having obtained the consent of at least 7 members of the Council, may change the boundaries of state-owned land, buildings or other assets intended for research and study purposes, used for the use of the University, by way of trust. If the Council does not agree, the boundaries of land plots or the managers of state buildings or other assets intended for research and study purposes may be changed by the Seimas.

166. The University shall manage, use and dispose of the assets transferred to it by the state and the municipality by the right of trust and in accordance with the procedures laid down by law.

167. The following shall comprise the assets managed, used and disposed by the University by the right of ownership:

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167.1. assets invested by the state;

167.2. income received as payment for studies as well as income from research, experimental, social, cultural development, economic, research activities and rendered services;

167.3. funds and other assets received as support under the Law on Charity and Sponsorship of the Republic of Lithuania;

167.4. other monetary funds, with the exception of state budget funds;

167.5. assets acquired from the state budget and from the funds provided for in sub-paragraphs 167.1, 167.2, 167.3, 167.4 of this Statute, except for real estate obtained from the European Union support, state budget and state funds;

167.6. donated assets;

167.7. inherited assets;

167.8. property rights arising from intellectual activity results;

167.9. income, assets or other benefits arising from the management, use and disposal of funds or other assets referred to in sub-paragraphs 167.1-167.8 of this Statute, except as provided for in the Law on Science and Studies.

168. Land or other assets acquired from non-budget funds, received as a gift or inheritance shall be managed, used and disposed by the University under the property right in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.

169. The University shall have the right to borrow, i.e. sign loan and leasing (financial lease) agreements as well as other debt documents in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.

170. The University, supported by the state, shall preserve and increase its assets.

## SECTION 7

### MANAGEMENT OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS AND ASSETS

171. The University shall manage its funds and assets independently in accordance with the procedure established by the Council.

172. The Rector shall be responsible for management, use and disposal of the University funds and assets.

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### **SECTION 8 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE UNIVERSITY**

173. State assets transferred according to the Agreement of Trust shall be included into the accounting separately from the rest of the University assets.

174. Each year (no later than March) the University shall publicly announce and submit to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and the Seimas the reports on activities of the previous calendar year, as well as publicly announce annual revenue and expenditure estimates and reports on their implementation.

### **CHAPTER VII ORGANIZATIONS AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY**

#### **SECTION 1 UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONS**

175. Non-political organizations, groups, associations and clubs may be established to meet the professional, creative, cultural, social, sports or other needs of the University teaching, research and other staff, as well as students, the regulations of which do not contradict this Statute and the laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

176. The regulations of the University organizations, groups, associations and clubs shall be approved by the Rector on the recommendation of the Rectorate.

#### **SECTION 2 UNIVERSITY ATTRIBUTES**

177. The University and its academic units shall have authentic flags, signs and other attributes.

178. Other units and organizations of the University may have their own attributes provided for in their regulations or statutes.

179. The University attributes shall be registered in accordance with the procedure established by the Rector.

180. The members of the Council and the Senate, the Rector, Vice-Rectors, Chancellors

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of the Academies and the members of the Councils of the Academies, heads of other academic units, professors, emeritus, as well as honorary doctors and honorary professors may have togs, which shall be worn during ceremonies.

### **CHAPTER VIII**

#### **ADOPTION, AMENDMENT AND SUPERVISION OF THE STATUTE**

181. Amendments to this Statute shall be submitted to the Seimas for approval by the Council in agreement with the Senate. The decision of the Council to submit amendments to the Statute of the University to the Seimas for approval may be adopted by a majority of at least 7 votes of the members of the Council.

182. The Statute of the University and/or its amendments shall be approved by the Seimas.

183. Compliance with this Statute shall be supervised by the University Statute Supervisory Commission consisting of 6 members established on the basis of parity between the Council, the Senate and the Rector. The Commission shall perform the following main functions:

183.1. supervise compliance of the University with the requirements of this Statute, investigate violations of this Statute, submit proposals to the Council, the Senate and the Rector on how to eliminate them;

183.2. examine disagreements between the units of the University, submit proposals to the Council, the Senate and the Rector on how to solve them.