

Statute of the Gutenberg Teaching Council of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

of November 5, 2010, in the version of the orders of the Senate of September 23, 2011

1. The Gutenberg Teaching Council (GTC) is a central academic institution of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) directly responsible to the University President (§ 90 University Act).
2. Irrespective of the responsibility of the JGU faculties to secure and organize the course offerings, the GTC aims at the promotion and consistent further development of teaching and academic teaching competence at Mainz University while taking into account its research orientation, its interdisciplinary and international character, and its professional orientation. It shall also make well-founded academic contributions to the further development and improvement of course structures and conditions of learning and studying at JGU.
3. The GTC has predominantly strategic tasks. These include:
 - 3.1 Participating in the updating of the teaching strategy of the university as a whole;
 - 3.2 Advising the university administration and, on request, the Senate, the faculties, and the University Council on fundamental aspects of the design and further development of teaching and course structures at JGU.
4. In accordance with the means available, the GTC may also implement appropriate measures to ensure the further development and improvement of teaching, of the existent academic teaching competence as well as the course structures at JGU. Particular stress will be placed on encouraging a reflective awareness of teaching and learning processes at all levels of the university. These measures include:
 - 4.1 the creation of appropriate panels and networks within JGU which facilitate the exchange of teaching experience and the development of systematic pedagogical models and identify multidimensional preconditions for a sustainable implementation of good teaching;
 - 4.2 the support of the setup of projects which aim at both improving teaching abilities and competence and making an innovative contribution to the further development of teaching in general. For that, JGU's permanent teaching staff may be granted a sabbatical from teaching on the basis of external assessment and with the approval of the faculty in question.;
 - 4.3 the provision of additional grants to encourage young academics to take up temporary teaching posts at other universities, particularly outside Germany, in order to improve their teaching skills;
 - 4.4 the promotion of national and international exchange of information and experience in the field of practical teaching and teaching and learning research by way of inviting and financing the stay of external academics with proven expertise at JGU for a maximum period of six months;
 - 4.5 the initiation of proceedings for the tendering, selection, and implementation of innovative teaching projects and their further development;

- 4.6 the presentation of the Gutenberg or Lecture Award to excellent international academics and scientists, aiming at the consolidation of cooperation in the promotion of young researchers.

5. Organization of the GTC

The GTC is managed by an Executive Committee that is advised by an external Academic Advisory Board.

5.1 The Executive Committee

5.1.1 The Executive Committee shall decide on all matters concerning the execution of strategic tasks and the implementation of measures planned by the GTC.

5.1.2 The Executive Committee shall be composed of 11 members of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. Six members shall be appointed from the body of senior university teachers and represent JGU's various faculties. They have to be experienced teachers with a proven record of excellence in teaching. Two members shall be appointed from among the other academic staff. They must also have a proven record of excellence in teaching. Two members shall be appointed from the student body. They must have a proven record of excellent student performance. One member shall be appointed from the non-academic staff involved in teaching support activities.

The members of the Executive Committee are to be appointed by the JGU President with the approval of the University Senate. For each member a deputy with equal rights is to be appointed, who must be kept informed about all activities relating to the GTC and who may attend all meetings. Entitled to vote is either the Executive Committee member or – in case of being prevented – his or her deputy.

5.1.3 The Vice President for Learning and Teaching shall attend the meetings of the Executive Council in an advisory capacity.

5.1.4 Membership in the Executive Committee is limited to a period of three years. Members may be reappointed once. The students' membership shall end after three years or at the time of their removal from the register of students. If the latter occurs within the student's period in office, a new student member has to be elected for the remaining period. If members of the other groups resign early, there also have to be successor appointments.

5.1.5 During his or her membership, a member of the Executive Committee may not take a sabbatical.

5.1.6 The Executive Committee elects its spokesperson from the group of senior university teachers. In consultation with the Vice President for Learning and Teaching, this spokesperson shall assume responsibility for the management and administration of the GTC. In addition, a deputy shall be elected representing the spokesperson in case he or she is prevented.

5.2 The Academic Advisory Board

5.2.1 The Academic Advisory Board shall monitor the work of the GTC. It gives advice to the Executive Committee of the GTC and receives the annual statement of accounts prepared by the Executive Committee. Based on this statement of accounts, the Academic Advisory Board shall report to the University Senate once a year on the performance of the Gutenberg Teaching Council.

- 5.2.2 The Academic Advisory Board shall be composed of five excellent members of the teaching staff of both German and foreign external academic institutions.
- 5.2.3 The Academic Advisory Board shall meet as required. Its meetings shall be convened by the spokesperson of the Executive Committee. The JGU Vice President for Learning and Teaching may attend the meetings of the Academic Advisory Board in an advisory capacity.
- 5.2.4 The Executive Committee shall propose new members to be appointed to the Academic Advisory Board by the JGU President for a period of three years.
6. Administrative support to the GTC
The Gutenberg Teaching Council as well as its Executive Committee and its Academic Advisory Board are to be supported by a postgraduate research associate who is subordinate to the spokesperson of the GTC Executive Committee.
7. Quality assurance
The Gutenberg Teaching Council shall be evaluated with regard to the appropriateness of its objectives, processes, structures, and performance after a maximum period of five years.
8. Date of coming into effect
This statute shall take effect as of 1 January 2011.