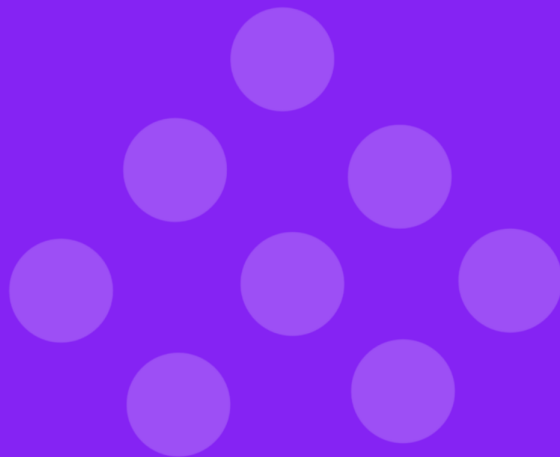




 Quality Agreements

Overview

of consent and advisory rights



Overview of consent and advisory rights

As a member of a co-determination council (medezeggenschap), you have certain rights at your disposal. These rights are intended to enable you to perform your work to the best of your ability. They are officially documented in the Higher Education and Scientific Research Act (WHW for short). Throughout this document, we will note in what articles of the WHW you can find the rights listed. Articles from chapter 9 apply to universities, those from chapter 10 concern universities of applied sciences (hbo). For decisions taken decentrally (at the level of a faculty, academy, etc), these rights transfer to the council at that level (WHW [9.37.2](#); [10.25.1](#)).

Right to consent

As a member of the central council, you have legally established approval rights concerning specific documents. These include, for example:

- The institutional plan (multi-year strategic policy plan)
- The manner in which the institution assesses or has assessments of its own quality, and the measures taken in response to these results
- The student charter
- The budget outline

As a council, you also have (had) the right to consent on the plan for the quality agreements at your university (of applied sciences). The quality agreements are also part of the budget outline, granting you annual approval rights over the amounts allocated to quality agreements for that year. (WHW [9.33.2](#); [10.20.3](#); [Investeren in Onderwijskwaliteit Kwaliteitsafspraken 2019-2024, pagina 3](#))

At your institution, there may be additional matters over which you have the right to consent, as specified in a regulation. The validity of this regulation and any amendments require the approval of at least two-thirds of the representative council. (WHW [9.34.3a](#); [10.22.a](#))

Right to information

The executive board is obligated to provide you with all the necessary information you need to fulfil your tasks as a council member adequately. If you do not receive this information already, you have the right to request it. (WHW [9.32.6](#) [10.19.6](#))

Advisory right

As a council, you have the right to provide advice to the board, whether solicited or unsolicited, as outlined in the WHW. You can formally provide advice to the board at any time. Within three months, the board is required to respond officially, including making a reasoned proposal based on the council's advice. Before finalising this proposal, discussions must also take place with the council.

(WHW [9.32.2](#); [10.19.2](#))

Furthermore, the board is obligated to seek the council's advice before making certain decisions. This includes, among other things:

- The budget
- General personnel and appointment policies
- Selection criteria and procedures

The same applies to the Supervisory Board (Raad van Toezicht or RvT), which must seek advice when drafting a profile for new members of the Executive Board and/or the Supervisory Board, as well as when appointing or dismissing new members of the Executive Board. (WHW [9.33a](#); [10.20a](#))

At universities, the Executive Board must seek advice from the relevant faculty council when appointing or dismissing a dean. (WHW [9.13.2](#))

To ensure that your advice can truly have an impact, the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board must ensure the following:

- They must request advice in good time, allowing you to be able to consider it attentively in your decision-making.
- As a council, you should have the opportunity to engage in discussions with the Executive Board prior to providing advice.
- You should be informed as soon as possible about how your advice will be incorporated into the decision-making process.
- In the event that the entire advice is not adopted (or only partly), the council should have the opportunity to discuss this with the Executive or Supervisory Board before the final decision is made.

(WHW [9.35](#); [10.23](#))

(Right to) facilities and training for participation

As a member of the central council, you are entitled to assistance and support provided by the Executive Board to help you fulfil your tasks effectively. You have the right to use certain facilities such as administrative, financial, and legal support and training.

Therefore, the Executive Board must allocate a training budget to the members of the council. The budget for this training is determined jointly by the Executive Board and the participation council. Teachers are entitled to attend this training during their working hours (i.e., with compensation).

Additionally, faculty councils and education committees also have the right to a training budget through this arrangement. At universities specifically, the responsibility for allocating that budget lies with the dean. is dit de juiste term?

(WHW [9.48](#); [10.39](#))

Quality Agreements

Surrounding the quality agreements, additional arrangements have been established between the OCW, educational institutions, and student organisations within the so-called sector agreements ([WO](#); [HBO](#)). Within these agreements, national themes have been identified to guide the allocation of funds. Each institution was allowed to form its own policies and concrete measures. Student representation played, and continues to play, an important role in this process.

Student representation was granted the right to provide input when formulating the plans for quality agreements from 2019 to 2024. Once the plans were drawn up, student representatives were given the right to consent to the entire plan. It was also agreed that the quality agreements would form a yearly part of the budget, which is subject to the (student) council's right to consent.

To exercise these rights effectively, members of council must receive the necessary support from the institution. This entails having enough time for your tasks surrounding the quality agreements, as well as access to all the information required for reviewing and assessing a budget.

Between 2019 and 2024, institutions are required to include a separate chapter in their annual report to give an update on the progress of the quality agreements. This concerns both the content (what is being done) and the process (how things are being implemented). The process aspect should also include the involvement of and agreements with the student representation.

The annual report should also contain the perspective of student representation on the progress and process. Therefore, as a student council, you have the right to reflect on the content and process surrounding the quality agreements each year in an appendix of the annual report. This reflection is factored into the independent assessment of your institution by the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO). Hence, it is crucial to carefully prepare this document. If you're unsure how to start, you can check out the guide we have created^[1] for your assistance.

The rights as we have listed above are valid up to and including 2024. The current way of allocating the money from the quality agreements will end at that point, but there will still be funds invested in quality of education with involvement of the councils. At the moment we are writing this, the exact national outlines for this new system have not been finalised. What you can already do however, is discuss with your Board which rights and structures you would like to preserve. Make sure to start this discussion in time!

Finally, it was decided in the sector agreements that a service point would be established to address specific queries of student representation concerning quality agreements. Since 2018, the National Desk Quality Agreements is operational. You can always reach out to us with your questions, challenging situations, and support needs. [checklist jaarverslag](#) in linken



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