

UNIVERSITIES ACT

558/2009

(As amended up to 315 /2011)

Chapter 1. General provisions

Section 1. Application

1. This Act applies to universities which belong to the administrative sector of the Ministry of Education and Culture as provided below. (Amendment 954/2011)
2. The universities referred to in this Act are:
 - (1) University of Helsinki,
 - (2) University of Eastern Finland,
 - (3) University of Jyväskylä,
 - (4) University of Lapland,
 - (5) University of Oulu,
 - (6) University of Tampere,
 - (7) University of Turku,
 - (8) University of Vaasa,
 - (9) Åbo Akademi University,
 - (10) Lappeenranta University of Technology,
 - (11) Hanken School of Economics
 - (12) Academy of Fine Arts,
 - (13) Sibelius Academy
 - (14) Theatre Academy
 - (15) Aalto University Foundation operating as Aalto University
 - (16) TTY Foundation operating as Tampere University of Technology.
3. The universities referred to in paragraphs 1 - 14 in subsection 2 above shall be corporations under public law (public universities). In addition to this Act, Aalto University and Tampere University of Technology (foundation universities) shall be governed by the Foundations Act (109/1930).

4. The foundation universities shall be governed by this Act, save for Sections 5, 13 - 22, 60, 64, 65 and 67, Chapters 8 and 9 and Section 88.

Section 2. Mission

1. The mission of the universities is to promote free research and academic and artistic education, to provide higher education based on research, and to educate students to serve their country and humanity. In carrying out their mission, the universities must promote lifelong learning, interact with the surrounding society and promote the impact of research findings and artistic activities on society.
2. The universities must arrange their activities so as to assure a high international standard in research, education and teaching in conformity with ethical principles and good scientific practices.

Section 3. Autonomy

1. The universities shall have autonomy with a view to securing the freedom of higher academic and art education. Autonomy entails the right to decision-making in matters belonging to internal administration.
2. In the drafting of legislation concerning them, the universities shall have an opportunity to give their opinion on the matter.

Section 4. Membership in the university community

1. The university community comprises the teaching and research personnel, other staff and students.

Section 5. Legal capacity of public universities

1. The public universities are independent legal persons.
2. The public universities may undertake commitments, obtain rights in their own name and possess movable and immovable property. A university may pursue business activities which support the performance of the mission referred to in Section 2.
3. The public universities shall be liable for their commitments with their own funds and have the rights to pursue and defend litigation in court.

Chapter 2. Research and teaching

Section 6. Freedom of research, arts and teaching

1. The universities shall have freedom of research, art and teaching. However, a teacher must comply with the statutes and regulations issued concerning teaching arrangements.
2. Instruction in the universities shall be public. For well-founded reasons, access to teaching may be restricted.

Section 7. Degrees and other education and the degree structure

1. In the universities it is possible to study for lower and higher university degrees and for academic, artistic and professional postgraduate degrees. The universities may also provide continuing professional education and open university education.
2. The higher university degree is taken after the completion of the lower university degree or a corresponding education. In fields to be enacted by Government Decree, education for the higher university degree may be organised without the inclusion of a separate lower university degree where appropriate in terms of the professional demands of the field. The academic, artistic and professional postgraduate degree is taken after the completion of the higher university degree or a corresponding education.
3. Further provisions pertaining to the degrees awarded by the universities, the objectives of the degrees, the structure of the studies and other study requirements, and the degrees to be conferred by each university (educational responsibility) shall be enacted by Government Decree. Provisions pertaining to the status of university degrees in the system of higher education degrees shall be enacted by Government Decree. Provisions pertaining to a more explicit distribution of educational responsibilities among the universities, to fields and programmes of specialisation, and to the specialisation fields and programmes on offer in each university shall be enacted by Ministry of Education and Culture Decree based on the proposal of the university. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 8. Free education

1. Education leading to a university degree and entrance examinations relating to student admission shall be free of charge for the student, unless otherwise provided in this Act.

2. A person applying to education other than that given in Finnish or Swedish may be required to take a fee-charging international test. For activities other than those referred to in subsection 1 the university may charge fees. Further provisions concerning fees shall be enacted by Government Decree in conformity with the provisions concerning the cost price of transactions under public law in the Act on Criteria for Charges Payable to the State (150/1992).
3. If the fee chargeable to a student provided for in this Act has not been paid by the due date, it is possible to collect annual interest for late payment from the due date onwards in accordance with the provisions of the Interest Act (633/1982). The payment may be recovered by an enforcement order without a court decision as provided in the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Charges (706/2007).

Section 9. Made-to-order education

1. A university may arrange degree education geared to a group of students which has been commissioned and is paid by the Finnish government, another state, an international organisation, a Finnish or foreign public corporation, a foundation or a private corporation (*made-to-order education*).
2. Made-to-order education may not be arranged for citizens of states belonging to the European Economic Area or for persons who are considered equivalent to European Union citizens under European Community legislation or under a treaty concluded by the European Community and its Member States with another contracting party. A person participating in made-to-order education shall be governed by Sections 37, 37a, 37b, 43a–43d, 45, 45a, 45b and 82–86.
3. Instruction given as made-to-order education must relate to undergraduate or postgraduate education in which the university has the right to award degrees. The arrangement of made-to-order education may not undermine the undergraduate and postgraduate education provided by the university. The university must charge a fee for made-to-order education covering at least the costs incurring from it.

Section 10. Fee-charging degree programmes

1. A university may charge fees to a student admitted to a degree programme taught in a foreign language. The charging of fees shall be conditional on the university having a scholarship programme which can be used to support, where necessary, the studies of students participating in fee-charging Master's programmes.
2. However, fees cannot be charged to a citizen of a state belonging to the European Economic Area or to a person who is equivalent to a European Union citizen

under European Community legislation or under a treaty concluded by the European Community and its Member States with another contracting party. Nor can a fee be charged to a person who has a right to permanent residence in Finland under the Aliens Act (301/2004).

3. Provisions concerning fee-charging degree programmes shall be enacted by Ministry of Education and Culture Decree. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 11. Languages of instruction and examination

1. The languages of instruction and examination in the University of Helsinki, the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy and the Theatre Academy shall be Finnish and Swedish. The language of instruction and examination in Aalto University shall be governed by the provisions on the language of instruction and examination of its constituent Schools in Section 9 of the Universities Act of 1997 (645/1997). The language of instruction and examination of Åbo Akademi University, Hanken School of Economics, and the Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki shall be Swedish. The language of instruction in other universities shall be Finnish.
2. In addition, the university may decide to use a language other than that referred to in subsection 1 as a language of instruction and examination.

Section 12. Education of persons proficient in Swedish

1. Åbo Akademi University, Hanken School of Economics, the University of Helsinki, the University of Art and Design, Sibelius Academy, the Theatre Academy and Aalto University shall be responsible for educating a sufficient number of persons proficient in Swedish for the needs of the country.

Chapter 3. Organisation

Section 13. Organs of a public university

1. The organs of a public university are the board, the rector and the university collegiate body. The university may also have a chancellor and other organs, as stipulated in the university regulations.

Section 14. Board of the public university

1. The highest executive organ of a public university is the board.
2. The remit of the board shall be

- (1) to determine the foremost objectives of the university operations and economy, the strategy and management principles;
 - (2) to decide on the action and economic plan and the budget of the university and to prepare the financial statement;
 - (3) to be accountable for the management and use of the university assets, unless the board has devolved the power to the rector;
 - (4) to arrange the supervision of the accounting and asset management;
 - (5) to adopt agreements of major importance or fundamental consequence for the university and issue opinions on important matters of principle concerning the university;
 - (6) to adopt the agreement with the Ministry of Education and Culture referred to in Section 48 on behalf of the university;
 - (7) to elect the rector or rectors and decide on the division of work between them and to remove the rector from his/her office if there is a legitimate and well-founded reason for it in consideration of the nature of the office;
 - (8) to adopt the university regulations and other corresponding rules pertaining to general organisation and decide on the operational structure of the university;
 - (9) to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Education and Culture concerning a change in the educational responsibilities of the university;
 - (10) to decide on the number of students to be admitted to the university.
3. In addition, the board shall be charged with hiring the leading personnel working directly under the rector, unless the board has devolved the task to another university organ.

Section 15. Composition of the board of a public university

1. The board of a public university shall have 7 or 9–14 members. The university collegiate body shall decide on the number of board members.
2. The board must include the representation of the following groupings in the university community:
 - (1) the professors of the university;
 - (2) other teaching and research staff and other personnel;
 - (3) the students.
3. Each of the groupings referred to in subsection 2 may constitute no more than half of the aggregate number of members elected from amongst these groupings. The university collegiate body shall decide on the number of members representing the different groupings.

4. At a minimum, 40 per cent of the board members must be persons other than those referred to in subsection 2. They must represent a wide range of expertise in the sciences or arts in the field of operation of the university.
5. The members referred to in subsection 2 above shall be elected by the university community grouping concerned as provided in this Act and the university regulations, and the members referred to in subsection 4 shall be elected by the university collegiate body.
6. The rector, vice-rector, a director of a faculty or a unit directly subordinate to the board, or a member or a deputy member of the university collegiate body may not be a member of the board.
7. The board shall elect one of the members referred to in subsection 4 as its chairperson and one member as its vice-chairperson.

Section 16. Term of office of the board of a public university; resignation and dismissal of a member

1. The university collegiate body shall decide on the term of office of the board of a public university and of its individual members. However, the term of office may not exceed five years.
2. A board member may resign before the end of his/her term of office.
3. The board may propose the dismissal of a board member during his/her term of office if the member has become incapable of discharging the duties, has seriously violated the interests of the university by his/her action or if there is other especially strong reason for it. The decision on the dismissal of a member shall be made by the university collegiate body. The decision is enforceable regardless of a pending appeal unless otherwise decreed by the appellate authority.

Section 17. Rector of a public university

1. A public university has a rector.
2. The remit of the rector shall be
 - (1) to lead the operations of the university and resolve matters concerning the university which have not been assigned to some other organ by statute or regulation;
 - (2) to be responsible for the economical, efficient and effective discharge of the university mission;
 - (3) to be responsible for assuring that accounting is in compliance with the laws and that financial management is arranged in a reliable manner;

- (4) to be responsible for the preparation and presentation of matters which come before the board;
 - (5) to be responsible for the implementation of the board decisions unless otherwise decreed in the university regulations;
 - (6) to decide on the hiring and dismissal of staff.
3. The rector may undertake action which is far-reaching in terms of the university mission only where the board has authorised him/her to do so or where it is impossible to wait for the decision of the board without causing essential harm to the operation of the university. In the latter case, the board must be informed of the action without delay.
4. The rector may devolve the hiring of personnel or other matters within his/her remit to another organ or person. The rector shall have the right to be present and speak at the meetings of all the organs of the university.
5. The university may have vice-rectors as decreed in the university regulations.

Section 18. Election of the rector of a public university

1. The rector of a public university shall be elected by the board of the university for a maximum term of five years. The requirement for the rector elect is that he/she has a doctorate degree and the competence required for discharging the duties as well as proven good leadership skills. However, the requirement of a doctorate degree shall not apply to the rector elect of the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy and the Theatre Academy.

Section 19. Representation of a public university

1. The rector shall represent the public university in a matter which under Section 17 belongs to his/her duties. The board may represent the university in matters within its competence. The university regulations may decree that the rector has the right to represent the university in other matters or that the board may confer the right on one of its members or some other named person. The board may at any time cancel the right to represent the university which it has granted.

Section 20. Duty of care imposed on the leadership of a public university

1. The board and rector of a public university shall promote the interests of the university with care.

Section 21. Accountability of a board member and the rector of a public university

1. A board member and the rector of a public university must recompense a damage he/she has wilfully or through carelessness caused to the university in the line of his/her duties by violating this Act or other regulations. The allocation of liability is governed by Chapter 6 of the Tort Liability Act (412/1974).

Section 22. Collegiate body of a public university

1. A public university has a university collegiate body consisting of a maximum of 50 members, who have personal deputies.
2. The university collegiate body shall include the representation of the university community groupings referred to in Section 15(2). The number of members from any of the groupings may not exceed half of the total number of members in the university collegiate body. The number of members and the term of office of the university collegiate body and the number of persons belonging to the groupings referred to in Section 15(2) shall be laid down in the university regulations.
3. The university collegiate body shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from amongst its members.
4. The remit of the university collegiate body shall be
 - (1) to decide on the number of members on the board and the duration of the term of office of the board and its members;
 - (2) to elect the members referred to in Section 5(4) for the board;
 - (3) to confirm the election of board members by the university community groupings referred to in Section 5(2) ;
 - (4) to dismiss a board member on the proposal of the board;
 - (5) to elect the chartered accountants of the university;
 - (6) to confirm the financial statement and the annual report of the university and discharge the board members and the rector from liability;
 - (7) to decide on the bringing of an action for damages against a board member, the rector and a chartered accountant;
 - (8) to decide on the dismissal of a board member under Section 65(3).

Section 23. Organs of a foundation university

1. The organs of a foundation university are the board, the rector and the overall multi-member administrative body of the university.
2. A foundation university may also have other organs. These other organs may not exercise significant decision power.

Section 24. Board of a foundation university

1. The board of a foundation university shall decide on the strategy of the university, matters concerning the university operations and finances and other far-reaching plans. In addition, the board shall elect the rector to direct university operations.
2. The board of a foundation university shall have seven members, including the chairperson and the vice-chairperson. The board shall comprehensively represent the highest national and international expertise in the sciences and arts in the field of operation of the university and in societal and business life. The rector, vice-rector, a director of a faculty or other unit directly subordinate to the board, or a member of the multi-member administrative body may not be a member of the board.
3. The overall multi-member administrative body of the university shall appoint the members of the board of the foundation university after consulting the founding partners of the foundation university. Three of the members shall be appointed from amongst persons whom the founding partners, with the exception of the State of Finland, have nominated in accordance with the regulations of the foundation. The number of these candidates must be at least twice the number of the seats on the board to be filled. The board shall elect from amongst its members a chairperson and a vice-chairperson, who must be persons other than those referred to in Section 15(2).

Section 25. Rector of a foundation university

1. The remit of the rector shall be
 - (1) to lead the operations of the university;
 - (2) to be responsible for the economical, efficient and effective discharge of the university mission;
 - (3) to be responsible for assuring that accounting is in compliance with the laws and that financial management is arranged in a reliable manner;
 - (4) to be responsible for the preparation and presentation of matters which come before the board;
 - (5) be responsible for the implementation of the board decisions unless otherwise decreed in the university regulations;
 - (6) decide on the hiring and dismissal of staff.
2. The rector may undertake action which is far-reaching in terms of the university mission only where the board has authorised him/her to do so or where it is impossible to wait for the decision of the board without causing essential harm to the operation of the university. In the latter case, the board must be informed of the action without delay.

3. The rector may devolve the hiring of personnel or other matters within his/her remit to another organ or person. The rector shall have the right to be present and speak at the meetings of all the organs of the university.
4. The university may have vice-rectors as decreed in the university regulations.

Section 26. Multi-member administrative body of a foundation university

1. The remit of the multi-member administrative body of a foundation university shall be, unless it has devolved the task to an organ referred to in Section 27(2):
 - (1) to decide on the curricula and degree requirements;
 - (2) to decide on the admission criteria;
 - (3) to decide on general rules relating to teaching and research;
 - (4) to appoint the necessary boards or other organs to deal with matters relating to degrees, assessment and rectification and to appoint chairpersons, members and deputy members for them; and
 - (5) to decide on the duration of the term of office of the university board and its members.
2. The multi-member administrative body shall have a maximum of 50 members and the representation of only the university community groupings referred to in Section 15(2). The number of persons from each of these groupings may not exceed half of the aggregate number of members on the administrative body. The members of the administrative body shall be elected by the university community grouping concerned.
3. The remit of the multi-member administrative body other than that referred to in subsection 1 and the number and election of its members shall be laid down in the university regulations.

Section 27. Organisation and administration of teaching, research and other operations

1. For the purposes of organising research and teaching, the university may divide into faculties or other comparable units as laid down in the university regulations.
2. A faculty or a corresponding unit shall have a multi-member administrative body chaired by the director of the unit. The administrative body must include the representation of the university community groupings referred to in Section 15(2). The number of members from any of the groupings shall not exceed half of the total number of members in the university collegiate body. The total number of members on the multi-member administrative body shall be laid down in the university regulations. The members of the administrative body shall be elected

by the university community grouping concerned as laid down in the university regulations.

3. The university may also have units other than those referred to in subsection 1. The university may have university consortia or other joint units with other universities and joint units with polytechnics, research institutes or other public or private organisations or foundations.
4. For the handling of requests for rectification in matters concerning study attainments, the university may have one or several boards of examiners or other corresponding organs. The board of examiners or corresponding body shall consist of a chairperson and other members, each of whom has a personal deputy. The chairperson and his/her deputy must be professors. At least half of the other members must be university teachers and at least one of the members a student.

Section 28. University regulations and rules

1. The organisation or the university operations and administration shall be governed by the university regulations and other corresponding internal rules of the university.

Section 29. Decision-making by the multi-member administrative body

1. The multi-member administrative body shall decide matters by majority vote. The motion seconded by the chairperson shall win if the votes are equally distributed. If the votes are equally distributed in a vote on a disciplinary matter concerning a student, the more lenient opinion shall be the decision.
2. With the exception of the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy and the Theatre Academy, a study attainment may be assessed only by those members or deputy members who have a degree of the same level or who have been appointed professors.
3. Where one person is elected or appointed to an administrative organ, the ballot shall be conducted as a majority vote. Where none of the candidates gets more than half of the votes, a new ballot shall be conducted between the two persons who had the most votes. Where there are more than one person to be elected or appointed to an administrative body, the ballot shall be conducted as a proportional vote. If the votes are equal, the outcome of both the majority vote and the proportional vote shall be resolved by lot.

Section 30. Administrative procedure and confidentiality

1. In performing a public administrative function, the university and the student union shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003). However, the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act concerning disqualification shall apply to all university activity. Provisions of Section 28(1), paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Act shall apply to a university and to a corporation belonging to the university group referred to in Section 63 of this Act only in a matter where the interests of the university and the community conflict or where required by fair handling of the matter.
2. The confidentiality of the activities of the university and the student union shall be governed by the provisions of the Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999) concerning the confidentiality of the activities of authorities referred to in Section 4(1) of the Act.

Chapter 4. Personnel and language of administration

Section 31. University personnel

1. A university has professors and other teaching and research staff, and other personnel to execute other tasks. Further provisions concerning the qualification requirements of the personnel and relevant selection procedures shall be laid down in the university regulations.

Section 32. Employment relations of the personnel

1. The employment relation of the university personnel is based on a contract of employment.
2. The employees and the terms of the employment relation shall be governed by relevant statutes and terms agreed in a collective bargaining agreement and in the contract of employment.
3. The employer may not act in the employment relation in a manner which may endanger the freedom of research, art or education referred to in Section 6. In addition to the provisions concerning termination of the employment contract in Chapter 7 of the Employment Contracts Act (55/2001) and cancellation of the employment contract in Chapter 8 of the said Act, the employment contract of an employee belonging to the research and teaching personnel of the university may not be terminated or cancelled on grounds reference to which would infringe upon the freedom of research, art or education.

Section 33. Duties, appointment and title of professor

1. A professor shall carry out and supervise scientific or artistic work, give education based on it and follow developments in science or art and participate in societal interaction and international cooperation in his/her field.
2. The post of professor must be publicly announced vacant when a person is hired into an employment relation in force until further notice. The post of professor may be filled by invitation without public notice of vacancy when a professionally distinguished person may be invited to take the post or a person is appointed for a fixed period to the post. Only a person who indisputably fulfils the qualification requirements may be appointed to the post by invitation.
3. Statements concerning the qualifications and merits of persons applying for and invited to the post must be requested from a minimum of two experts where a person is appointed to a position in effect until further notice or for a fixed period of at least two years. The disqualification of the expert is governed by the provisions of Sections 27 - 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act. Provisions concerning the selection, activities and remit of the experts shall be enacted in the university regulations, where needed.
4. A university may award the right to use the title of professor to a person in its employ.

Section 34. Liability under criminal law

1. The liability of university personnel and a member of a university administrative body is governed by Chapter 40 of the Penal Code (39/1889).

Section 35. Language proficiency requirements and administrative language

1. Provisions concerning the proficiency of teaching and research personnel and other personnel in the Finnish and Swedish languages shall be enacted by Government Decree. Provisions concerning the language proficiency required of Åbo Akademi teachers are laid down in Section 78.
2. The language of administration in a university is Finnish. However, the language of administration of Åbo Akademi University and Hanken School of Economics, and the Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki is Swedish.
3. Everyone shall have the right to use Finnish or Swedish in matters concerning them and to obtain a document in the language he/she uses.

Chapter 5. Students

Section 36. Admission

1. The students shall be admitted by the university. A student is admitted to study for both a lower and higher university degree, for either of these, or for a postgraduate degree.
2. The university shall decide upon the admission criteria. Where it is impossible for the university to admit all the applicants owing to a restricted intake of students, the admission criteria applied must be consistent with regard to all the applicants. Applicants may be divided into separate groups in the selection on the basis of different educational backgrounds. In this case, the admission criteria applied must be consistent with regard to applicants belonging to the same group. For the purpose of meeting the educational needs of one language group, the consistent admission criteria may be departed from to a limited extent.
3. As regards the general admissions, the student selection shall be arranged through the joint university application system with the help of the applicant register provided for in the Applicant and Matriculation Examination Registers Act (1058/1998). Further provisions concerning the student selection process and joint application shall be enacted by Government Decree.

Section 37. Eligibility for studies leading to a university degree

1. Eligible for studies leading to only a lower university degree or to both a lower and a higher university degree shall be a person
 - (1) who has passed the examination referred to in the National Matriculation Examination Act (672/2005);
 - (2) who has a vocational qualification awarded on the completion of education of at least three years' duration or a corresponding prior education;
 - (3) a vocational qualification, a further vocational qualification or a specialist vocational qualification awarded under the Adult Education and Training Act (631/1998) or a corresponding prior qualification; or
 - (4) who has a qualification completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.
2. The provisions in subsection 1 concerning eligibility for degree studies also apply to education leading directly to a higher university degree (Master's) arranged by the university without the inclusion of a separate lower university degree.
3. Eligible for studies leading only to a higher university degree shall be a person

- (1) who has an applicable lower university degree;
 - (2) who has an applicable polytechnic degree; or
 - (3) who has an applicable education completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.
4. The university may require a student admitted to study for a university degree referred to in subsection 3 to complete supplementary studies of an extent requiring a maximum of one year of studies in order to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the studies. Where a student is admitted to education leading only to the degree of Master of Laws, the applicable qualification referred to in subsection 3 is the degree of Bachelor of Laws or a corresponding qualification completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.
5. Eligible for studies leading to an academic or artistic postgraduate degree shall be a person who has completed
 - (1) an applicable higher university degree;
 - (2) an applicable higher polytechnic degree;
 - (3) an applicable education completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.
6. The university may require a student admitted to study for an academic or artistic postgraduate degree complete the necessary supplementary studies in order to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the studies.
7. Eligible for studies leading to a professional postgraduate degree shall be a person
 - (1) who has completed an applicable higher university or polytechnic degree or
 - (2) who has an applicable education completed abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.
8. Further provisions concerning eligibility for professional postgraduate degrees shall be enacted by Government Decree.
9. Eligible for studies referred to in this Section may also be a person whom the university judges otherwise to have sufficient knowledge and skills for the studies.

Section 37a. Accessibility and prerequisites for admission (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. A factor relating to the health and functional capacity of an applicant may not preclude admission. However, a person whose state of health or functional capacity makes him/her incapable of acquitting the practical tasks or practice included in the syllabus where the safety requirements relating to studies referred

to in Section 43a so en tail and where the impediment cannot be removed with reasonable measures.

2. In the case of studies referred to in Section 43a, admission shall also be precluded by a decision to revoke the right to study referred to in Section 32 of the Vocational Education and Training Act (630/1998), in Section 11(9) of the Adult Vocational Education and Training Act, in Section 25a of the Polytechnics Act (351/2003) or in Section 43a of this Act where considerations relating to the protection of the health and safety of other persons so require.
3. The university shall inform the applicants about the demands and other prerequisites imposed by studies.

Section 37b. Access to information relating to admission (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. In the case of studies referred to in Section 43a, the applicant shall provide the information regarding his/her health required for admission and information about a decision to revoke the right to study.
2. Notwithstanding statutes concerning confidentiality, the university shall have the right to obtain information about a decision to revoke the applicant's right to study which is required for admission and the justifications for the decision from another university, a polytechnic and an education provider.

Section 38. Acceptance of a study place

1. A student may accept only one student place in a degree programme belonging to the joint university or joint polytechnic application and beginning during the same term. 'Term' refers to the autumn term and the spring term, the autumn term beginning on the first of August and ending on the 31st of December and the spring term beginning on the first of January and ending on the 31st of July.
2. An admitted student shall notify the university of his/her acceptance of the student place by the date indicated in the admission notice. If the admitted student does not give the notification in the time indicated, he/she shall forfeit the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree programme shall notify only the degree programme in which he/she accepts the study place. The university shall immediately record the information on the acceptance of the study place in the university applicant and study right register.

Section 39. Academic year and enrolment

1. The academic year begins on the first of August and ends on the 31st of July. Instruction is given during periods determined by the university.

2. An admitted student who has notified of his/her acceptance of a study place shall enrol at the university in the manner decreed by the university, after which he/she is registered as a student. The student shall register as being present or absent every academic year in the manner decreed by the university.

Section 40. Normative duration of studies for lower and higher university degrees

1. The normative duration of studies for the lower (Bachelor's) degree shall be:
 - (1) three and a half academic years in studies leading to the degree of Bachelor of Fine Art and
 - (2) three academic years in studies leading to other lower university degrees.
2. The normative duration of studies for the higher university degree shall be:
 - (1) three academic years in studies leading to the degree of Licentiate of Veterinary Medicine;
 - (2) three academic years in studies leading to the degree of Licentiate of Medicine when the education includes a separate lower university degree and six academic years when the education does not include a separate lower university degree;
 - (3) two academic years in studies leading to the degree of Licentiate of Dentistry when the education includes a separate lower university degree and five academic years when the education does not include a separate lower university degree;
 - (4) two and a half academic years in studies leading to the degrees of Master of Music and Master of Psychology; and
 - (5) two academic years in other degree studies.
3. The university must arrange teaching and study guidance so as to enable full-time students to gain their degrees in the normative time referred to in this Section. säädettyssä tavoitteellisessa suorittamisajassa (Amendment 315 /2011)

Section 41. Right to study

1. A student has the right to pursue studies leading to the lower or higher university degree in the manner laid down in the university regulations and the curriculum.
2. A student admitted to study for both the lower and higher university degree has the right to complete the degree in a time exceeding the aggregate normative duration of studies referred to in Section 40 by a maximum of two years. A student admitted to study only for the lower university degree has the right to complete the degree in a time exceeding the normative duration of studies by a maximum of one year. A student admitted to study only for the higher university

degree has the right to complete the degree in a time exceeding the normative duration of studies by a maximum of two years.

3. The duration of studies does not include leave due to voluntary military service or conscription or to maternity, paternity or parent leave. The duration of studies does not include an absence of a maximum of four terms for which the student has registered herself or himself as absent in conformity with Section 39.
4. The student is considered to start degree studies on the date when he/she accepts the study place in the university.

Section 41a. Right to safe learning environment (Amendment 954/2011)

1. The student has the right to a safe learning environment.
2. The university may adopt university rules or issue other regulations geared to promote internal order, unhindered progress in studies and a safe and pleasant university community.
3. The school rules and other regulations referred to in subsection 2 above may lay down rules concerning practical arrangements and proper conduct necessary for safety and satisfaction in the university. Regulations may additionally be issued with regard to the handling of school property and to staying and moving on the university premises and in the university area. (Amendment 478/2003)

Section 42. Extension of right to study

1. The university shall grant extension to the duration of studies on application to a student who has not finished his/her studies in the time referred to in Section 41 if the student presents a goal-oriented and feasible plan for completing the studies. In the plan the student must itemise the studies to be completed and the timetable for completing the degree.
2. The duration of studies shall be extended if it is possible for the student, in consideration of the number and extent of the completed, valid study entities and the missing study entities and any former decisions granting extension to the duration of studies, to complete his/her studies in a reasonable time. In granting extension to the duration of studies, the university must consider the life situation of the student.

Section 43. Forfeiture of right to study

1. A student who has not enrolled in the manner referred to in Section 39 or completed his/her studies in the time referred to in Section 41 or in an extended time referred to in Section 42 and a student who has not been granted extension to the duration of studies shall forfeit his/her right to study. If such a person wishes to start or resume his/her studies at a later point, he/she must reapply to the university for admission. The application can be made without participation in the admissions procedure referred to in Section 36.

Section 43a. Revocation of right to study (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. Where the studies impose demands in regard of the safety of minors or patient or client safety, the university may revoke the right to study where:
 - (1) The student by repeatedly or seriously endangering the health or safety of another person has proved to be manifestly unsuitable to perform practical assignments or practice relating to studies;
 - (2) It is evident that the student does not fulfil the prerequisites for admission referred to in Section 37a(1) in regard of the state of health or functional capacity; or
 - (3) At the application stage, the student has concealed a decision to revoke the right to study referred to in Section 37a(2) which could have prevented his admission as student.
2. Where the studies impose demands in regard of the safety of minors or patient or client safety, the university may revoke the right to study where:
 - (1) The student by repeatedly or seriously endangering the health or safety of another person has proved to be manifestly unsuitable to perform practical assignments or practice relating to studies;
 - (2) It is evident that the student does not fulfil the prerequisites for admission referred to in Section 37a(1) in regard of the state of health or functional capacity; or
 - (3) At the application stage, the student has concealed a decision to revoke the right to study referred to in Section 37a(2) which could have prevented his admission as student.
3. Where the studies or practice relating to studies substantially require work with minors, the university may revoke the right to study where necessary in order to protect minors and if the student has been sentenced for a crime referred to in Chapter 17, Section 18, 18a or 19, in Chapter 20, Section 21(1-3) or Section 6, in Chapter 20, in Chapter 21 Sections 1-3 or Section 6, in Chapter 31, Section 2, or in Chapter 50, Section 1, 2, 3, 4 or 4a.
4. Before revoking the right to study, the university, together with the student, shall explore the student's possibilities to apply for some other education. With his/her

consent, the student may be transferred to some other education in the university where he/she fulfils the admission prerequisites.

5. Further provisions concerning the studies to which this Section applies shall be enacted by Government Decree.

Section 43b. Access to information relating to revocation of the right to study (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. Where it is justified to suspect that the student has an impediment due to the state of health or functional capacity referred to in Section 43a (1) point 1, he/she may be ordered to be examined by a registered health care professional where necessary for ascertaining the student's state of health or functional capacity. The university shall defray the cost of the examinations it orders.
2. Notwithstanding statutes concerning confidentiality, the university shall have the right, for the purpose of assessing the right to study, to obtain a written statement by a physician authorised to practice the profession independently and designated by the university which shows that the student has undergone an examination for ascertaining his/her state of health and an assessment of the student's functional capacity based on the examination because of the demands the studies make on health.
3. Notwithstanding statutes concerning confidentiality, the university shall have the right to obtain information about a decision to revoke the applicant's right to study which is required in order to assess the right to study and the justifications for the decision from another university, a polytechnic and an education provider.
4. At the request of the university, the student shall provide an extract on his/her own entries in the criminal records referred to in Section 6(3) of the Criminal Records Act (770/1993) for the purpose of an assessment of the right to study referred to in Section 43a (2) if the student is given assignments in studies or in practical training relating to the studies which substantially require working with minors.
5. Notwithstanding statutes concerning confidentiality, the university shall have the right to obtain information necessary for admission from another university concerning a process pending in regard of a revocation of the right to study referred to in Section 43a if the student has applied to the university as a transfer student.
6. Notwithstanding statutes concerning confidentiality, the university shall have the obligation to provide the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health with information concerning a process pending in regard of a revocation of the right to study referred to in Section 43a and a revocation of the right to study or other decisions relating to the transfer of the student and its justifications which is necessary for the execution of the Authority's statutory duties.

Section 43c. Return of the right to study (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. A person whose right to study has been revoked under Section 43a (1) may apply to the university concerned for the return of the right to study. The right to study must be restored if the applicant proves that no reasons for the revocation exist any longer. The student must submit statements on his/her state of health to the University. The decision to restore the right to study shall be made by the university board.
2. Notwithstanding statutes concerning confidentiality, the university shall have the obligation to provide the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health with information concerning a decision to restore the right to study and its justifications which is necessary for the execution of the Authority's statutory duties.

Section 43d. Drug testing (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The university may oblige the student to present a drug test certificate, where justified to suspect that the student is under the influence of drugs in practical tasks relating to studies or in practical training or that the student is addicted to drugs. Another condition is that the testing is necessary for ascertaining the student's functional capacity and the student performs tasks which require especial acuity, reliability, independent judgement or good reactions and in which working under the influence of drugs or drug addition:
 - (1) seriously endangers the student's or some other person's life or health;
 - (2) seriously endangers the protection or integrity of data protected by confidentiality statutes; or
 - (3) significantly increases the risk of illicit trafficking or distribution of substances referred to in Section 3 (1) point 5 of the Narcotics Act (373/2008) which are in the possession of the university or the place of training.
2. A drug test certificate means certification by a registered health care professional attesting that the student has undergone a test to detect the presence or absence of a substance referred to in Section 3 (1) point 5 of the Narcotics Act and an account based on the test whether the student has used narcotics for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines his/her functional capacity. The certificate must be presented within a reasonable time frame determined by the university.
3. If a student is to be required to present a drug test certificate referred to in this Section, the university must have written instructions devised in cooperation with the student health care officials for preventing the use of narcotics by students and for intervening in drug problems.
4. The university shall defray the cost of the drug test certificate referred to in this Section.

5. Otherwise a drug test performed on a student shall be governed by the provisions of Section 19 of the Occupational Health Care Act .

Section 44. Assessment and recognition of study attainments

1. A student has the right to obtain information about the application of assessment criteria to his/her study attainment. He/she shall be given an opportunity to see the assessed written or otherwise recorded study attainment. Written and otherwise recorded study attainments must be retained for a minimum of six months from the publication of the results.
2. Before the grading of a doctoral dissertation, a licentiate thesis and corresponding demonstration of learning and skills the author shall be given an opportunity to give his/her response to the preliminary examiner's, the examiner's or opponent's opinion. The disqualification of the preliminary examiner, the examiner and opponent shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.
3. In studying for a degree, the student may, as determined by the university, have studies completed in another Finnish or foreign higher education institution or other educational establishment counted towards the degree and substitute studies in the degree syllabus with other studies of the same level. The student may, as determined by the university, have knowledge and skills attested in some other manner counted towards the degree or substitute studies in the degree syllabus with knowledge and skills attested in some other manner.

Section 45. Disciplinary action (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. A student may be cautioned if he /she
 - (1) disrupts teaching
 - (2) behaves violently or threateningly
 - (3) acts under false pretences or otherwise breaks order at the university
 - (4) refuses to present the drug test certificate referred to in Section 43d, or
 - (5) according to the account referred to in Section 43d has used narcotics for purposes other than medical treatment in a way which undermines his/her functional capacity.
4. If the act or neglect is serious or if the student carries on the inappropriate behaviour referred to in subsection 1 after having been cautioned, he/she can be suspended from the university for a fixed period of one year at the outside.

5. A student who disrupts teaching, behaves violently or threateningly or endangers the life or health of another person may be banned from attending teaching for a maximum of three days where there is a danger that the safety of another student or a person working in the university or some other teaching facility is threatened as a result of the student's violent or threatening behaviour or where the disrupting conduct of the student makes teaching and associated activities unreasonably difficult.
6. If a student refuses to undergo examinations for ascertaining his/her state of health referred to in Section 43b(1), he/she may be banned from studies until he/she consents to undergo the necessary examinations. If a student refuses to provide an extract on his/her entries in the criminal records, he/she may be banned from studies until he/she consents to present the extract.

Section 45a. Procedure in a matter regarding revocation of the right to study and disciplinary action (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The decision to revoke the right to study shall be made by the board of the university. The necessary account selvitys must be obtained concerning the matter and the student must be given an opportunity to be heard in the matter before the decision is taken to revoke the right to study.
2. The decision to give a written warning to a student shall be made by the rector of the university and the decision on suspension by the board of the university. Before the decision is taken, the deed or neglect causing the disciplinary measure must be specified, the necessary investigation made and the student be given an opportunity to be heard in the matter.
3. The rector and a member of the teaching and research staff and the practical training instructor may work together or separately in a matter referred to in Section 45 (3). The measures must be recorded. The university board shall make the decision referred to in Section 45 (4).
4. The decision on the enforcement of an appealable decision and on the date on which the implementation commences shall be made at the same time as the decision to revoke the student's right to study, to dismiss the student or to ban the student from studies.

Section 45b. Handling of sensitive material (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. Information relating to an applicant's and a student's state of health referred to in Sections 37b and 43b–43d may be handled only by those who prepare or make the

decision on admission, revocation of the right to study or a disciplinary action or who issue opinions concerning these matters.

2. Information in the student's criminal register about matters referred to in Section 43a (2) shall be handled only by those who prepare or make the decision on the revocation of the right to study.
3. The university shall specify the tasks which involve the handling of sensitive materials.
4. The university shall store the sensitive materials separately from other personal data. The sensitive materials must be removed from the register immediately when there no longer is any mandatory reason to preserve them, at the latest, however, within four year of the date on which they were entered in the register.
5. The handling of personal data shall be governed by the Personal Data Act (523/1999) unless otherwise enacted in this Act.

Section 46. Student union

1. Among the students of the university there is a student union, which shall have self-government. The purpose of the student union is to act as a link between its members and to promote their societal, social and intellectual aspirations and their aspirations regarding studies and students' status in society. The student union shall participate in the performance of the educational mission of the university referred to in Section 2 by preparing students for an active, cognizant and critical citizenship.
2. The especial duty of the student union shall be
 - (1) to nominate student representatives to the administrative bodies of the university referred to in Chapter 3;
 - (2) to nominate student representatives to the student financial aid board of the university referred to in Section 9 of the Student Financial Aid Act (65/1994); and
 - (3) contribute to the performance of the tasks relating to students' primary health care referred to in Section 17 of the Primary Health Care Act (1326/2010) and Chapter 13, Sections 11 - 14, of the Health Insurance Act (1224/2004). (Amendment 1349/2010)
3. All the university students who have been admitted to programmes leading to a lower or higher university degree, with the exception of students in made-to-order education, shall belong to the student union. The student union may also accept other students of the university as members.

4. The costs incurring from activities geared to implementing the purpose and remit of the student union shall be defrayed from the assets of the student union and the income accruing from the activities of the student union and membership fees, which the student union shall be entitled to charge to its members. The amount of the membership fee shall be confirmed by the rector of the university and its payment controlled by the university.
5. The languages of the student unions of the University of Helsinki, the Academy of Fine Arts, Sibelius Academy and the Theatre Academy are Finnish and Swedish. The language of the student union of Åbo Akademi University and Hanken School of Economics is Swedish. The language of other student unions is Finnish.
6. The power of decision in the student union shall be vested in its executive board and the student parliament. Provisions concerning other organs of the student union and the election of their members shall be enacted by Government Decree. Provisions concerning the administration of the student union shall be laid down in the rules adopted by the student parliament and confirmed by the rector of the university.
7. The student union rules shall lay down the grounds for exempting a student union member in whole or in part from paying the membership fee.

Section 47. Student nations

1. The University of Helsinki shall have Finnish- and Swedish-language student nations corresponding to specified regions of the country. Aalto University shall have a Swedish-language student nation. The student nations shall be self-governing. The purpose of the student nations is to support and develop their members' intellectual pursuits and enhance their social conditions.
2. Provisions concerning the members, administration, finances and other operation of the student nations and the duty of the members to pay fees to the nation shall be laid down in the rules of the student nations. The student nation rules shall be confirmed by the rector of the university. The institution of a new student nation and the abolition of an existing one in the University of Helsinki shall be decided by the university rector after hearing the nations whose area the decision concerns. The division and merger of student nations in the University of Helsinki and changes in the areas covered by them shall be decided by the nations concerned. The decision shall be confirmed by the rector of the university.

Chapter 6. University steering and financing

Section 48. Objective-setting (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture and the university shall conclude a fixed-term agreement on the quantitative and qualitative targets of pivotal relevance to education and science policy and on the monitoring and evaluation of their implementation. On the part of the university, the agreement shall be signed by the chairperson of the board and the rector.
2. Where the university-specific targets cannot be coordinated at the national level or by disciplines (alakohtaisesti?), the Ministry of Education and Culture may, for the purpose of assuring funding, decide on quantitative and qualitative targets in regard of an individual university to the extent that they form part of the grounds for the financing allocated to the university.

Section 49. Criteria for the allocation of government funding

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture grants funding to universities for the performance of the duties laid down in this Act within the scope of the appropriation included in the state budget.
2. The university appropriation in the budget referred to in subsection 1 above, with the exception of one-off items, shall be increased from the previous year in accordance with the annual rise in the university index. The university index is comprised of the general income index, the consumer price index and the retail price index.
3. The Ministry of Education and Culture grants formula-based core funding to the universities taking into account the extent, quality and effectiveness of the operations and other education and science policy objectives. The Ministry of Education and Culture may also grant performance-based funding to universities on the basis of good performance.
4. The universities shall be recompensed for the value added tax included in the cost incurred by the universities in the provision of educational services referred to in Sections 39 and 40 of the Value Added Tax Act (1501/1993) and in procurements and facilities rents relating to research other than commercial research. The compensation shall be adjusted annually on the basis of the most recent realised mean amount of value added tax incurred by the universities.
5. In granting funding, the Ministry of Education and Culture may set conditions and restrictions on the use of the funds.

6. Further provisions shall be enacted by Government Decree concerning the computation of the university index and the consideration of the rise in the cost level referred to in subsection 2 above and the computation and the relative weight of the financing criteria referred to in subsection 3. Further provisions concerning the computation criteria underlying the allocation of the formula-based funding shall be enacted by Ministry of Education and Culture Decree.

Section 50. Funding of expenses shared by universities

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture and Culture may finance operations jointly undertaken by all the universities within the scope of the appropriation included in the state budget. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 51. Monitoring and reporting

1. When requested by the Ministry of Education and Culture and Culture, the university must provide the Ministry of Education and Culture with data necessary for the evaluation, development, statistics and other monitoring and steering of education and research in a manner determined by the Ministry. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 52. Payments (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The operational funding shall be paid to the universities in payments of the same amount on the third banking day of each month.
2. The performance-based funding referred to in Section 49(3) shall be paid to the universities in a manner determined by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Section 53. Discontinuation of payments (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture may order the payment referred to in this Act to be discontinued where:
 - (1) it is evident that the recipient no longer arranges the activity on the basis of which the funding is allocated, or the recipient of funding significantly acts in violation of the provisions of this Act; or
 - (2) the grounds for allocating the funding for a specific activity have essentially changed or have been incorrect.

Section 54. Return of paid financing

1. A university must without delay return erroneously paid, excess or manifestly groundless funding. The university must also return the portion of funding which cannot be used as agreed.
2. The provisions of subsection 1 shall not apply to the difference between formula-based operational funding and the realised expenditure.

Section 55. Recovery of payments (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture shall order allocated funding to be recovered where the university has:
 - (1) failed to return funding which is to be returned under Section 54;
 - (2) used funding for a purpose essentially different from that for which it has been allocated;
 - (3) given false or misleading information to the Ministry of Education and Culture about a matter which was critical to the granting of the funding, the amount or the terms of funding or has concealed such a fact; or
 - (4) otherwise, in a way comparable to paragraphs 1 - 3 above, essentially violated regulations governing the use of funding or the terms set in the funding decision.
2. The Ministry of Education and Culture must make the decision on the recovery of payments within two years of the date on which the fact based on which the suspension or discontinuation of payments or the recovery of funding can be undertaken was brought to the knowledge of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The decision on the recovery of payments must be taken within five years of the date on which the payment was made.

Section 56. Interest and interest for late payment

1. The university shall pay an annual interest as provided in Section 3(2) of the Interest Act, raised by three percentage points, on the amount to be returned or recovered from the payment date onward.
2. Where the amount to be recovered is not paid by the due date set by the Ministry of Education and Culture and Culture, the university shall pay annual interest for delayed payment in accordance with the interest rate referred to in Section 4(3) of the Interest Act. (Amendment 954/2011)
- 3.

Section 57. Offsetting of payments

1. The amount to be returned or recovered, with interest, may be recovered by means of a reduction in funding paid to the university under this Act.

Section 58. Appeal concerning a funding decision (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. Appeals against and requests for rectification of a decision of the Ministry of Education and Culture to grant funding, suspend payment under Section 53, recover funding under Section 55 and offset payment under Section 57 shall be come under the provisions of Section 34 of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (688/2001).

Section 59. Implementation

1. A decision may be implemented notwithstanding a request for rectification unless otherwise decreed by the appeals authority. A decision on the recovery of funding referred to in Section 55 issued owing to a request for rectification may be implemented in accordance with provisions of the Act on the Enforcement of Taxes and Charges.

Chapter 7. University finances

Section 60. Capital of a public university

1. A public university has an equity consisting of the fixed capital, other equity and a revaluation reserve.
2. The fixed equity is capital permanently invested in the university.
3. Other equity is capital accruing to the university from the surplus of its operations and the state property conveyed to the university at the time of its incorporation, which has been transferred to it on the terms of other equity awards. The revaluation reserve shows the amount of revaluation of the disbursed fixed assets. Other equity may be transferred to the fixed equity.

Section 61. Bookkeeping

1. University bookkeeping is governed by the Accounting Act (1336/1997). However, in the university the accounting year referred to in the Accounting Act is a calendar year.
2. Further provisions concerning the profit and loss account and balance sheet formulas may be enacted by Government Decree.

Section 61. Data concerning business activities

1. Where the university pursues business activities in a form other than a separate unit under legal obligation to keep accounts, the profitability information in respect of this business must be presented separately as a profit and loss account broken down by operations in an annex to the financial statement.

Section 63. University group

1. The university may exercise control referred to in Chapter 1, Section 5 and 6 of the Accounting Act in one or more domestic or foreign businesses directly relating to the discharge of the duties referred to in Section 2 of this Act. Businesses in which the university exercises control are affiliated companies of the university. The university and its affiliated companies form a university group.
2. The leadership of the university group consists of the board and the rector of the university. The university group leadership may also include other university personnel who have been specifically charged with duties belonging to the university group leadership. The university group leadership shall be responsible for directing the university group and for organising the supervision of the university group.

Section 64. Auditing of the accounts of a public university

1. The auditing of the accounts of a public university and the status and responsibility of the auditors shall be governed by the Auditing Act (459/2007).
2. The university collegiate body shall elect a sufficient number of auditors and deputy auditors for the university. At least one of the auditors must be a chartered public finance auditor or a chartered public finance auditing corporation referred to in the Act on Chartered Public Finance Auditors (467/1999) and at least one an auditor approved by the Auditing Board of the Central Chamber of Commerce (KHT auditor) or a KHT corporation. The term of office of the auditors shall be for the time being. The term of office shall end and the term of office of the new auditors begin at the end of the meeting of the university collegiate body which elects the new auditor, unless otherwise decided at the election of the new auditor.
3. The auditors shall deliver the audit of the university accounts and submit the audit report to the university collegiate body by the end of the April following the financial year.

Section 65. Adoption and confirmation of the financial statement of a public university and discharge from liability

1. The board of a public university shall prepare the financial statement of the university.
2. The university collegiate body shall confirm the financial statement and decide on the discharge of liability of the board members and the rector by the end of the June following the financial year.
3. If the university collegiate body does not grant a discharge of liability to a board member or the rector, it may decide to bring legal action for damages against the board member or the rector. If the university collegiate body decides to take legal action for damages against a board member, it may at the same time discharge the board member from his/her duties.
4. In submitting the financial statement, the board shall put forward a proposal for the handling of the results of the financial period and measures for balancing the finances. If the result of the financial period is negative and there is no surplus from the previous financial periods to cover the deficit, the board must make a plan for measures to restore the finances.

Section 66. Confidentiality of financial statement

1. After their formal adoption, the financial statement and the annual report of a university and a university group are public documents.

Section 67. Limitation of the right to bring action

1. Legal action taken under Section 65(3) above or Section 51 of the Accounting Act which is based on an act other than a punishable act must be brought within five years of the end of the financial period during which the decision prompting the legal action or the act prompting the legal action was undertaken.
- 2.
- 3.

Chapter 8. Special provisions pertaining to the University of Helsinki

Section 68. Chancellor of the University of Helsinki

1. The University of Helsinki has a chancellor. The duty of the chancellor of the University of Helsinki shall be to promote science and scholarship and the societal interaction of the University and to oversee the University's general interests and operations.

2. The Chancellor of the University of Helsinki shall have the right to be present and speak at the government sessions which deal with matters pertaining to the University of Helsinki.
3. The requirement of the Chancellor elect shall be that he/she has served science, art or the university system with distinction. Further provisions concerning the appointment and remit of the Chancellor shall be laid down in the university regulations.

Section 69. Swedish School of Social Science of the University of Helsinki

1. Attached to the University of Helsinki is the Swedish School of Social Science. The School has a multi-member administrative body and a rector. The multi-member administrative body shall adopt the regulations of the School.
2. Provisions pertaining to the remits of the multi-member administrative body and of the rector shall be enacted by Government Decree. Provisions pertaining to the election and terms of office of multi-member administrative body and of the rector and to other administration of the School shall be laid down in the regulations of the School.
3. A person who has been awarded a degree by the School shall have the right to continue his/her studies for the degree of Master of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki. (Amendment 416/2010)

Section 70. National Library

1. Attached to the University of Helsinki is the National Library. The National Library is responsible for the storage, maintenance and accessibility of the national cultural heritage in its field of operation.
2. The mission of the National Library shall be to develop and offer national services for university libraries, public libraries, polytechnic libraries and specialist libraries and to promote national and international cooperation in the library field. The mission of the National Library shall otherwise be governed by the Act on the deposit and preservation of national cultural materials (1433/2007).

Section 71. Board of the National Library

1. The National Library has a board of directors. The board shall comprise a maximum of 13 members, each of whom has a personal deputy. The board of the University of Helsinki shall appoint the members and deputy members of the board and the chairperson from amongst the members.

2. After consulting the libraries, the Ministry of Education and Culture shall submit a proposal to the board of the University of Helsinki concerning the members and their deputies representing the Ministry and the libraries. On the proposal of the University of Helsinki, the board shall appoint the same number of members and their deputies as proposed by the Ministry of Education and Culture. In addition, three board members and their deputies shall be appointed on the joint proposal of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the University of Helsinki.
(Amendment 954/2011)
3. Provisions concerning the remit of the board shall be enacted by Government Decree.

Section 72. Finnish Museum of Natural History

1. Attached to the University of Helsinki is the Finnish Museum of Natural History. The Museum of Natural History is responsible for the preservation, accumulation and exhibition of the national natural history collections and for research and education relating to them.

Section 72. State Calendar

1. The University of Helsinki is responsible for publishing the Finnish State Calendar. The University shall have the right to obtain the information needed for the State Calendar free of charge from the central government authorities.

Section 74. Swedish-language instruction and Swedish-speaking vice-rector

1. The University of Helsinki shall have a minimum of 28 professorships for Swedish-speaking instruction in disciplines determined in the university regulations. The professorships of the Swedish School of Social Science are not included in these professorships.
2. The University shall have a board for the development and coordination of Swedish-speaking instruction.
3. One of the vice-rectors must be a professor appointed to a post referred to in subsection 1, unless the rector is a person appointed to such a post.

Section 75. The rights and property of the University of Helsinki

1. The University of Helsinki shall have the right to operate one pharmacy in the City of Helsinki. The University shall continue to have all the rights, entitlements and liberties and the property and income in its possession at the coming into force of this Act.

2. The assets referred to in subsection 1 and donated and bequeathed funds shall be managed separately from other university bookkeeping. The decisions concerning the administration of the funds shall be made by the board.
3. The government shall annually defray to the University a sum corresponding to the corporation tax paid on the business income of the University Pharmacy. In addition, the government shall defray to the University a sum corresponding to the inter-pharmacy profit balancing charge (*apteekkimaksu*) paid by the University Pharmacy. (Amendment 1117/2010)

Chapter 9. Special provisions pertaining to Åbo Akademi University

Section 76. Special mission

1. Åbo Akademi University, hereinafter Åbo Akademi, shall specifically satisfy the educational and research needs of the Swedish-speaking population and take account of the bilingualism of the country in its activities.
2. The units of Åbo Akademi operating in Vaasa shall constitute one unit (School), whose joint activities are managed by a multi-member administrative body. The administrative body shall be chaired by the rector of the unit. Provisions concerning the duties and election of the multi-member administrative body and the rector and the composition of the administrative body shall be laid down in the university regulations.

Section 77. Åbo Akademi chancellor

1. Åbo Akademi has a chancellor. The duty of the chancellor shall be to promote science and scholarship and the interaction of the University with society and to oversee Åbo Akademi's general interests and operations.
2. The requirement for the chancellor elect shall be that he/she has served science, art or the university system with distinction. Further provisions concerning the appointment and remit of the Chancellor shall be laid down in the university regulations.

Section 78. Requisite language skills: teachers

1. A requirement for a teaching post at Åbo Akademi shall be full proficiency in the Swedish language and an ability to understand the Finnish language. The decision

on the proficiency in Swedish and Finnish required of a foreigner or a non-native Finnish citizen shall rest with Åbo Akademi.

2. Åbo Akademi has a language board to which the proficiency in Swedish referred to in subsection 1 can be demonstrated.

Section 79. Requisite language skills: students

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

Section 80. Property

1. Åbo Akademi shall continue to have the rights, entitlements and freedoms and the assets and income it has at the coming into force of this Act.
2. The assets referred to in subsection 1 and donated and bequeathed funds shall be managed separately from other university bookkeeping. The decisions concerning the administration of the funds shall be made by the Åbo Akademi board.

Section 81. Provisions pertaining to certain posts

1. The professorships and associate professorships instituted at Åbo Akademi since the first of August 1981 shall remain Åbo Akademi posts.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1, after obtaining the opinion of the foundation called "Stiftelsen för Åbo Akademi", Åbo Akademi may change the disciplines and the sets of duties of these posts and upgrade the post of associate professorship to a full professorship.

Chapter 10. Appeals

Section 82. Rectification procedure

1. A person who has applied for entry to a university may lodge a request in writing with the university for a rectification of the decision concerning admission within 14 days from the publication of the admission results. The publication of the admission results must be accompanied by a notice setting out the procedure whereby the applicant is able to obtain information about the application of the admission criteria to him/her and to request rectification. The admission results may not be changed to the detriment of any other admitted person in consequence of the rectification request.

2. A student may apply to the university in writing for a rectification of a decision concerning the forfeiture of the right to study within 14 days of receiving the notification of the decision.
3. A student dissatisfied with the grading of a doctoral dissertation, a licentiate thesis or a corresponding study attainment may apply for a rectification of the grading from an administrative body designated by the university within 14 days of receiving the notification of the decision.
4. A student dissatisfied with the grading of a study attainment other than those referred to in subsection 3 or with the recognition of studies completed elsewhere or of prior knowledge demonstrated in some other manner may apply for a rectification of the grading orally or in writing from the teacher who made the grading decision as regards grading and from the person who made the decision on recognition as regards recognition of prior studies. The rectification request must be made within 14 days of the date on which the information about the grades and the application of the assessment criteria to his/her study attainment was accessible to the student. The rectification request concerning recognition of prior learning must be made within 14 days of the receipt of the notification of the decision. A student dissatisfied with the decision regarding the rectification request may apply for rectification from a degree board or other organ designated for the purpose within 14 days of receiving the notification of the decision.

Section 83. Appeal against a university decision (Amendment 954 /2011)

An appeal against a decision of a university to revoke the right to study referred to in Section 43a or to return the right to study referred to in Section 43c shall be lodged with the students' legal protection board within 14 days of the receipt of the decision and otherwise as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996). An appeal against other administrative decisions of a university is lodged with the administrative court within whose jurisdiction the university headquarters is located, as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996), unless otherwise provided in this Act or other statutes. An appeal against a decision on the revocation of the right to study, dismissal and ban from attending teaching shall be handled as urgent.

Section 84. Ban on appeals

1. No appeal may be lodged against a university decision pertaining to
 - (1) the election of an administrative organ of the university;
 - (2) the university regulations or other general regulation;
 - (3) a curriculum or other stipulation concerning teaching arrangements;
 - (4) discharge from liability or legal action for the compensation of damage referred to in Section 65; or
 - (5) a grant or subsidy.

2. A decision for which a rectification may be requested under Section 82 may not be appealed against. An appeal against a decision concerning a rectification request shall be lodged with the administrative court. However, a decision concerning the rectification of the grading of a study attainment may not be appealed against.
3. A decision issued by an administrative court regarding student admission referred to in Section 36, forfeiture of the right to study referred to in Section 43 or a disciplinary action referred to in Section 45 may not be appealed against.

Section 85. Implementation of a decision on suspension (Amendment 954 /2011)

1. A decision on the revocation of the right to study, suspension of a student and ban on attending teaching may be carried out notwithstanding an appeal pending against it, unless otherwise decreed by an administrative court or the students' legal protection board.

Section 86. Appeal against a decision by a student union or a student nation

1. An appeal against a decision of a student union concerning an administrative matter may be lodged with the administrative court as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act. Further, a member of a student union may appeal against a decision of a student union organ on grounds that the decision has been taken in breach of statutes or stipulations governing the student union. The administrative court ruling may not be appealed against.
2. An appeal against a decision of a student nation concerning an administrative matter may be lodged with the administrative court as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act. The administrative court ruling may not be appealed against.
3. A member of a student union or a student nation is considered to have been notified of a decision when the decision has been posted for public inspection.

Chapter 11. Further provisions

Section 87. Evaluation

1. The universities must evaluate their education, research and artistic activities and the impact thereof. The universities shall also take part in external evaluation of their activities and quality assurance systems on a regular basis. The universities must publish the findings of the evaluations they undertake.

2. Attached to the Ministry of Education and Culture is an independent expert body called the Higher Education Evaluation Council, further provisions on which shall be enacted by Government Decree. (Amendment 954 /2011)

Section 88. University training school

1. Attached to a university which provides teacher education shall be a sufficient number of training schools to meet the needs of teaching practice and the development of teacher education; the training schools may provide basic and pre-primary education and upper secondary education. The pupils of the training school are not students of the university.
2. The provision of the education referred to in subsection 1 and the discontinuation of the operation shall be governed by provisions elsewhere concerning basic education, preschool education and upper secondary education in a state educational institution. The same provisions shall apply to a decision to expand the training school to provide instruction and education intended for more age groups or a decision to effect a corresponding reduction in the operation of the school. The operation may be downsized or discontinued when the need for education decreases or ends.
3. The training school has an administrative organ appointed by the university, which may include members external to the university. The training school also has an executive principal responsible for the school operations.
4. Further provisions concerning the operations and administration of the training school shall be laid down in the university regulations.

Section 89. Adjunct professors (*dosentit*)

1. A university may award the title of *dosentti* (adjunct professor) to a person who has comprehensive knowledge of his/her own field, a capacity for independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publication or some other manner, and good teaching skills.

Section 90. Contingency plans

1. The universities must ensure as undisturbed operation in exceptional circumstances and abnormal and special situations as possible by means of contingency plans, advance preparation of operations and by other means.

2. The advance preparation shall be supervised by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Where the preparation is found to be deficient, the Ministry of Education and Culture may order the shortcomings to be put right. (Amendment 954/2011)

Section 90a. Right to obtain information (Amendment 954 /2011)

Notwithstanding the provisions governing confidentiality Information concerning a student's state of health and functional capacity which are necessary for the execution of duties may be supplied by the holder of this information:

- (1) to the rector of a university and another person responsible for the security of the university for the purpose of safeguarding the safety of studies;
- (2) to a person responsible for study counselling for the purpose of guiding the student to other duties or support services;
- (3) to a person responsible for student health care for the purpose of safeguarding the student's health and safety;
- (4) to a person responsible for practical training for the purpose of safeguarding the safety of the student and the safety of the personnel and customers of the place of training; and
- (5) to the police and a representative of the university who is primarily responsible for investigating a threat to security for the purpose of assessing an immediate threat to safety or if the student's state of health is found to endanger the safety of others in the assessment.

Section 91. Development plan for education and research

1. The Government adopts a development plan for education and research for a fixed number of years at a time, which sets out the general development targets for universities. Further provisions concerning the development plan for education and research shall be enacted by Government Decree.

Section 92. Coordination of Swedish-language education

1. For the coordination of Swedish-language higher education, there is an advisory board with a remit to take initiative and issue opinions on matters of essential relevance to Swedish-language higher education. The advisory board must specifically monitor the need for Swedish-language higher education in consideration of the demand for education, labour market requirements and regional needs.
2. Universities and polytechnics whose language of instruction is Swedish shall appoint their representatives to the advisory board. The advisory board shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from amongst its members.

3. Further provisions concerning the term of office, composition and activities of the advisory board shall be laid down in the rules of procedure adopted by the advisory board.

Section 92a. Compensation of the tax on business revenue and the inter-pharmacy profit balancing charge paid by the University Pharmacy of the University of Eastern Finland (Amendment 1117/2010)

1. The government shall annually defray to the University a sum corresponding to the corporation tax paid on the business income of the University Pharmacy. In addition, the government shall defray to the University a sum corresponding to the inter-pharmacy profit balancing charge (*apteekkimaksu*) paid by the University Pharmacy

Section 93. Coming into force

1. Provisions concerning the coming into force of this Act shall be enacted in a separate Act.

(Commencement)

The Act Amending the University Act of 8 April 2011 comes into force on the first of August 2011. Section 40(2) point 3 shall be applied to students enrolling on 31 August 2011 and to students enrolled earlier who transfer to study for the degree of Licentiate of Dentistry referred to in the said section.

The Act Amending the University Act of 12 August 2011 comes into force on the first of January 2012.

However, Section 40(2) shall be applied only to student who enrol after 31 August 2011.

Measures necessary for the implementation of this Act may be taken before the Act comes into force.