

Act on public higher education institutions

2008 No 85 12 June

Entry into force 20 June 2008 Amended by Act No 50/2010 (entry into force 12 June 2010), Act No 126/2011 (entry into force 30 September 2011), Act No 171/2011 (entry into force 1 January 2012), Act No 56/2013 (entry into force 1 July 2013) and Act No 140/2013 (entry into force 31 December 2013, with the exception of Articles 1 to 2, 4 to 12, 16 to 18, 23 to 29, 31 to 32, 34 to 38 and 40 to 48, for which the date of entry into force was 1 January 2014, and Article 21, for which the date of entry into force will be 1 January 2016; implementation took place in accordance with instructions contained in Article 49.).

*Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Education, Science and Culture** or to the **Ministry of Education, Science and Culture** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.*

Section I Scope etc.

■ Article 1 Scope

[This Act shall apply to the University of Iceland, the University of Akureyri, the Agricultural University of Iceland, and Hólaskóli – Hólar University College, which operate as public higher education institutions accountable to the Minister.]⁽¹⁾ In this Act, public higher education institutions are referred to as ‘public HEIs’.

The [Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall publish a notice⁽³⁾ on public HEIs operating pursuant to this Act.

⁽¹⁾Act No 56/2013, Article 1. ⁽²⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 1. ⁽³⁾Notice No 753/2013.

■ Article 2...⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 56/2013, Article 2.

■ Article 3 Role

[[A public HEI is an independent educational institution that pursues teaching, research, the search for knowledge, and creative activity in the fields of science, academic work, technology or the arts, as further defined in Articles 2 and 3 of the Higher Education Act.]⁽¹⁾ It disseminates learning to the public and provides services to society in terms of the knowledge it possesses. A public HEI may also provide continuing education to those holding a degree in one of the academic disciplines pursued at that institution.

The Minister may assign teaching and research responsibilities in specific fields of study to particular public HEIs, either indefinitely or for a specified period of time, [as further stipulated in Article 21 of the Higher Education Act].⁽¹⁾

The role of public HEIs shall in other respects be governed by the Higher Education Act, No 63/2006.]⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 56/2013, Article 3. ⁽²⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 3.

Section II Administrative and organisational structure

■ Article 4 Organisational units and operational arrangement

The organisational units of a public HEI shall be the following:

a. Schools and departments within the meaning of Section IV of this Act;

b. Academic bodies under the authority of the Governing Council, as decided by that body;
c. Academic bodies under the authority of schools or departments, as decided by their Governing Boards;

d. Academic bodies that operate on the basis of a *lex specialis*.

Rules⁽¹⁾ laid down by the Governing Council of the public HEI may specify other names for schools and departments as referred to in the first paragraph, item a, and that other types of organisational units be used as the basis of the institution's activities.

⁽¹⁾Rules No 263/2010, cf. No 482/2015 and No 548/2015. Rules No 480/2010, cf. No 553/2011 and No 1195/2013. Rules No 483/2010.

■ **Article 5** *Governing Council and administration*

The administration of a public HEI shall be entrusted to a Governing Council and a Rector. The Governing Council shall formulate the institution's general teaching and research policy and determine its organisational structure. The Council shall have general supervision of the activities of the public HEI as a whole, of individual schools and academic bodies, and shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements.

The Governing Council shall have final authority in matters relating to the public HEI, one of its schools or an academic body connected to the institution and placed under the authority of the Council or a school.

The Governing Council shall be responsible for the implementation of cooperative agreements established between the public HEI and companies or other entities. The Council shall also assume overall responsibility for the public HEI's companies, funds, and general assets.

The Governing Council shall adopt rules⁽¹⁾ and criteria for the recruitment of personnel for schools and academic bodies as referred to in Article 4, first paragraph, items b and c.

The Governing Council may delegate the decision-making power which rests with the Rector or other administrators in individual matters to other administrators, provided that this is done in writing and made known through a special announcement.

Where a matter concerning one school specifically is referred to the Governing Council, it shall consult the relevant Dean before reaching a conclusion. The Council shall consult in the same way with the director of an academic body not placed under the authority of a school.

⁽¹⁾Rules No 747/2012.

■ **Article 6** *Composition of the Governing Council*

The Rector shall sit on the Governing Council and act as its Chair.

In addition to the Rector, the Governing Council of a public HEI with fewer students than 5,000 shall be comprised of the following six members, nominated for a two-year term:

1. [Two members representing the academic community, nominated by the institution's Representative Assembly.]⁽¹⁾

2. One member nominated by an institution-wide students' union.

3. [One member nominated by the Minister.]⁽¹⁾

4. Two members nominated by those members of the Council already in place.

In addition to the Rector, the Governing Council of a public HEI with a larger number of students than 5,000 shall be comprised of the following ten members, nominated for a two-year term:

1. [Three]⁽¹⁾ members representing the academic community, nominated by the institution's Representative Assembly.

2. Two members nominated by an institution-wide students' union.

3. [Two members nominated by the Minister.]⁽¹⁾

4. [Three]⁽¹⁾ members nominated by those members of the Council already in place.

An alternate member shall be nominated for each member nominated according to the second paragraph, points 1, 2 and 3, and the third paragraph, points 1, 2 and 3.

[The two Council members nominated according to the second paragraph, point 4, the three Council members nominated according to the third paragraph, point 4,]⁽¹⁾ as well as one joint alternate member for the above, shall be nominated jointly by the Rector and the members nominated according to the second paragraph, points 1, 2 and 3, or the third paragraph, points 1, 2 and 3, as soon as these have been nominated to the Council for the upcoming period of two years. When nominating members in accordance with the second paragraph, points 3 and 4, or the third paragraph, points 3 and 4, care shall be taken to ensure, in the interests of the public HEI concerned, that they possess the widest possible range of knowledge and experience; such members may furthermore not be employees or students of the institution. With the nomination of members according to this paragraph, the Governing Council is complete.

The Governing Council shall adopt more detailed rules on the selection of the members representing the academic and student communities. The opinions of the Representative Assembly and of an institution-wide students' union shall be sought before adopting or amending such rules.

⁽¹⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 4, read in conjunction with Transitional Provision I of the same Act.

■ Article 7 Governing Council meetings

The Governing Council shall meet as needed. If requested by three members of the Council, the Chair must convene a meeting.

The Governing Council is not quorate unless at least five of its voting members are present. The power of vote is decisive. In the case of a tied vote the Chair shall have a casting vote.

The Rector shall call the meetings of the Governing Council. The Council shall adopt rules on the preparation and convening of meetings, procedure, the publication of decisions, and any other business of the Council not regulated by this Act.

■ Article 8 Rector

The Rector of a public HEI shall be appointed by the [Minister]⁽¹⁾ for a five-year term on the nomination of the Governing Council. The Council shall adopt rules on the nomination procedure. The Council may decide whether to precede the nomination of a Rector by an election or a vacancy notice.

The Rector shall chair the Governing Council. The Rector shall act as the head of administration of the public HEI and as its head representative *vis-à-vis* natural persons and entities within, as well as outside, the institution. The Rector shall direct the public HEI's activities and provide the initiative for the formulation by the Council of a general policy for the operation of the institution. The Rector shall be responsible for and supervise all activities of the public HEI, including recruitments and the financial management of individual schools and academic bodies. The Rector shall be responsible for the drawing up of operational and financial plans and for obtaining the Council's approval thereof. Between meetings of the Governing Council, the Rector shall hold the power of decision in all matters of the public HEI.

The Rector shall recruit a Dean for each school, as further stipulated in Article 12, and establish terms of reference for that position. The Governing Council may authorise the Rector to employ one or more Vice Rectors.

The Rector shall recruit personnel to handle the common administration of the public HEI, and shall establish their terms of reference or job descriptions.

⁽¹⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 5.

Section III Representative Assembly

■ Article 9 Representative Assembly

The Representative Assembly shall be a forum for consultation of the academic community, providing an opportunity for discussing the development and advancement of the

public HEI. At the Rector's initiative, the Representative Assembly shall [formulate and present]⁽¹⁾ the general scientific and educational strategy of the institution. The Governing Council may seek the opinion of the Representative Assembly regarding any matter concerning the activities of the public HEI or one of its schools or academic bodies. The Council may also entrust the Representative Assembly with the responsibility for professional issues and academic policy.

The Representative Assembly may issue resolutions on matters which it considers relevant to the interests of the academic community.

Decisions made by the Governing Council, the Rector, a Dean or the director of an academic body are not subject to appeal to the Representative Assembly.

⁽¹⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 6.

■ **Article 10** *Representative Assembly delegates*

The Rector, the Deans and the heads of departments shall be delegates to the Representative Assembly. Other delegates shall include teachers and researchers representing the schools and academic bodies of the public HEI, as well as representatives of academic bodies operating pursuant to a *lex specialis* or specifically connected to the institution.

Delegates to represent schools shall be elected at school meetings as referred to in Article 14.

The Representative Assembly shall also be attended by two delegates representing the association of teachers of the public HEI and elected by written ballot for a two-year term from among those members of the association not holding the position of Dean, as well as two delegates representing the institution's administrative personnel and elected by written ballot. In addition, the Representative Assembly shall be attended by one delegate representing students for every five delegates representing other entities within the public HEI; such delegates shall be elected in a special poll for a [one-year]⁽¹⁾ term.

The Governing Council shall adopt more detailed rules⁽²⁾ on the number of delegates attending the Representative Assembly and on their selection. The rules shall also cover the election to and service in the Representative Assembly of delegates representing other academic bodies and associations than those enumerated in the first paragraph, as well as their voting rights.

The Rector shall convene the Representative Assembly and either act as its Chair or delegate that task to another person. The Representative Assembly shall meet at least once a year. Where two-thirds of Representative Assembly delegates request a meeting, the Rector must convene the Assembly.

⁽¹⁾Act No 56/2013, Article 4. ⁽²⁾Rules No 984/2008, cf. No 1144/2011.

Section IV Schools and academic bodies

■ **Article 11** *Schools and academic bodies*

Schools are the principal constituent units, and departments the basic units, of a public HEI. The Governing Council shall decide on the role, boundaries and division of tasks between schools, and adopt rules stipulating their organisation. Each school shall be divided into departments according to a proposal submitted to the Council by the school. Prior to any fundamental changes being made to the organisation of a school, the opinion of the Representative Assembly shall be sought.

Each school shall pursue teaching, research and administrative activities. Schools shall enjoy autonomy in their academic activities and general operations, within limits to be defined by the Governing Council. Departments shall be responsible for the academic quality of tertiary-level teaching and research.

Schools and departments may operate special academic bodies as referred to in Article 4, first paragraph, item c, as well as research laboratories established according to the decision of the School Council and in accordance with more detailed rules adopted⁽¹⁾ by the Governing Council.

⁽¹⁾Rules No 844/2001, cf. No 895/2005, No 315/2009 and No 96/2012. Rules No 1055/2006, cf. No 345/2008, No 316/2009 and No 1306/2011. Rules No 370/2009. Rules No 570/2009. Rules No 572/2009. Rules No 1021/2009. Rules No 1022/2009. Rules No 1023/2009, cf. No 354/2013. Rules No 542/2010. Rules No 543/2010. Rules No 544/2010. Rules No 545/2010. Rules No 546/2010. Rules No 547/2010. Rules No 548/2010. Rules No 549/2010. Rules No 550/2010. Rules No 551/2010. Rules No 554/2010. Rules No 554/2011. Rules No 555/2011. Rules No 685/2011. Rules No 1145/2011.

■ **Article 12** *Deans and heads of departments*

The day-to-day management of a school shall be entrusted to a Dean. The Rector shall recruit a Dean for each school following the publication of a vacancy notice. The Rector may appoint an employee of the public HEI to the post of Dean. The duration of the recruitment shall be according to rules adopted by the Governing Council. The Rector shall establish terms of reference for each Dean.

The Dean, acting on behalf of the Governing Council and of the Rector, shall take the initiative in setting the policy for the school, supervise the school's activities and its administration, and recruit its personnel. The Dean shall be accountable to the Rector and to the Governing Council for the financial management and general quality requirements of the school, as further provided in Article 5. The Dean shall select the head of each department for a two-year term on the nomination of a department meeting. The Governing Council shall adopt rules on the selection of heads of departments.

■ **Article 13** *School Council*

The School Council of a school shall be composed of its Dean and the heads of its departments. The School Council shall also comprise one or more student representatives, elected by the students according to rules adopted by the Governing Council. The School Council shall discuss the school's common issues, including the departments' decisions on courses offered. [The Governing Council may decide to grant a seat on the School Council to representatives of certain fields of study that jointly form a department. The Governing Council may further decide to grant a seat on the School Council to a representative of a public entity engaged in close collaboration [with the HEI]^(*) on the teaching and training of students.]⁽¹⁾

The Governing Council shall adopt more detailed rules on the activities of schools, their administration, their division into departments, the role of the heads of departments, and on school and department meetings.

^(*)NOTE: Added in translation for clarity.

⁽¹⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 8.

■ **Article 14** *School meetings*

School meetings, to be chaired by the Dean on behalf of the Rector, shall be a forum for consultation providing an opportunity for discussing the school's internal matters. The Governing Council may seek the opinion of a school meeting on any matter concerning the activities of the school and of the departments operated within it.

School meetings may issue resolutions on matters considered relevant to the interests of the school. Resolutions adopted at school meetings shall be communicated to the Governing Council, the Rector, the directors of academic bodies, and any other person to which they may be relevant.

Decisions made by the Governing Council, the Rector, a Dean or the director of an academic body are not subject to appeal to a school meeting. The same applies to internal meetings held in academic bodies as referred to in Article 4, first paragraph, items b and c.

Section V Personnel

■ **Article 15** *Professional titles*

The professional titles of teachers at a public HEI shall be as follows: *professor* ('Professor'), *dósent* ('Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor'), *lektor* ('Lecturer/Assistant Professor') and *adjunkt* ('Adjunct Lecturer'). The Governing Council may adopt more

detailed rules on these and other titles which it decides to use.

Teachers at public HEIs shall pursue and be responsible for teaching activities leading to a recognised degree.

Teachers and researchers at public HEIs shall pursue independent scientific research.

The directors of academic bodies shall pursue tertiary-level teaching and independent scientific research if so stipulated in the regulations of the body in question.

The Governing Council shall adopt more detailed rules⁽¹⁾ on the professional titles and duties of persons recruited to academic positions pursuant to this Section, as well as on leaves granted to those persons.

⁽¹⁾Rules No 605/2006, cf. No 968/2009, No 189/2013, No 224/2015 and No 302/2015. Rules No 1096/2008, cf. No 541/2010. Rules No 971/2009, cf. No 225/2015. Rules No 263/2010, cf. No 1100/2011, No 846/2013, No 482/2015 and No 548/2015. Rules No 747/2012.

■ Article 16 Evaluation committees

Public HEIs shall establish evaluation committees to assess the qualifications of individuals applying for academic positions or being offered such a position. [Persons holding one of the professional titles of *prófessor* ('Professor'), *dósent* ('Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor'), *lektor* ('Lecturer/Assistant Professor') or *sérfræðingur* ('Research Specialist'/'Researcher') shall possess knowledge and experience corresponding to international criteria for the title in question in the relevant academic discipline, as confirmed by the opinion of the evaluation committee or by a doctoral degree awarded by a recognised higher education institution.]⁽¹⁾ Furthermore, their professional achievements must be sufficient for them to enjoy recognition in the relevant area of expertise.

A school or academic body may require that applicants for academic positions hold a doctorate in the relevant area of expertise.

The appointment, work and conclusions of evaluation committees shall be governed by Article 18 of the Higher Education Act and rules adopted by the Governing Council after obtaining the opinion of the Representative Assembly. Such rules shall ensure that applications are dealt with in a professional and non-discriminatory manner. Public HEIs may establish a system of permanent evaluation committees.

⁽¹⁾Act No 56/2013, Article 5.

■ Article 17 Recruitment

[Recruitment for academic positions of indefinite duration at public HEIs and the professional advancement of academic staff shall be the responsibility of the Rector. Recruitment for temporary academic positions at schools and academic bodies under the authority of a school shall be the responsibility of the relevant Dean, acting on behalf of the Rector. Recruitment for academic positions at bodies under the authority of the Governing Council shall be the responsibility of the relevant director, acting on behalf of the Rector. Recruitment decisions shall be based on a proposal made in accordance with more detailed rules⁽¹⁾ adopted by the Governing Council and specifying the mandate of the relevant Dean or directors. Upon recruitment for a position, an employment contract shall be drawn up.]⁽²⁾

The recruitment for an academic position at a public HEI shall be preceded by a vacancy notice. However, on the proposal of the school concerned and with the consent of the Governing Council, the Rector of a public HEI may offer such a position to a scientist without prior publication of a vacancy notice. The obligation to publish a vacancy notice may also be derogated from with regard to positions made available through special temporary grants, positions connected to specific temporary projects, positions held by students during their graduate research studies, and positions linked to specific work performed outside the public HEI on the basis of a cooperation agreement.

No vacancy notice is to be published in the case of promotions or transfers between professional titles which take place in accordance with rules⁽¹⁾ adopted by the Governing Council.

An employment contract for an academic position may be of indefinite duration or for a fixed term of up to five years. Under special circumstances a temporary employment contract may be extended for up to two years beyond the five-year limit.

⁽¹⁾*Rules No 263/2010, cf. No 1100/2011, No 846/2013, No 482/2015 and No 548/2015. Rules No 747/2012.*

⁽²⁾*Act No 50/2010, Article 9.*

Section VI Students

■ Article 18 Enrolment

The enrolment of students at a public HEI shall be the responsibility of the Rector and, on the Rector's behalf, Deans.

Students enrolling with a public HEI in studies leading to a first-cycle degree must have passed the matriculation examination from an upper secondary school or an equivalent examination. However, public HEIs may admit students who have not passed the matriculation examination or an equivalent examination provided that they possess experience or have acquired knowledge and skills corresponding to the public HEI's qualification requirements for tertiary-level studies.

The Governing Council shall, where appropriate on a proposal by the relevant school, adopt more detailed rules⁽¹⁾ on the following:

a. Qualification requirements over and above the matriculation examination for certain undergraduate study programmes;

b. Admission requirements for certain postgraduate study programmes;

c. Entrance or assessment examinations to be conducted in certain study programmes;

d. Assessment of the experience, knowledge and skills of students who have not completed formal upper-secondary education.

Any rules limiting the number of students admitted to particular study programmes shall be laid down for each academic year individually. Such rules shall take into account the public HEI's potential for providing instruction in the relevant study programme. The Governing Council may adopt rules limiting the number of students admitted to particular study programmes provided that the prevailing conditions prevent the admission of all applicants.

⁽¹⁾*Rules No 1042/2003, cf. No 277/2006, No 1057/2006, No 190/2013 and No 1042/2015. Rules No 319/2009, cf. No 371/2009, No 463/2009, No 215/2011, No 498/2011, No 193/2012, No 137/2013, No 931/2013, No 22/2015 and No 274/2015. Rules No 972/2009, cf. No 155/2010 and No 139/2014. Rules No 153/2010, cf. No 153/2011, No 1307/2011, No 556/2012, No 801/2012, No 75/2013, No 308/2013, No 1234/2013, No 316/2014, No 1093/2014 og No 226/2015. Rules No 154/2010, cf. No 1196/2012. Rules No 154/2011, cf. No 599/2012 and No 1195/2012. Rules No 155/2011. Rules No 213/2011. Rules No 214/2011, cf. No 606/2014. Rules No 500/2011, cf. No 187/2013 and No 547/2015. Rules No 501/2011. Rules No 641/2011. Rules No 642/2011. Rules No 643/2011, cf. No 95/2012, No 188/2013 and No 1078/2013. Rules No 188/2012, cf. No 317/2014. Rules No 286/2012. Rules No 928/2013, cf. No 23/2015. Rules No 140/2014, cf. No 1097/2014. Rules No 244/2014. Rules No 24/2015.*

■ Article 19 Students' rights and obligations

After having obtained the opinion of an institution-wide students' union, the Governing Council shall adopt rules on students' rights and obligations, including on available appeal procedures within the public HEI.

In their studies and in their conduct, whether within or outside of the public HEI, students shall refrain from any behaviour which is dishonourable or disreputable or likely to bring discredit upon their studies or the institution.

Should a student be found guilty of behaviour such as that referred to in the second paragraph or which goes against this Act or rules adopted pursuant to it, the Dean of the school where the student is enrolled shall take up the case. Depending on the gravity of the offence, the Dean may issue a warning to the student or decide on his/her suspension or dismissal. Before deciding on a suspension or dismissal, the student shall be given the opportunity to express his/her views. The student may appeal the Dean's decision to a board

of appeal instituted in accordance with the Higher Education Act. The filing of an appeal stays the execution of the Dean's decision.

After an appropriate amount of time, the Rector may authorise a student who has been dismissed to enrol again at the public HEI, provided that circumstances have changed. A refusal by the Rector to grant a student's request to enrol may be appealed to the board of appeal.

Section VII Teaching, examinations and degrees

■ Article 20 *Teaching and teaching practices*

The Governing Council shall adopt rules regarding the length of the academic year and its division into semesters. While lectures, exercises and courses offered by departments are intended for enrolled students, teachers may allow other persons to attend such instruction unless otherwise decided by the Dean.

Teaching shall be organised in courses according to a credit system, as further provided in the Higher Education Act. The Governing Council shall adopt general rules on the evaluation of courses for credits.

Schools shall adopt general rules on teaching and teaching practices and submit them to the Governing Council for approval.

■ Article 21 *Examinations and their organisation*

The Governing Council shall adopt rules on the organisation of examinations, including the recognition of foreign examinations, entrance and preliminary examinations, grading and any other matter relating to examinations. Examinations may be organised at the discretion of each public HEI insofar as rules adopted by its Governing Council contain no binding provisions in this regard.

The administrative unit of each [public HEI]⁽¹⁾ shall be responsible for the organisation and implementation of examinations.

Students are entitled to clarifications from the teacher regarding the assessment of their written examinations if a request to this effect is made within 15 days from the release of the grade. A student who has failed an examination and is unwilling to accept the teacher's assessment may address a request to the relevant Dean. A moderator shall then be appointed for each case. Furthermore, the appointment of a moderator for an individual examination may be requested by either the teacher or the majority of students in a course, where they believe this is justified.

The Governing Council may adopt rules stipulating the required study progress and the maximum duration of the studies.

Individual departments may evaluate studies completed by a student outside the department as part of his/her studies at the department, provided that the courses in question meet quality and educational requirements comparable to those made on the basis of this Act and of the Higher Education Act.

⁽¹⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 10.

■ Article 22 *Academic degrees*

Academic degrees awarded by public HEIs shall be as stipulated in the Higher Education Act, subject to the provisions of Article 23 of this Act. The Governing Council may issue more detailed rules on academic degrees on the basis of the Act.

■ Article 23 *Doctoral degrees*

Public HEIs may award honorary doctorates. An honorary doctorate shall only be awarded on a proposal of the School Council concerned and with the consent of the Governing Council.

Public HEIs may award doctorates following the defence of a doctoral thesis, the general rules for which shall be established by the Governing Council.

■ **[Article 23a** *Continuing education*

□ Public HEIs may offer continuing education in the disciplines covered by their accreditation, as provided for in Article 3 of the Higher Education Act, No 63/2006, to people holding a higher education degree.

□ In this Act, the term continuing education is defined as:

- a. Courses for higher education graduates in their respective areas of expertise;
- b. Supplementary education for higher education graduates on an interdisciplinary basis, leading to a final examination or the award of a degree pursuant to Article 22.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 11, read in conjunction with Transitional Provision II of the same Act.

Section VIII Finances

■ **Article 24** *Funding*

□ Each public HEI shall receive a separate appropriation in the Budget Act. The Minister shall draw up a proposal for the funding to be provided to each public HEI to cover expenses related to teaching, research and other tasks.

□ In addition to the budget appropriation provided pursuant to the first paragraph, public HEIs may generate income through:

a. Registration fees paid by students enrolling for their studies, up to [75,000 ISK]⁽¹⁾ per student on an annual basis; the income generated by the public HEI from such fees may not exceed the sum of its expenses in relation to the enrolment of students and services provided to students, other than expenses related to teaching and research activities;

b. Fees intended to cover the issue of certified transcripts and the preparation, administration and evaluation of assessment, entrance, repeat and distance examinations;

c. Fees for services rendered in addition to those which a public HEI has an obligation to provide;

d. Fees for services rendered by the public HEI on the basis of an agreement with the [Ministry],⁽²⁾ as provided in Article 21, second paragraph, item d, of the Higher Education Act;

e. [Fees for continuing education provided pursuant to Article 23a],⁽³⁾

[f. Fees for lifelong learning for the public];⁽³⁾

[g. Fees for the handling and processing of applications from citizens of countries outside the European Economic Area, other than students from the Faroe Islands and Greenland.]⁽⁴⁾ [Registration fees pursuant to item a may be collected in instalments distributed proportionally over the academic year.]⁽⁵⁾

□ A 15 per cent surcharge may be added to the registration fee stipulated in the second paragraph, item a, in the case of students who are given permission to enrol outside the normal enrolment period.

□ The Governing Council shall adopt more detailed rules on the collection of fees and the allocation of income therefrom pursuant to this Article. The Council may adopt rules stipulating a reduced registration fee for low-income students who have a disability within the meaning of Article 2 of the Act on the affairs of disabled people, No 59/1992. Such rules may take into account certain income limits and stipulate a reduction taking the form of either a fixed sum or a proportion of the registration fee. Furthermore, the Governing Council may adopt rules allocating part of the income from the registration fee to student associations providing social services.

⁽¹⁾Act No 140/2013, Article 23. ⁽²⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 488. ⁽³⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 12, read in conjunction with Transitional Provision II of the same Act. ⁽⁴⁾Act No 56/2013, Article 6. ⁽⁵⁾Act No 171/2011, Article 1.

■ **Article 25** *Service agreements*

□ The Governing Council may enter into agreements with students, their associations or organisations, alumni associations, individuals, their associations and companies, or public

entities to provide services on behalf of the public HEI, subject to compliance with Article 30 of the Government Financial Reporting Act.

Section IX Miscellaneous provisions

■ Article 26 *Other tasks and activities*

Subject to the approval of the [Minister],⁽¹⁾ public HEIs may become partners in companies limited by shares, non-profit organisations or limited liability companies, provided that the activities of the companies concerned are in keeping with the objectives pursued by the relevant public HEI, and that the partnership serves its interests. The Governing Council shall administer the public HEI's share in such companies or delegate that task to a school, academic entity or other party within the institution.

Public HEIs may establish and operate special research and development funds. Such funds shall operate according to charters which must be submitted to the [Minister]⁽¹⁾ and the Governing Council for approval. The charters shall be published in the B section of the Law Gazette.

A public HEI may contract with other institutions and companies having a connection with its field of activity to provide teaching, research, and recruitment of teachers and other members of staff.

⁽¹⁾Act No 50/2010, Article 13.

■ Article 27 *Annual meeting*

Each public HEI shall schedule an open annual meeting to present its finances and the main aspects of its work plan.

■ Article 28 *Publication of rules and course catalogues*

Rules⁽¹⁾ adopted by a Governing Council on the basis of this Act shall be published in the B section of the Law Gazette.

Each public HEI shall draw up and publish a course catalogue. A comprehensive course catalogue for the institution shall be published once a year.

⁽¹⁾Rules No 387/2009 (for the University of Akureyri), cf. No 494/2011, No 1133/2011 and No 387/2015. Rules No 389/2009, cf. No 1135/2011. Rules No 569/2009 (for the University of Iceland), cf. No 787/2009, No 970/2009, No 1024/2009, No 152/2010, No 262/2010, No 226/2011, No 497/2011, No 552/2011, No 832/2011, No 1143/2011, No 1305/2011, No 94/2012, No 192/2012, No 285/2012, No 600/2012, No 74/2013, No 186/2013, No 307/2013, No 629/2013, No 929/2013, No 1077/2013, No 1233/2013, No 138/2014, No 315/2014, No 443/2014, No 605/2014, No 1095/2014, No 21/2015, No 223/2015, No 301/2015, No 430/2015 and No 546/2015. Rules No 864/2009. Rules No 885/2009, cf. No 322/2011 and No 1134/2011. Rules No 481/2010. Rules No 484/2010, cf. No 1197/2012. Rules No 212/2011. Rules No 1252/2011, cf. No 227/2015. Rules No 416/2012, cf. No 1267/2012. Rules No 735/2012. Rules No 812/2013. Rules No 244/2014. Rules No 596/2014. Rules No 977/2014.

■ [Article 29 *Cooperation network of public HEIs*

The rectors of public HEIs accredited by the Minister shall form a special task force responsible for a cooperation network of public HEIs under the leadership of the University of Iceland. In addition to the rectors, a certain number of members shall be appointed to the task force taking into account the size and scope of each public HEI. The cooperation network shall meet regularly to discuss the public HEIs' common issues, in particular those relating to support services, a common enrolment procedure, the organisation of studies, and the study programmes offered. Moreover, the institutions shall harmonise their quality assurance programmes and organise teaching and research activities so as to promote the integration of similar academic disciplines.

The Minister shall lay down more detailed rules of procedure for the cooperation network of public HEIs and publish them in the B section of the Law Gazette.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 56/2013, Article 7.

Section X Entry into force etc.

■ [Article 30]⁽¹⁾ Entry into force

This Act shall enter into force forthwith.

...

⁽¹⁾Act No 56/2013, Article 7.

■ Transitional provisions Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1 of this Act, it shall apply to the Iceland University of Education until 1 July 2008, cf. the Act on the merger of Iceland University of Education and the University of Iceland, No 37/2007.

Upon the entry into force of this Act, all employees of the University of Akureyri and the University of Iceland who have been appointed or recruited pursuant to Act No 41/1999 or Act No 40/1999 shall retain their positions and rights as employees.

Appointments to Governing Councils pursuant to this Act shall be completed by 1 October 2008. Thereupon, the mandates of the Governing Councils of the University of Iceland and the University of Akureyri shall expire.

The provisions of rules adopted by the Governing Councils of the Iceland University of Education,⁽¹⁾ the University of Akureyri⁽²⁾ and the University of Iceland⁽³⁾ pursuant to the applicable Acts on the respective public HEI shall remain in force, as amended, insofar as they do not in conflict with this Act, until the relevant Governing Council adopts new rules pursuant to this Act.

Upon the entry into force of this Act, the schools of the University of Iceland shall be the School of Social Sciences, Law, and Business; the School of Health Sciences; the School of Humanities; the School of Engineering and Natural Sciences; and the School of Education. The departments of the University of Akureyri shall be the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law; the Faculty of Health Sciences; the Faculty of Education; and the Faculty of Business and Science. Before the end of 2008, public HEIs that come under this Act shall have adapted their operation to the provisions regarding schools contained in Article 4, second paragraph, of this Act.

The Act on agricultural education, No 57/1999, shall be reviewed before the end of 2009.

⁽¹⁾See now Rules No 843/2001, cf. No 70/2003. ⁽²⁾See now Regulation No 292/1992, Regulation No 393/1996, No 459/2000, No 876/2003, cf. No 388/2009; Rules No 925/2004, No 413/2006, No 757/2006, cf. No 546/2009; Rules No 1157/2007, No 1207/2007, cf. No 1358/2007; Rules No 1208/2007, No 156/2008. ⁽³⁾See now Rules No 296/2001, No 720/2001, No 829/2001, No 498/2002, No 664/2002, No 156/2003, cf. No 850/2003; Rules No 164/2003, No 385/2003, No 1041/2003, cf. No 255/2004; Rules No 1046/2003, No 140/2004, No 240/2004, No 257/2004, No 951/2004, No 540/2005, No 1236/2005, No 478/2006, No 798/2006, No 343/2007, cf. No 487/2007 and No 738/2007; Rules No 890/2007, No 1298/2007, cf. No 341/2008.

Disclaimer: This is an English translation. The original Icelandic text, as published in the Law Gazette (Stjórnartíðindi), is the authoritative text. Should there be discrepancy between this translation and the authoritative text, the latter prevails.