

## **STATUTE OF THE THEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE REFORMED CHURCHES IN THE NETHERLANDS**

### **A. THE UNIVERSITY**

#### **Article 1 - Institution**

In conformity with Article 18 of the church order, the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands maintain a theological university for the academic formation of ministers of the Word.

#### **Article 2 - Foundation**

The University is bound in its work by the doctrine of the Holy Scripture, as summarized in the Confessions of Faith adopted by the Churches.

#### **Article 3 - Objective**

- 3.1 The objective of the University is the academic, spiritual and practical education of (future) Reformed Ministers of the Word, the practice of Reformed Theology and the ongoing effect thereof in church and world. To this end, the University provides academic education, conducts academic research and, in addition, fulfils tasks in the field of knowledge exchange.
- 3.2 The academic, spiritual and practical education is directed towards imparting the knowledge, insight, skills and attitudes necessary, so that a graduate:
  - a. Can function autonomously as a reformed minister;
  - b. Can function autonomously within various disciplines of theology;
  - c. Is able to qualify for a follow-up study as Academic Theological Researcher;
  - d. Is able autonomously to use his or her education to serve the preservation and propagation of the gospel.

#### **Article 4 - Legal Entity and Name**

- 4.1 In pursuance of the decision of The General Synod of Harderwijk 2011-2012 (Acta 66A), the Theological University of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, as independent component of these churches, is a legal entity on the basis of Article 2: 2 of the Civil Law.
- 4.2 On these grounds, the name of the University is: 'Theologische Universiteit van de Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland' [*translated: 'Theological University of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands'*].
- 4.3 In this statute, the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands are referred to as 'the Churches', the General Synod of these churches as 'the General Synod' and the Theological University as 'the University'.

#### **Article 5 - University**

The University is a philosophical university in the sense of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW).

#### **Article 6 - Establishment**

The University is established in Kampen.

#### **Article 7 - Administrative Organization**

- 7.1 The Board of Directors has been charged with the administration of the University.
- 7.2 The supervision of the Board of Directors is exercised by the Supervisory Board.
- 7.3 Each of the bodies is bound in the exercise of its functions to this statute and to the decisions of the General Synod.

## B. ADMINISTRATION

### **Article 8 – Administration**

- 8.1 The Board of Directors has been charged with the administration of the University in its entirety and with its management, without prejudice to the powers of the Supervisory Board.
- 8.2 The administration as referred to in Article 8.1 includes among others:
- a. Definition of the general policy of the University and the realisation thereof;
  - b. Direct responsibility for the regular progress of education, research and knowledge exchange;
  - c. Responsibility for the continuity of the organisation;
  - d. Annual determination of the budget for the coming year;
  - e. Drawing up of a long-range budget, every three years, for the benefit of the General Synod;
  - f. Determination of the annual account and the annual report;
  - g. Efficient management of the financial and other resources of the University;
  - h. Exercising the roles and powers granted to the Board of Directors as institution administration or, alternately, ensuring that they are exercised by means of delegation or mandate;
  - i. Exercising competent authority over the University;
  - j. Making (proposals and nominations for) appointments.
- 8.3 The Board of Directors determines a management and supervision regulation for the management and the organisation of the University. This regulation is further referred to as 'University Regulation' and requires the approval of the Supervisory Board.
- 8.4 At least once every six years, the Board of Directors determines an institution plan containing a description of the contents of the planned policy for the duration of the plan. Thereby attention is given particularly to the objective of promoting the quality of education, research and knowledge exchange and to improve the organization of the Degree Programmes at the institution. The institution plan requires the approval of the Supervisory Board.
- 8.5 The Board of Directors determines a treasury plan. The treasury plan requires the approval of the Supervisory Board.
- 8.6 The Board of Directors determines the risk management and control systems. These require the approval of the Supervisory Board.
- 8.7 The Board of Directors submits a report to every ordinary General Synod regarding their policy and management and the functioning of the University. The report is offered to The General Synod by the Supervisory Board.

### **Article 9 - Board of Directors**

- 9.1 The Board of Directors consists of three members, at most, including the rector of the University.
- 9.2 The members of the Board of Directors are appointed, suspended and dismissed by the Supervisory Board. Appointment occurs for a term stipulated by the Supervisory Board.
- 9.3 It is considered a condition for appointment as member of the Board of Directors that the candidate is confessing member, in full rights, of one of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands or one of the churches of which The General Synod of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands has expressed that they have been recognized as churches of Jesus Christ in submitting themselves to God's Word and owning themselves bound by the Reformed Confessions. If a member of the Board of Directors no longer satisfies this condition for appointment, he must inform the Supervisory Board of this without delay. No longer meeting with this condition for appointment entails the legal termination of the appointment as member of the Board of Directors.
- 9.4 The chair of the Board of Directors is appointed from among the members of Supervisory Board.
- 9.5 The members of the Board of Directors are jointly responsible for the administration as mentioned in Article 8, taking into account a division of portfolios as arranged in the University Regulation.
- 9.6 A member of the Board of Directors can be dismissed ad interim for grave reasons.

## **Article 10 - Rector**

- 10.1 The rector of the University is appointed by the Supervisory Board after recommendation by, and with approval of, the senate.
- 10.2 Further rules regarding the rectorate will be stipulated in the University Regulation.

## **C. SUPERVISION OF THE ADMINISTRATION**

### **Article 11 - Supervision**

- 11.1 The Supervisory Board has been charged with the supervision of the implementation of activities and the exercise of powers by, and on behalf of, the Board of Directors and assists the Board of Directors with council.
- 11.2 The Supervisory Board has, among other things, been charged with:
  - a. Appointment, suspension, dismissal and determination of the wages of the members of the Board of Directors;
  - b. Approval of the University Regulation as referred to in Article 8.3;
  - c. Determination of the regulation intended for the exercise of the tasks by the Board of Governors, as referred to in Article 17.4;
  - d. Approval of the institution plan as referred to in Article 8.4;
  - e. Approval of the education programmes referred to in Article 39;
  - f. Approval of the research programmes as referred to in Article 43;
  - g. Approval of the plan for exchange of knowledge as referred to in Article 44;
  - h. Approval of the long-range budget, the budget, the annual account and the annual report of the Board of Directors as referred to in Article 8.2;
  - i. Approval of the risk management and control systems as referred to in Article 8.6.
  - j. Approval of nominations by the Board of Directors to the General Synod for the appointment of professors and professors by special appointment as referred to in Article 23.1;
  - k. Approval of nominations by the Board of Directors to The General Synod for the appointment of senior University lecturers and University lecturers with an appointment for an indefinite period of time and a scope of 0.6 FTE or more as referred to in Article 23.2;
  - l. Approval of decisions by the Board of Directors to appoint academic staff as referred to in Article 24.1;
  - m. Approval of decisions by the Board of Directors to appoint extraordinary professors or professors by special appointment as referred to in Article 32.2;
  - n. Approval of the formation plan as referred to in Article 33;
  - o. Approval of the choice of a co-administration scheme as referred to in Article 48.1;
  - p. Supervision of the Board of Directors' compliance with legal obligations;
  - q. Supervision of the application of the branch code for universities, as far as the application thereof is in alignment with the foundation and objective of the University and the regulations applying to, or following from, this statute;
  - r. Ensuring the design of the system of quality control as referred to in Article 40;
  - s. Supervision of the legitimate procurement and efficient and legitimate destination and application of the resources;
  - t. Designation of an accountant, as referred to in article 2: 393 paragraph 1 Civil Code, who reports to the Supervisory Board;
  - u. Annual accountability, regarding the implementation of the tasks and the exercise of the powers referred to under a up to and including s, in the annual report of the University.
- 11.3 The Supervisory Board guards the Reformed character and the academic level of the education, the research and the knowledge exchange and implements a committee (Board of Governors) to assist in this matter.

## **Article 12 - Supervisory Board**

- 12.1 The Supervisory Board consists of five members, including two Ministers of the Word. The members are appointed by the General Synod following nomination by the sitting Supervisory Board, on the basis of public profiles determined by the Supervisory Board and published in advance.
- 12.2 The composition, tasks and powers of the Supervisory Board are such that the Supervisory Board can exercise a sound and independent supervision. Various matters are further regulated in a Regulation for the Supervisory Board, to be determined by the Supervisory Board.
- 12.3 The members of the Supervisory Board are appointed for a period of three years. They can be voted twice for a new period of three years, subject to deviation by the General Synod in particular cases.
- 12.4 It is considered a condition for appointment as a member of the Supervisory Board that one is a confessing member, in full rights, of one of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands. If a member of the Supervisory Boards no longer satisfies this condition for appointment, he must inform the Supervisory Board of this without delay. No longer meeting this condition for appointment entails legal termination of membership of the Supervisory Board.
- 12.5 When commencing their activities, the members of the Supervisory Board sign the designated signature form for the Supervisory Board.
- 12.6 If, in the judgement of the Supervisory Board, a member is gravely remiss in the fulfilment of his task or behaves in a manner which could possibly damage the esteem of the Supervisory Board or the University, the Supervisory Board can temporarily or permanently suspend him in the exercise of his function. A decision for that purpose can only be taken by the Supervisory Board after person concerned has been heard at a meeting of the Supervisory Board or person concerned has stated that he does not wish to make use of this.
- 12.7 The Supervisory Board elects from their midst a Chair, a secretary and an assessor.
- 12.8 In the case of a long-term or permanent absence or permanent suspension of a member of the Supervisory Board or of the origination of an ad-interim vacancy, the Supervisory Board will appoint a substitute member for, at the most, the remaining term of appointment.

## **Article 13 - Operating Procedure of Supervisory Board**

- 13.1 The Supervisory Board convenes as often as is required in the interest of the University, but at least five times a year.
- 13.2 The Supervisory Board regulates its own operating procedure in the regulation indicated in Article 12.2.
- 13.3 The Supervisory Board designates from its midst an audit commission and arranges its composition and authority.
- 13.4 The meetings of the Supervisory Board are as a rule attended by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has an advisory function at these meetings. The Board of Directors is not present at the consideration of committee matters.

## **Article 14 - Accountability to the General Synod**

- 14.1 The Supervisory Board gives account to every ordinary General Synod concerning the supervision exercised by it over the management of the University.
- 14.2 The Supervisory Board thereby submits to the General Synod, among other things:
  - a. The long-range budget approved by the Supervisory Board, annual budgets, annual accounts and annual reports of the Board of Directors as referred to in Article 11.2 sub h, as well as the connected written reports of a certified accountant as indicted in Article 11.2 subsection s;
  - b. the report of the Board of Directors as referred to in Article 8.7;
  - c. The institution plan as referred to in Article 8.4, approved by the Supervisory Board;
  - d. the report of the Board of Governors as referred to in Article 18.2.
- 14.3 The report of the Supervisory Board gives insight into the main principles of policy and the implementation thereof. The report explains the manner in which the Supervisory Board, the Board of Directors, and the Board of Governors have carried out the charges given to them by the

### **Article 15 - Board of Governors**

- 15.1 The University is at all levels directed towards the education, the research and the knowledge exchange being in agreement with Holy Scripture and the Churches' Confessions of Faith and the promotion of the reformed character and academic level of the education, research and knowledge exchange.
- 15.2 The Board of Governors assists the Supervisory Board concerning the supervision of the reformed character and the academic level of the education, research and knowledge exchange as well as refuting all, in the education, research and knowledge exchange, that is in contradiction with God's Word and the Reformed Confessions.
- 15.3 The Board of Governors advises the Supervisory Board concerning:
- a. Nominations by the Board of Directors to the General Synod for the appointment of ordinary professors;
  - b. Nominations by the Board of Directors for the appointment of senior university lecturers and university lecturers with an appointment for an indefinite period of time and a scope of 0.6 FTE or more;
  - c. Proposed appointments by the Board of Directors of university senior lecturers and university lecturers as well as research workers with an appointment for a fixed time;
  - d. Proposed appointments by the Board of Directors of extraordinary professors and professors by special appointment;
  - e. Nominations to the General Synod of members of the Board of Governors;
  - f. The approval of the education programmes, research programmes and the plan for knowledge exchange, referred to in Article 11.2, subsections e, f and g, respectively;
  - g. Matters which the Supervisory Board, the Board of Directors or the Board of Governors believe to deserving of broad support.
- 15.4 The Board of Governors further assists the Board of Directors with council by:
- a. Providing substantive incentive to promote as much as possible the Reformed character of the education, the research and the knowledge exchange;
  - b. Swift identification of substantive problems in the education, the research and the exchange;
  - c. Advice concerning the manner of handling changes in theological insights and the consequences thereof for the education, research and knowledge exchange.
- 15.5 The Board of Governors is charged with giving advice concerning a possible objection submitted by a church or church member, in accordance with Article 17.2, against an oral or written remark of a (emeritus) lecturer or other lecturer or researcher. Moreover, it can make a proposal to the Board of Directors or make a judgment regarding disciplinary measures or unsolicited dismissal as referred to in Articles 28.2, 29.2 and 30.2.

### **Article 16 - Composition of the Board of Governors**

- 16.1 The Board of Governors consists of four Ministers of the Word and two (emeritus) senior professors or (senior) university lecturers from another university.
- 16.2 The members of the Board of Governors are appointed by the General Synod following nomination by the Supervisory Board, who obtains advice on this appointment from the sitting Board of Governors and based on the profiles established by the Supervisory Board and communicated publicly in advance.
- 16.3 The members of the Board of Governors are appointed for a period of three years. They are twice eligible for re-election for a new period of three years.
- 16.4 It is considered a condition for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors that one is a confessing member, in full rights, of one of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands. If a member of the Board of Governors no longer satisfies this condition for appointment, he must inform the Board of Governors of this without delay. No longer meeting this condition for appointment entails legal termination of membership of the Board of Governors
- 16.5 The members of the Board of Governors sign the signature form for the Board of Governors intended for this purpose when commencing their activities.

- 16.6 If, in the judgement of the Board of Governors, a member is gravely remiss in the fulfilment of his task or behaves in a manner which could possibly damage the esteem of the Board of Governors or the University, the Supervisory Board can, following a proposal by the Board of Governors, temporarily or permanently suspend him in the exercise of his function. The proposal by the Board of Governors for this purpose can only be done after person concerned has been heard at a meeting of the Board of Governors or person concerned has declared not to make use of this opportunity.
- 16.7 The Board of Governors chooses from its midst a chair, a secretary and an assessor.
- 16.8 In the case of a long-term or permanent absence or permanent suspension of a member of the Board of Governors or of the origination of an ad-interim vacancy, the Supervisory Board will, after receiving advice from the Board of Governors, appoint a substitute member for, at the most, the remaining term of appointment.

#### **Article 17 – Operation Procedure Board of Governors**

- 17.1 The Board of Governors convenes as often as is required for good exercise of their task, but at least four times per year. The Supervisory Board determines further rules in a matter, after having obtained advice from the Board of Governors.
- 17.2 A church or church member that wishes to submit a motivated objection against oral or written statements of a (emeritus) lecturer or other teacher or research worker of the University, must firstly address the person concerned. If the objection is not removed, he will direct himself to the Board of Directors, no later than one year after the statement concerned. The Board of Directors asks the Board of Governors for advice, in conformity with the rules of the regulation mentioned in Article 17.4. If an objection is related to the Board of Directors or a member thereof, the Supervisory Board will act in the place of the Board of Directors for the treatment of the objection.
- 17.3 If, in the judgement of the Board of Governors, disciplinary measures against and/or involuntary dismissal of a (emeritus) lecturer or other teacher or research worker is necessary, it will first make a proposal that will be considered in a joint meeting of the Board of Director, the Supervisory Board and the Board of Governors. Article 28, 29 and 30, respectively, further apply. The last sentence of Article 17.2 is accordingly applicable.
- 17.4 On proposal of the Board of Directors and after the solicited recommendation of the Board of Governors, the Supervisory Board determines a regulation for the exercise of the tasks of the Board of Governors as referred to in Article 15.2 and to put into effect Articles 17.2 and 17.3.

#### **Article 18 – Accountability**

- 18.1 The Board of Governors is accountable for the undertaken operations to the Supervisory Board in an annual report. The Board of Directors receives a duplicate thereof.
- 18.2 The report concerning the operations performed by the Board of Governors, intended for the General Synod, is brought before the Supervisory Board by the Board of Governors and is attached to the Supervisory Board's report for the General Synod as referred to in Article 14.

#### **D. SENATE**

#### **Article 19 - Composition**

- 19.1 The senate comprises the ordinary professors.
- 19.2 Extraordinary professors, professors by special appointment, as well as university senior lecturers and university lecturers in permanent and temporary employment may, at the invitation of the rector, attend the senate meetings and have an advisory function.
- 19.3 The rector is the chair of the senate. The senate designates from its midst a secretary.

#### **Article 20 - Tasks**

The senate is charged with the following tasks:

- a. Advising the Board of Directors in the area of appointment of PhD students;
- b. Assessing, as promotion committee, master's theses and admitting students to take the doctorate programme;

- c. Recommending the Board of Directors in the area of awarding honorary doctorates;
- d. Presenting nominations to the Supervisory Board in the area of the appointment of the rector as well as, where applicable, of the ad-interim acting rector.

## E. ACADEMIC STAFF

### **Article 21 - Staff Complement**

- 21.1 The Board of Directors determines a staff complement in which the staff load for education, research and knowledge exchange is stipulated.
- 21.2 The staff complement is updated periodically.
- 21.3 Decisions concerning filling the teaching staff vacancies are taken based on the staff complement.

### **Article 22 - Positions**

- 22.1 The following academic staff can be appointed for education, research and knowledge exchange at the University: ordinary professors, university senior lecturers and university lecturers, as well as, in the cases indicated in Article 32, extraordinary professors.
- 22.2 Researchers can be appointed at the University for conducting theological research based on an appointment for a fixed period.
- 22.3 Specific components of the education can be given by external teachers, under the responsibility of the department coordinator, based on a specific agreement for that task.
- 22.4 Further rules concerning academic positions, both mentioned in this Article and otherwise, are determined in or by the University Regulation.

### **Article 23 - Appointments by the General Synod**

- 23.1 Ordinary professors are appointed by the General Synod.
- 23.2 University senior lecturers and university lecturers, each time with an appointment for an indefinite period of time and a scope of 0.6 FTE or more, are appointed by the General Synod.
- 23.3 In the case of a vacancy regarding a position as referred to in Article 23.1 or 23.2, the Board of Directors will present a nomination to the General Synod as soon as possible or in any case before closure of the synod. The nomination is substantively motivated, related to the staff complement and describes the content and scope of the vacancy within the department concerned. The nomination requires the approval of the Supervisory Board, after obtained advice from the Board of Governors.
- 23.4 Article 23.3 is accordingly applicable when it is foreseeable that a vacancy will present itself within a half year after opening of the General Synod.
- 23.5 When a vacancy occurs after closure of the last held General Synod, an ad interim synod can be convened, should the Supervisory Board, following recommendation by the Board of Directors, consider this necessary. The Supervisory Board is then authorized to request the church charged with the convention of the General Synod to convene an ad interim synod as soon as possible, but in any case within four months, in order to decide on a provision for the vacancy.

### **Article 24 - Appointments by the Board of Directors**

- 24.1 The appointment of other teaching staff than referred to in Article 23 occurs by the Board of Directors
- 24.2 In the case of a vacancy concerning a position as referred to in Article 24.1, the Board of Directors notifies the Supervisory Board of the proposed appointment. The notification is substantively motivated, related to the staff complement and available budgetary facilities and describes the content and scope of the vacancy within the department concerned. The appointment requires the approval of the Supervisory Board, after obtained advice from the Board of Governors
- 24.3 Researchers are appointed by the Board of Directors. The appointment is substantively motivated, related to the research programme and describes the content and scope of the

vacancy within the research group concerned.

- 24.4 External teaching staff for specific components of the education receive an agreement for a fixed period from the Board of Directors.

#### **Article 25 - General Conditions for Appointment and Signature Form**

- 25.1 It is considered a condition for appointment as member of the academic staff that one is confessing member, in full rights, of one of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands or one of the churches of which the General Synod of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands has expressed that they have been recognized as churches of Jesus Christ by submitting themselves to Gods Word and owning themselves bound by the Reformed Confessions. If a member of the academic staff no longer meets this requirement, he must inform the Board of Directors of this without delay and the appointment as a member of the academic staff will be legally terminated. This condition for appointment must be incorporated in the individual agreement with every member of the academic staff.
- 25.2 In special cases, dispensation can be granted from the conditions for appointment mentioned in Article 25.1, if this is necessary for a good provision of a vacancy, not being a vacancy for an ordinary professor.
- 25.3 The ordinary professors, university senior lecturers and university lecturers, whether appointed for an indefinite period or a fixed period, will, upon appointment sign a signature form drawn up by the General Synod as proof of conformance with the doctrine of Holy Scripture, as summarized in the Churches' confessions of faith, and of their willingness to teach this pure doctrine and defend it against deviations.
- 25.4 The signature as referred to in Article 25.3 will take place at appointment by the General Synod, as a rule during a public meeting of the General Synod. In the case of the General Synod already having closed and in the case of appointment by Board of Directors, this signing will take place at a combined meeting of the Supervisory Board and the Board of Directors. In case of an ordinary professor or extraordinary professor, the rector will report the occurrence of this signature session at the inauguration.

#### **Article 26 - Dismissal due to Age and On Own Request by, or on behalf of, the General Synod**

- 26.1 To an ordinary professor, university senior lecturer and university lecturer, who has been appointed by the General Synod, dismissal is granted by the General Synod starting on the first day of the month in which the person concerned reaches the pensionable age.
- 26.2 An ordinary professor, as well as a university senior lecturer and university lecturer, who has been appointed by the General Synod, can on his own request be granted dismissal sooner by the General Synod.
- 26.3 If the time of dismissal as referred to in Article 26.1 and 26.2 falls outside the convening period of the General Synod, then Supervisory Board is authorized to grant dismissal on behalf of the General Synod.
- 26.4 Of a granted dismissal as meant in this Article, the Supervisory Board will communicate this to all the Churches.

#### **Article 27 - Dismissal due to Age and On Own Request by the Board of Directors**

- 27.1 To an extraordinary professor, a university senior lecturer, and a university lecturer appointed by the Board of Directors with an appointment for an indefinite period, dismissal will be granted by Board of Directors as of the first day of the month in which the person concerned reaches pensionable age.
- 27.2 To an extraordinary professor, a university senior lecturer and a university lecturer appointed by the Board of Directors, whether it be an appointment for indefinite time or for a fixed period, interim dismissal may be granted by Board of Directors upon the person's own request.
- 27.3 To a researcher who has been appointed by the Board of Directors with an appointment for indefinite time, interim dismissal may be granted by the Board of Directors upon the person's own request.



## **Article 28 - Disciplinary Measures**

- 28.1 Regarding an ordinary professor, extraordinary professor, university senior lecturer, university lecturer or researcher, appointed for an indefinite period or a fixed period, who in the judgment of the Board of Directors is guilty of grave misconduct in life or teaching, acts against the foundation and/or objective of the University and/or is seriously remiss in his duties, Board of Directors can take disciplinary measures of limiting certain activities and/or competences or even of full suspension of activities.
- 28.2 The Board of Governors can propose a disciplinary measure to the Board of Governors as referred to in Article 17.3. If no proposal of the Board of Governors has been received as referred to in Article 17.3, the Board of Directors will request the judgement of the Board of Governors.
- 28.3 Before making a decision, the Board of Directors must give the person concerned the opportunity of a personal hearing.
- 28.4 A proposal for a disciplinary measure is dealt with in a combined meeting of the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors and the Supervisory Board. The Board of Directors decides as competent authority.
- 28.5 In the case of extension of a disciplinary measure, Article 28.3 will once again apply. Article 28.2 and 28.4 do not apply anew.
- 28.6 A disciplinary measure as well as an extension thereof is communicated to the person concerned in writing and well-motivated by the Board of Directors and will stipulate precisely to which activities and/or competences the measure applies and the period for which it applies.

## **Article 29 - Involuntary Dismissal by the General Synod**

- 29.1 Regarding an ordinary professor, university senior lecturer and university lecturer, appointed by the General Synod, who, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, is guilty of grave misconduct in life or teaching, acts against the foundation and/or objective of the University and/or is seriously remiss in his duties, Board of Directors can propose to the General Synod that they proceed with an ad interim involuntary dismissal.
- 29.2 the Board of Governors van make a proposal of involuntary dismissal to Board of Governors, as referred to in Article 17.3. If no proposal as referred to in Article 17.3 has been received from the Board of Governors, the Board of Directors will request the judgment of the Board of Governors.
- 29.3 Before proceeding towards submitting a proposal to the General Synod, the Board of Directors will give the person concerned the opportunity of a personal hearing.
- 29.4 A proposal for involuntary dismissal to the General Synod is dealt with in a combined meeting of the Board of Directors with the Board of Governors and the Supervisory Board. The Board of Directors decides concerning the proposal to the General Synod.
- 29.5 The General Synod decides on the involuntary dismissal, after the person concerned has had the opportunity to be heard personally by this General Synod.

## **Article 30 - Involuntary Dismissal by Board of Directors**

- 30.1 Regarding an extraordinary professor, a university senior lecturer, university lecturer or researcher appointed by the Board of Directors, who in the judgment of the Board of Directors is guilty of grave misconduct in life or teaching, acts against the foundation and/or objective of the University and/or is seriously remiss in his duties, Board of Directors can decide to proceed with an ad interim involuntary dismissal.
- 30.2 the Board of Governors can make a proposal of involuntary dismissal to Board of Directors as referred to in Article 17.3. If no proposal as referred to in Article 17.3 has been received from the Board of Governors, the Board of Directors will request the judgment of the Board of Governors.
- 30.3 Before making a decision, the Board of Directors will give the person concerned the opportunity of a personal hearing.
- 30.4 A proposal for involuntary dismissal is dealt with in a combined meeting of the Board of Directors with the Board of Governors and the Supervisory Board. The Board of Directors decides as competent authority.

### **Article 31 – Communication to the Churches**

- 31.1 If the Board of Directors takes a disciplinary measure as referred to in Article 28 against the person concerned, it will communicate this to the church of which person concerned is a member, and, in the case of the person concerned being connected to a church as Minister of the Word or emeritus Minister, also to this church.
- 31.2 If the General Synod decides on involuntary dismissal of an ordinary professor, extraordinary professor, university senior lecturer and university lecturer as referred to in Article 29, it will communicate this to all the Churches
- 31.3 If the Board of Directors decides on involuntary dismissal of a university senior lecturer or University lecturer as referred to in Article 30, it will communicate this to all the Churches.

### **Article 32 - Special Chair**

- 32.1 The General Synod can decide to establish one or more special chairs at the University.
- 32.2 An appointment as extraordinary professor or professor by special appointment takes place by the Board of Directors. A proposal for appointment is substantively motivated and requires the approval of the Supervisory Board, after recommendation has been obtained from the Board of Governors.
- 32.3 The articles 25, 27, 28, 30 and 31 are accordingly applicable to an extraordinary professor as referred to in this Article.

## **F - SUPPORTING PERSONNEL**

### **Article 33 - Staff Complement**

- 33.1 The Board of Directors determines a staff complement in which the staff load for supporting personnel for the education, research and knowledge exchange is stipulated.
- 33.2 The staff complement plan requires the approval of the Supervisory Board.
- 33.3 The staff complement is updated periodically.
- 33.4 Decisions concerning the fulfilment of vacancies concerning supporting personnel are taken based on the staff complement.

## **G - STUDENTS**

### **Article 34 - Admission and Registration**

- 34.1 When a prospective student applies for admission to the University, a conversation will be entered into with him on behalf of the Board of Directors concerning especially his motivation for the theological study at the University and his attitude with respect to God's word, the Reformed Confession and reformed church life. The Board of Directors has the right to refuse admission, if the result of the conversation is considered unsatisfactory.
- 34.2 A prospective student belonging to one of the Reformed Churches or one of the churches recognized by the General Synod of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands as churches of Jesus Christ who subject themselves to God's Word and are bound to the Reformed Confessions, is required to deliver a good attestation from his church regarding profession and life of faith.
- 34.3 Prospective students not belonging to one of the aforementioned churches will be requested to sign a statement, drawn up by the rector, illustrating their positive attitude to the reformed character of the University, containing the promise not to violate this of their account.
- 34.4 The Board of Directors can stipulate further rules concerning the admission of students.

### **Article 35 – Admission to Education, with appurtenances.**

- 35.1 Registration as a student gives right to following the education programme, taking tests and examinations and making use of the University facilities and provisions.
- 35.2 The Board of Directors can, by regulation, limit that which is referred to in Article 35.1 for those who do not follow the study as preparation for the office of Minister of the Word.

### **Article 36 - Supervision**

- 36.1 The Board of Directors supervises the study progress of the students and other persons registered.
- 36.2 With respect to students and other registered persons who, in the judgement of the Board of Directors are guilty of misconduct in teaching or life, or act against the foundation and/or objective of the University, disciplinary measures of restriction of certain rights and/or competences, or of temporary disqualification from the University, can be taken by the Board of Directors.
- 36.3 Before taking a disciplinary measure, the Board of Directors will give the person concerned the opportunity to be heard personally.
- 36.4 A disciplinary measure is communicated to the person concerned in writing and well-motivated by the Board of Directors and will stipulate precisely to which rights and/or competences the measure applies and the period for which it applies.
- 36.5 In case of a situation as referred to in Article 36.2, the Board of Directors can decide upon definite removal and deregistration of the student or other registered person.
- 36.6 Before taking a decision as referred to in Article 36.5, the Board of Directors will give the person concerned the opportunity to be heard personally.
- 36.7 A decision as referred to in Article 36.5 is communicated in writing and well-motivated by the Board of Directors to the person concerned.

### **Article 37 - Deregistration**

- 37.1 The Board of Directors decides regarding deregistration or interruption of the study and in the case of exceeding the maximum duration of the study..
- 37.2 If a student or other registered person no longer meets the condition referred to in Article 34.1, 34.2 or 34.3, he is bound to communicate this to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors decides on the consequences for the registration.

## **H. EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

### **Article 38 - Degree Programmes**

- 38.1 Based on the foundation and in pursuance of its objective, the University provides theological degree programmes.
- 38.2 The University provides the following degree programmes:
  - a. a three-year full-time bachelor programme classic theology;
  - b. a three-year full-time master programme classic theology, which trains to become a reformed Minister of the Word/Theologian.
  - c. possibly other theological part-time or full-time degree programmes which have been determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the Supervisory Board.
- 38.3 In the education programmes, the University as an institution is primarily directed towards the integral training for reformed Theologians and reformed Ministers of the Word in service of the Churches.

### **Article 39 - Education Programmes**

- 39.1 The Board of Directors ensures, at least once every three years, the determination of education programmes. The main principles of the planning of the education are and the curriculum for each programme as well as the partitioning of the study-load is described across the various disciplines.
- 39.2 The education programmes require the approval of the Supervisory Board, after obtained advice from the Board of Governors.

### **Article 40 - Quality Control**

- 40.1 the Board of Directors ensures the set-up and the functioning of a quality control system concerning all activities of the University and the education programmes offered. The assessment of the quality of the education occurs by means of the judgement of the students.
- 40.2 At the assessment attention is at least given to:
- a. a regular check of the necessary time arising from the Education and Examination Regulation and the study load stated in it.
  - b. the quality of the education to, and the supervision of, the students.
- 40.3 The Board of Directors gives the Supervisory Board solicited and unsolicited insight in the set-up and the functioning of the quality control system.

### **Article 41 - Permanent Education/Postgraduate Education**

- 41.1 The University offers regular permanent education and/or postgraduate education to its alumni and other interested persons.
- 41.2 The organisation of the permanent education/postgraduate education has been charged to the Board of Directors.

### **Article 42 - Doctorate**

- 42.1 At the University, the PhD in theology can be obtained on the basis of defending a thesis.
- 42.2 The senate, as PhD council, determines a PhD regulation regarding the admission to the PhD and for further regulation thereof.

### **Article 43 - Research**

- 43.1 The Board of Directors ensures, at least once every three years, the determining of research programmes for the various disciplines. The priorities for the academic research are described per research group.
- 43.2 The research programmes require the approval of the Supervisory Board, after obtained advice from the Board of Governors

### **Article 44 - Knowledge Exchange**

- 44.1 The Board of Directors ensures, at least once every three years, the determination of a plan for knowledge exchange.
- 44.2 The plan for knowledge exchange requires the approval of the Supervisory Board, after obtained advice from the Board of Governors

## **I. FINANCES**

### **Article 45**

- 45.1 The Churches are responsible for the financial upkeep of the University , making use of government resources where possible.
- 45.2 Upon proposal of the Board of Directors, the General Synod stipulates, each time for a period of three years, the annual contribution to be paid by the Churches (quota). The proposal of the Board of Directors requires the approval of the Supervisory Board.
- 45.3 For realisation of the objective of the University, other forms also financing are also exploited, such as acquisition of bequests, sponsoring and subsidies.

#### **Article 46 - Budget and Annual Account**

- 46.1 Annually, preceding the financial year, the Board of Directors determines the budget, in which is included a staff paragraph and a research paragraph.
- 46.2 Within six months after the completion of the financial year, after an audit by a registered accountant designated by the Supervisory Board, the Board of Directors will fix the annual account of the past year. The annual account must include a statement and accompanying management letter from the accountant.
- 46.3 Estimated expenditures which have not been realized in a financial year can be added to the general reserve. Overshooting of the budget over some year can be compensated at the expense of the general reserves.
- 46.4 The Board of Directors ensures a firm policy regarding reserves and facilities.
- 46.5 The board of directors draws up a long-range budget, every three years, for the benefit of the General Synod;
- 46.6 The budget, the annual account and the long-range budget require, as does the reserves and provisions policy, the approval of the Supervisory Board.
- 46.7 The financial year of the University is equal to the calendar year.

#### **Article 47 - Approval and Discharge by the General Synod**

- 47.1 The Supervisory Board sends for approval to each General Synod, for each financial year that has expired since the last the General Synod: the budget, annual account and the annual report, as determined by the Board of Directors and approved by the Supervisory Board. In the annual report a justification of the exercised supervision has been incorporated.
- 47.2 When approved, the General Synod grants discharge to the Supervisory Board and the Board of Directors for the exercised financial policy and management and the exercised supervision.

### J. CO-ADMINISTRATION

#### **Article 48 - Co-administration**

- 48.1 The Board of Directors chooses from one of the legal co-administration systems. This choice requires the approval of the Supervisory Board.
- 48.2 The Board of Directors determines, depending on the choice referred to in Article 48.1, a co-administration regulation or a regulation for the University Representative Council.

### K. REPRESENTATION

#### **Article 49 - Representation**

The Chair of the Board of Directors represents the University in legal and non-legal affairs.

### L. FINAL PROVISIONS

#### **Article 50 - Determination and modification**

- 50.1 This statute can be modified by the General Synod.
- 50.2 If the General Synod does not convene, the Supervisory Board is authorized, having heard the Board of Directors, to modify provisions of this statute if these result from adaptations in government legislation. The Supervisory Board mentions these modifications in its report to the General Synod, as referred to in Article 14 of this statute.

#### **Article 51 - Implementation**

- 51.1 This statute comes into effect on 1 January 2015.