



Student participation in the university governance

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Student representatives: who

- All students can become representatives (provided they have not been enrolled at university longer than the expected degree completion time);
- almost all student representatives are elected by fellow students; some are nominated by the Council of Students;
- student representatives are elected for 2 years and continue to follow classes and sit in exams as usual.

Student representatives: where

- Student representatives are present in the university governing bodies (Academic Senate, Board);
- they are involved in matters related to courses and teaching (Council of Faculty and Council of Course);
- there are student representatives at other levels as well (library, quality evaluation).

Academic Senate and Board

- The governing bodies are responsible for all the major issues regarding university;
- for example, here is decided the strategic development of the university, both regarding its mission (teaching, research) and regarding its organization.

Council of Faculty

- The Council of Faculty (with the help of other bodies) is responsible for the design of the degree structure (curricula, compulsory and optional courses, study programs);
- students make suggestions for improvements and point out any problems that may arise (with regards to courses or, for example, timetables, exams, and the like).

Council of Students

- The Council of Students is an all-student body, with student representatives from different Faculties and the university governing bodies;
- the Council of Students can make suggestions and propositions to the university management and governing bodies on general issues regarding students (tuition fees, services offered to students).

Student involvement: what can be achieved?

- Student representatives can relate fruitfully with governing and managerial bodies and influence decision or propose improvements regarding students;
- some significant contributions of the past two years: changes to the University Statute (more power to student representatives); changes of tuition fees; improved communication between student representatives and other students (mainly web).

Student involvement: is it enough?

- Very few students participate in the elections (~ 10%); many students are unaware and/or not interested in student elections (many students are just interested in lectures and exams);
- BUT student representatives can play a very important role in university governance; if they are willing to work hard they can help bring around real change for other students and the University.