

## **Preamble to the JADS/db Participation Regulations**

*This preamble precedes the JADS/db Participation Regulations. -  
September 2022*

### **The value of co-determination and participation within JADS/db**

Employees and students want to have a say in their own workplace, study environment, and study programs. Influence leads to stronger (commitment) and greater involvement and responsibility of employees and students.

On its own initiative, the Participation Council can put themes on the agenda. The meeting between the Board and the Council is the appropriate place for having (relatively) safe conversations about sensitive topics, such as a socially safe work and study environment.

Employee and student participation is something that deserves encouragement and contribution to the fullest extent. The task is to maximize the reach of the Council: preferably every stakeholder is involved through participation. Council members in turn are ambassadors and liaisons to those they represent, thus promoting participation. Conversely, contacts with both University Councils are important.

From the perspective of the Board, having its own participation body is also important. Through consultation, participation invites a broader exploration of proposed decisions and nourishment from within the organization. The input of the participation body creates a larger support base for decisions taken. Participation forces the Board to explain and, where necessary, defend proposals; this contributes to critical reflection on its own proposals.

### **Representing the interest JADS/db as a whole**

The JADS/db Council functions as much as possible like a School Council. The JADS/db Council also acts as a program committee for at least the joint degree program as well as the EngD program. Although the latter is an Eindhoven program, the people involved in it belong to the same community.

Members of the Council represent the interests of the entire JADS/db. Besides a division between students and staff required by law, there are no specific electoral groups per university. However, efforts are made to ensure an equal distribution.

When making decisions within the Council, the aim is to reach consensus, and decisions are made with consideration of minority views.

### **Progress**

The Regulations assume that the exercise of the JADS/db Council's rights will continue even if there are unexpected vacancies within the Council. This gives an additional responsibility to the Board to fill vacancies as soon as possible. It must be prevented that the Council has to deal with vacancies for a long time.

## **Connection**

Because of the relatively short term of office of student members in particular, special attention is paid to cooperation within and connection with the Council; hence, at least four meetings a year are held with the Board and preliminary consultations of the Board are held.

Student members are also invited to run for the chairmanship of the JADS/db Council.

Commitment to the JADS/db Council is done in addition to studying or doing primary work within education and research. To enable enough members to combine this and to be attractive to candidates, it is very important to plan ahead. For this purpose, an annual agenda is drawn up in which the dates and times of meetings are established.

In order to have sufficient time to read and discuss documents in the Council meetings, the starting point is to send documents at least 10 working days before a meeting. This requires special attention from the secretaries' offices to monitor these deadlines.

## **Protection and support members**

Because of the stakes, compensating in time and money and support through an official secretary is very important.

The JADS/db Council is a promising environment to gain knowledge and competencies in decision making and policy advocacy. This is promoted by the provision of a training budget and training opportunities by the Board.

In order to provide independent advice, it is necessary that members of the board not be adversely affected in any way in their work or studies. The necessary protection against disadvantage, in the broad sense of the word, is an important task of the Board.



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