

For starters

Status groups and group university

As a rule, university committees comprise members of all four status groups, hence the usage of the term **group university**. Members of the university can be divided into four groups:

- university teachers, viz. (junior) professors and lecturers (aka „profs“)
- academic employees (aka „nonprofessorial teaching staff“)
- students (including matriculated PhD students, at least yet)
- administrative and technical staff

The Federal Constitutional Court decided in 1972 that the university teachers make up the majority in the university committees. That's why the other groups often do not have much to say. It is therefore not only due to the amount of documents that there are rather few extensive discussions in board meetings.

Subject and faculty – Seminar and Institut

The **subjects** are the smallest units of the university. They are arranged as **Seminare** or **Institute**. (Using two different terms might suggest a major division. In fact, there is only a negligible difference in their organisational form. To simplify further explanations, we will mostly use the term *institute*). Institutes can be responsible for both whole subjects (such as study of English) or sub-subjects (such as "criminal law").

Faculties are unions of various institutes. The University of Heidelberg consists of twelve of those faculties. Some of the faculties offer only one subject to major in, the Faculty of Law being one of them. Many faculties, like the Faculty of Modern Languages, combine various majors.

👉 Curious for more information?

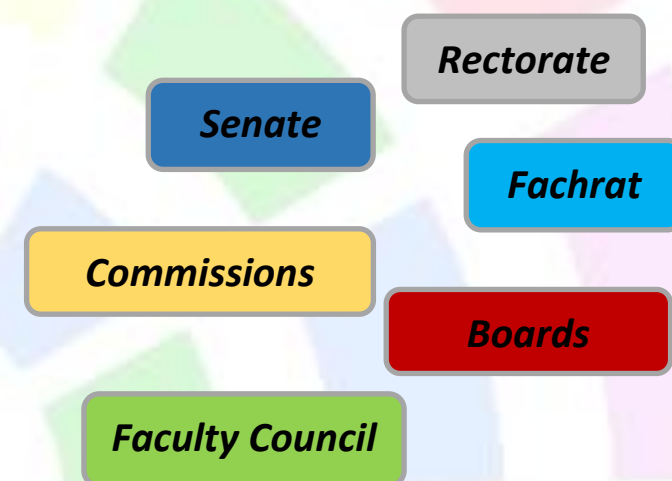
The university committees are not the only ones of importance. The ones of **Studierendenwerk Heidelberg (StuWe)**, a state-run non-profit organization for student affairs) also hold significance. The **representatives' assembly** (or *Vertreterversammlung*) answers general questions and elects the **administrative board**. This board is responsible for advising and keeping a watch on the management of the StuWe.

Besides, there are various committees which are for the most part run by the students or doctoral candidates themselves – the **Verfasste Studierendenschaft** (including the **Fachschaftsräte**, the **Studierendenrat** (Students' Council) and the **Referatekonferenz**) as well as the **Doktorandenkonvent** (Doctoral Students Convention). You will find more information about them on other leaflets.

Moreover, on the university level exist various advisory councils such as the University Council and Senate Committees. You can find detailed information about all of them (as well as all the bodies presented in this leaflet) at www.stura.uni-heidelberg.de/gremienwork There you can also find an organizational chart.

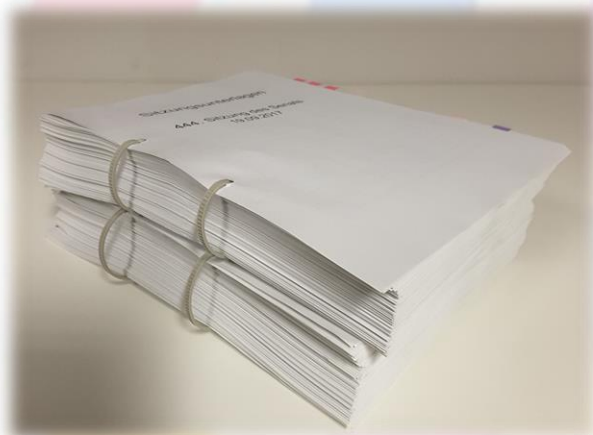
Status: 10/2017 | Gremienkoordination | gremien@stura.uni-heidelberg.de
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Orientation in the jungle of academic committees: A guide



StudierendenRat
der Universität Heidelberg

This leaflet is designed to provide information about the academic committees at the University of Heidelberg. The members of these committees take part in decision-making that affects the whole university. Information about student committees like the **Fachschaftsrat** or the **Studierendenrat** are to be found on separate leaflets.



Senate documents: This pile contains appointments, examination regulations, closures of institutes – or briefly: the fate of the university.

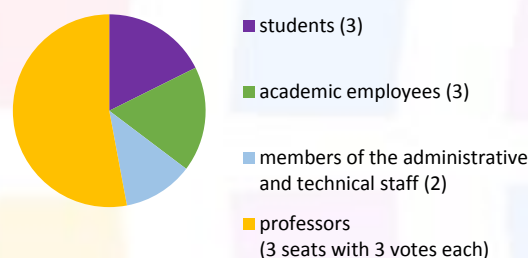
Committees at the institutes

In most cases, institutes are led by a **Board of Directors** (*Direktorium*) where only professors are entitled to vote. There are some cases where they include advisory members from other groups. It is also possible that they consist of a single person working as a director.

If major and subject merge or if a faculty houses only a few subjects (see below), subject-specific topics such as lecture programmes, regulations for the conduct of examinations, academic festivities or library opening times will be directly discussed at those faculties.

Bigger faculties like the Faculty of Modern Languages or the Faculty Of Behavioural and Cultural Studies discuss these subjects in special councils called **Fachräte**. Findings of these discussions are either being passed on to the responsible committees or directly translated into practice by the subjects themselves.

Fachrat (rule model)



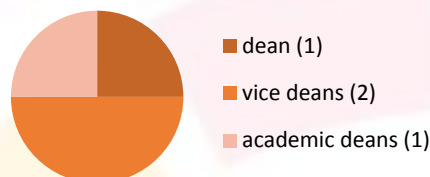
In subjects with less than three professors, the number of seats in the Fachrat is reduced according to the number of professors (2-2-2-1). In subjects with only one professorship, the administrative and technical staff doesn't receive a seat (1-1-1-0).

Committees on the faculty level

The faculty is led by the **Board of the Faculty** (*Dekanat*). Its members decide on the teaching subjects and supervise the institutions.

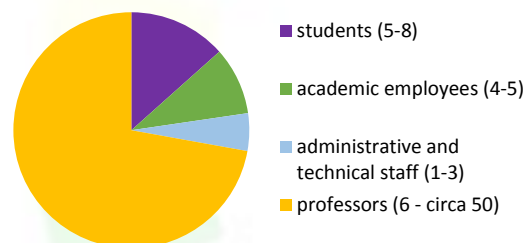
Furthermore, it acts as a treasurer for the spending of their means. Bigger faculties discuss these matters first at the level of their respective institutions.

Board of the Faculty



The faculty's advisory board is either the **big or the small** version of the **Faculty Council**. It discusses the creation/closing of majors, the appointment of professors and the range of courses. Most findings of these discussions have to be approved by the Senate of the University of Heidelberg (see below).

Faculty Council



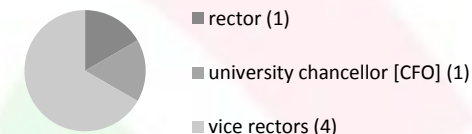
A faculty elects **up to three Academic Commissions** (*Studienkommissionen*). It does the groundwork for the Faculty Council. Faculties of up to three majors elect one commission for each major. The other faculties elect just one Academic Commission and additional *Fachräte* for the majors. [Exception: The Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences]

An Academic Commission consists of max. 10 members and may vary depending on the major. Exactly four of the members are students. At least one these students must also be a member of the Faculty Council. The Academic Commission is chaired by the academic dean.

Committees on the university level

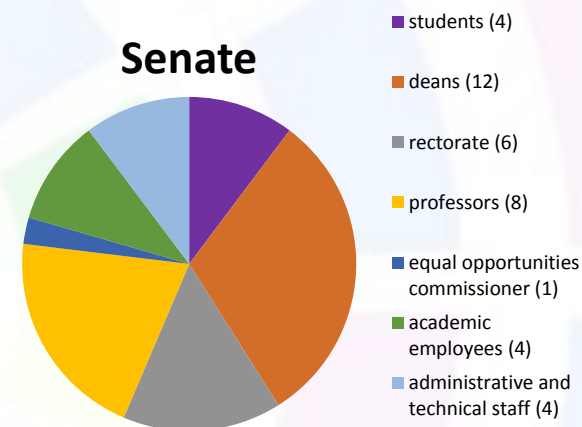
The university is led by the **Rectorate**. It represents the university externally and coordinates the internal cooperation.

Rectorate



The **Senate** is the deciding committee above the faculties and holds its meetings chaired by the rector. It is tasked with recommending the appointments of professors, decides either the creation or abolition of majors and decides/discusses the major's rules and examinations.

Senate



The Senate is completed by the representative of the Students' Council and the two representatives of the University Hospital (in each case as advising, but non-voting members) plus the representative of the Doctoral Students Convention (as a mere guest).

Most of the decisions of the Senate require further approvals, e.g., by the Rectorate, the University Council or the Ministry of Science. The work is partly prepared in **Senate Committees**.