

# Statutes of the autonomous department for gender and sexual diversity at the University of Siegen



## **Preface**

Since 15.06.1992 the autonomous gay department [in between called gay@uni] of the University of Siegen exists. Since the winter semester 2014/15 it has been renamed queer@uni - the autonomous department for gender and sexual diversity at the University of Siegen. Herewith queer@uni gives itself a constitution. [Decided on 6.02.2015 in the plenary assembly (Vollversammlung, VV), with amendments at the VV of 11.5.2016 and 25.5.2016].

## **§1 Objectives**

- (1) queer@uni provides contact persons for all students at the University of Siegen who are interested in queer topics and offers them a forum for information and discussion.
- (2) queer@uni creates an open and safe space for (queer) students at the university.
- (3) To promote or demand the acceptance by our heterosexual fellow human beings for other ways of life and life plans, as well as the resulting attitudes and opinions, and to make these visible.
- (4) To represent the interests and concerns of queer students at the university and in society.
- (5) To promote self-help and emancipation.
- (6) To promote and develop queer culture and to offer possibilities for socialising and leisure activities.
- (7) To cooperate with other university internal as well as regional and national groups.

## **§2 Members, guests**

- (1) All students who can identify with the term queer and the aims of the autonomous department for gender and sexual diversity at the University of Siegen, queer@uni, are members if they wish.
- (2) All students may participate in the public meetings as long as they do not violate the goals of the autonomous department. All members of the constitutional student body have the right to speak and make applications.
- (3) Guests are welcome and have the right to speak.

## **§3 Bodies**

- (1) The Plenary Assembly [VV]

The Plenary Assembly is the highest organ of the autonomous department. It must take place at least once a semester. The date must be announced via an invitation at least one week in advance by the university, including a provisional agenda. If this is the case, the VV is considered to have a quorum. All decisions are taken by consensus, if possible. If this is not possible, a simple majority must be obtained. For each semester a cash report and a general report on the work of the autonomous unit must be submitted to the VV. All elections take place at the VV. The president, the treasurer and the auditor are elected. The elections are by universal, free and secret ballot. A majority election takes place. All students of the University of Siegen are allowed to participate in the VV and have the right to speak and vote, as long as they do not violate the goals of the autonomous department.

(2) Regular unit meetings [plenary sessions]

The department meets weekly during the lecture period for a plenary session and discusses the tasks at hand. It does not have to be invited separately, unless the regular date is postponed. No regular meetings take place during the lecture-free period. Meetings must be announced at least one week in advance. All persons defined under §2 may participate in the plenum. A plenary assembly can be requested in the plenum.

(3) Treasurer and cash auditors

There must be a treasurer. This person must not be a member of the presidency. The treasurer regulates all financial matters in consultation with the plenary. There should be at least two treasurers, who check the cash of the unit at least once a year. The auditors must not be identical with other positions in the autonomous unit. A cash report will be given at the VV.

(4) Presidency

Is not required.

~~The Presidency consists of two persons who share the general tasks of preparing the plenary meetings. A person from the Presidency must prepare minutes and make them available to the university. The presidency is the first point of contact. Furthermore, all tasks should be distributed among the members of the unit. In elections for the Presidency, care should be taken to ensure that quotas are observed. The Presidency is elected at the VV and remains in office for at least one semester.~~

#### **§4 Transitional regulations/amendments**

These statutes shall enter into force on the day of the decision of the Plenary Assembly. Amendments to the statutes [including dissolution] must be publicly announced on the agenda and must be decided by consensus at the General Assembly, in exceptional cases by a 2/3 majority vote.

#### **Severability Clause**

If provisions of these statutes are not legally effective in whole or in part, or if their legal effectiveness is later, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected.