



RUDN University



Plenary 1. Students in University Governance: case of the RUDN University

Students in focus: Students as partners in higher education governance and quality assurance. Narxoz University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 5/4/2017



Russian Legislation on Student Governance of HEI

Russian Federal Law “On Education in the Russian Federation” (2012)

- In order to reflect the views of students on governing of educational organization the local regulatory acts that affect their rights and legitimate interests at the initiative of students, HEI is to establish council of students and trade unions of students (point 1, item 6, article 26)
- When HEI is adopting local regulatory acts affecting the rights of students, the opinion of the councils of students is taken into account (item 3, article 30)
- Basic rights of students are (article 34):
 - 4) participation in shaping the content of their professional education
 - 17) participation in managing of the HEI in the manner prescribed by its Charter
- Students have the right to form teams, associations, the purpose of which is organizing of temporary employment of these students, wishing to spare time to work in various sectors of the economy (item 7, article 34)
- Scholarship is paid taking into account the opinions of the Student Council (article 36)



Local acts for student participation in governance of the RUDN University

Part 1. Students play a significant role in governing bodies of the University

- Regulations of the Conference of employees and students (12% are students)
- Regulations of the Academic Council of the RUDN University (President of the United Student Council is a member)
- Regulations of academic councils of faculties and institutes (heads of student committees and heads of the students commissions for the quality assurance are members of the academic councils)



Local acts for student participation in governance of the RUDN University

Part 2. Students have their own governing bodies of the University

- Regulations of United Student Council (since 2001, President and heads of more than 160 student NGOs)
- Regulations of student committees of faculties and institutes (since 1960)
- Regulations of the Heads of educational groups and courses (since 1960)
- Regulations of Student Council of Dorms (since 1960)
- Regulations of the Board of the Campus (since 2005)
- Regulations of the Women's Committee (since 1965)
- Regulations of compatriotic organizations (since 1960)
- Regulations of regional organizations of international students (since 1995)
- Regulations of Youth Public Centre (since 1997)



Local acts for student participation in governance of the RUDN University

Part 3. Students have their own local acts for governing of the University

- Regulations on the competition for the best student organization
- Regulations of students' behavior in academic process
- Regulations for public certification of students
- Code of Honor of Students
- Declaration of Student Community
- Student standard for quality of education



Dimensions of students participating in University's governance

1. Student NGOs in governance of the general questions
(elections of heads of the University administration, participating in discussing and adopting of the University Charter, of the University strategic programmes, of the regulations against bureaucratization, etc. – equal voting)
2. Student NGOs in governance of the academic process
(monitoring, scholarship decisions, students discipline, settle of student-professor conflicts, fulfilling the individual plans, participating in academic commissions, etc.)
3. Student NGOs in governance of the economic activities
(cost of education and rooms in the dorms, additional services in dorms and campus, monitoring the quality of food in campus, etc.)
4. Student NGOs in governance of the international activities
(participating and initiating of international forums, campaigns for peace and tolerance, against wars, for promoting different cultures)
5. Student NGOs in governance of the non-academic activities
(social support of students, governing of the dorms, monitoring the distribution of rooms in the dorms, organizing social work in orphan homes, with handicapped children, organizing excursions, culture events, miss/mister RUDN, sport events,..)





Students feedback (from the students' point of view)

Attitude of the RUDN University administration to the student NGOs:

- “Frankly speaking we are everywhere. They consider us, respect us, listen to us.”
- “The system of self-government in the RUDN University lined up quite clearly and it allows us and the University administration know the problems that concern students.”
- “Twice a year our Rector has a meeting with us. We appreciate it very much”.
- “There are no limits of our activities from the administration of the University. They say, what you want, please, do. If you want our advice, please, tell us, and you get it. If you need our help, we give you the help needed.”
- “We are one of the leading universities in the country for the development of student self-government. In 2016 we were awarded by the Diploma of the Russian Ministry of education and science "For the best organization of activity of bodies of student self-government".

Problems:

- Not all students participate in academic and public student activities.
- Sometimes it's very hard to make students fulfil their own decisions.
- Some professors don't like student commissions for quality assurance and oppose them.



Risk Management

Risks	Solutions
Lack of readiness and adaptation of administration to govern the University together with students	Training of administrative staff
Lack of confidence from both sides	Joint meeting and discussions, openness and transparency of administrative solutions
Youth maximalism and lack of administrative and bureaucratic experience among students	More active and mass participation of students in governance
Mixed of cultures (>150 countries, 500 nations and ethnic groups with different administrative approaches, national traditions and expectations)	Adopting special regulations of behavior and communication for staff and students
Political (domestic and foreign) influence on administration and students of the University	Free from politics, religion and conflicts governance of the University

