

The Council of Vilnius University Performance Report for 2020

In its activities, the Council is guided by the provisions of the Statute of the University and by the competencies and functions delegated to the Council under this document. In its 2019 report (published on 25 March 2020), the Council of Vilnius University identified the main priorities for its activities in 2020:

- further development of the budget formation model by including measures related to the determination of the necessary costs of study programmes, the assessment of investment in research and its return as well as a broad consensus among all units and layers of management on sharing the burden of the funding of general services and needs;
- improving the efficiency of the Central Administration's activities, with particular emphasis on the improved quality of the services provided to students and employees;
- assurance of the sustainable process of integration of VU Šiauliai Academy;
- drafting of a new strategic plan of the University;
- monitoring of assurance and development of Vilnius University's technological means for organising distance studies;
- seeking closer and more efficient forms of cooperation with the new Rector's team taking office.

The composition of the VU Council changed in 2020: upon expiration of the mandate of the member of the Council Klaudijus Melys who was delegated by the VU Students' Representation, he was replaced at the Council by Justas Kvedaravičius. The information on the current composition of the Council is available here: <https://www.vu.lt/en/about-vu/structure/university-council>

In 2020, 14 Council meetings were held and 25 resolutions were adopted. As every year, the Council paid close attention to the planning, consideration and implementation of Vilnius University budget (revenue and expenditure estimate), as this document is, from the Council's point of view, the main instrument for allocating resources to the University's day-to-day activities and the means of the strategic plan. As provided for in the Council Rules of Procedure, a budget project coordination group was established in 2020 which submitted proposals and revised budget cost items; the budget project of 2020 was approved only after long discussions and revisions, in a repeated meeting of the Council. The main suggestions of the working group established by the Council were regarding the improvement of the remuneration system of academic employees, mobilising funds for wage increases, the development of the students' incentive scholarship system, ensuring the fulfilment of the University's international obligations, the allocation of the strategic fund that meets the VU strategy, investments in research development and rational evaluation of the negative financial indicators of units by identifying the causes and suggesting ways for improvement. These

priorities are also reflected in later resolutions of the Council adopted throughout 2020 – the Council approved the allocation of additional funds for the commemorative scholarships for the academic year 2020/2021 to mark the 450th anniversary of Vilnius University and awarding a targeted grant for the development of Prof. Virginijus Šikšnys research in 2021/2022.

In the meeting of 25 March 2020, the Council approved the Vilnius University Performance Report for 2019 which presented the implementation results of the Strategic Plan for 2018–2020, discussed the changes in the learning process caused by the pandemic and the management of risks thereof.

In 2020, the Council focused on the development of the University and the investments in infrastructure projects. The Council approved the Description of the Terms for the Reorganisation of Šiauliai University by Integrating It Into Vilnius University and the Reorganisation Plan of Šiauliai University by Integrating It Into Vilnius University as well as the Temporary Remuneration Procedure for Employees of Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University. The Council also approved further development of VU Saulėtekis campus by providing for the construction and setting up of the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences and the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics; it also approved the University becoming a stakeholder of the public establishment Republican Vilnius University Hospital and the public establishment Republican Vilnius Psychiatric Hospital and agreed to the investment of Vilnius University assets into the stakeholders' capital of these establishments. Via its resolutions, the Council approved the expansion of the boundaries of Vilnius University territory by overtaking the assets of Šiauliai University and several other real estate objects of the State necessary for the implementation of the University's strategy.

In line with the set priorities, the Council was involved in the drafting process of the new strategic plan of the University from the very beginning, the members of the Council participated both in the working group responsible for the preparation of methodology for the drafting of the strategic plan of the University and its harmonisation with the community, and in the initial discussions between the community members in order to refine the vision, mission and strategy of the University for the next five years. Such early involvement of the Council in the drafting process of the most important strategic document of the University was very valuable and aided in seeking closer and more efficient forms of cooperation with the new Rector's team taking office and other most initiative-taking community members.

In addition to the aforementioned resolutions, the Council has also adopted acts of an administrative organisational nature. All of them are available at: <https://www.vu.lt/apiemus/struktura/taryba/tarybos-sprendimai>

The Council will consider the following as the main directions of its activities in 2021:

- further development of the budget formation model based on a broad consensus among all units and layers of management on sharing the burden of the funding of general services and needs by including measures related to the determination of the necessary costs of study programmes, the assessment of investment in research and its return, and laying down the principles for the allocation of the strategic fund and the use of the University's financial reserves;

- assurance of the sustainable process of integration of VU Šiauliai Academy;
- provision of organisational and financial measures necessary for the development of pedagogical studies and research in educology at the University;
- Monitoring of the implementation of the University's Strategic Plan for 2021–2025 and the Annual Plan for 2021;
- monitoring of assurance and development of the University's technological means for organising distance studies;
- monitoring of the implementation of VU projects related to reducing the climate change footprint.

Chairperson of the Council of Vilnius University

Dr Eglė Radzevičienė