

The Council of Vilnius University Performance Report for 2019

In its 2018 report (published on 28 March 2019), the Council of Vilnius University identified the main priorities for its activities in 2019:

- monitoring of the reform of non-academic employee positions and remuneration, including necessary revisions of valid documents;
- 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 funding the 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;
- preparation and announcement of an open competition to the position of the Rector.

A more detailed overview of the strategic plan for 2018–2020 was submitted to the Council in the meeting of 27 February 2019. Actual results will be available only in 2020 when the majority of projects of the strategic plan will be halfway through or coming towards the end.

The budget (revenue and expenditure estimate) of Vilnius University, from the Council's point of view, is the main document for allocation of resources for day-to-day activities of the University and means of the strategic plan; therefore the Council has focused on planning, consideration and the progress of implementation of the budget. Budget projects for 2018 and 2019 were approved only after long discussions, revision, and repeated meetings of the Council. As provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Council, a budget project coordination group was established which submitted proposals and revised budget cost items. The main reason behind the amendments initiated by the Council was the full implementation of remuneration system for academic employees, applicable with exceptions since 2017, mobilisation of funds for salary increases, rational evaluation of the negative financial indicators of units by identifying the causes and suggesting ways for improvement. The Chancellor submitted quarterly budget implementation overviews to the Council. The Council establishes that the formation of the budget to the full extent does not correspond to the regulations provided by the Council as recommendations to the Central Administration led by the Rector (drawn up in Resolution of the Council No. T-2016-12- 24 of 26 October 2016 revised and supplemented in Resolution of the Council No. TPN-2 of 13 February 2019), and therefore the Council continues to suggest improving 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.

The Council announced an open international competition for the position of the Rector on 24 July 2019.

A list of candidates meeting the requirements for candidates for the position of the Rector of Vilnius

University established in the Description of the Procedure for the Organisation of the Election to the Position of the Rector of Vilnius University by Way of Open Competition was approved in the meeting of the Council on 20 November 2019. The schedule of introduction and debates of candidates for the position of the Rector of VU has also been approved.

In 2019, ten Council of VU meetings were held and 19 resolutions were adopted. Apart from the aforementioned main resolutions, a significant part of resolutions were of organisational nature. All resolutions are available here: <https://www.vu.lt/en/about-vu/structure/university-council/resolutions>.

In 2019, election of a new Council was organised and the composition of the Council was updated: until 17 December 2019 the activities were performed by the Council elected in 2014 (the composition was updated in 2016, 2017, and 2018) and, in November 2019, after repeated election, the composition of a new Council was approved. The powers of the outgoing Council terminated on 17 December 2019 when the first meeting of the new Council was convened. The composition of the new Council is available here: <https://www.vu.lt/en/about-vu/structure/university-council>

The Council will consider the following as the main directions of its activities in 2020:

- 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 the University's technological means for organising distance studies;
- seeking closer and more efficient forms of cooperation with the new Rector's team taking office.

Chairperson of the Council of Vilnius University

Dr Eglė Radzevičienė