

Student Parliament

Preamble

In an attempt to secure and encourage student representation and engagement at Bard College Berlin, as well as with the aim to promote the educational goals and ideals presented in the Academic Statutes(AS,§3) and the well-being of all students, we the Student Body, together with the elected representatives of the standing committees, hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Parliament.

Article I – Structure

The Student Parliament of Bard College Berlin shall consist of 13 representatives with the following roles:

1. **2 chairs** who are responsible for agenda setting and moderation of the Student Parliament sessions, as well as communication of the aforementioned agenda and passing motions to the leadership of the university. The chair position requires a minimum service of 2 terms(1 year) and a maximum of 4 terms(2 years). This does not make the chairs exempt from the biyearly elections.
2. **1 spokesperson** who is responsible for the outreach to the student body of Bard College Berlin.
3. **1 student labour representative** whose position entails the observation of the labour policies as well as the defense of student labour rights and well-being.
4. **1 student representative of identity diversity** whose position entails the coordination of events and projects to bolster and facilitate on and off-campus dialogues about diversity.
5. **1 network representative** who is responsible for the outreach to the Bard network.

6. **1 representative for new policies** whose responsibility will be to review recent changes in policy of Bard College Berlin and present said changes to the Student Parliament. The establishment of this position necessitates that the administration update the position holder with all new changes in institutional policy.
7. **6 members from committees** (2 Student Life Committee, 2 Academic Senate, 2 Studies Committee) who are responsible for communication between the parliament and the committees. Here is their main function as independent organs:
 - a. Student Life Committee: The task of the Student Life Committee is to develop student initiatives that will enhance the social, cultural, and intellectual life of the college. The SLC gathers and represents ideas and concerns from the student body in the area of student life. In turn, the SLC works as a mediator between the student body and the administration in resolving these concerns. The SLC is chaired by a student head or co-heads, and includes the Associate Dean, two professors, the Residential Life Coordinator, the Student Affairs Officer, the Residential Life Assistants, and at least four elected student representatives.(SH)
 - b. Academic Senate: Notwithstanding the rights of Bard College Berlin gGmbH, the Academic Senate shall advise and pass resolutions on all academic matters of self-administration which are of fundamental importance and affect the entire university.(AS,§14)
 - c. Studies Committee: The Studies Committee is a student-led committee. Its purpose is to offer students the opportunity to provide feedback on the programs and academic life of the college. Any matter concerning requirements, courses, or advising can be raised at the Studies Committee. Its members are the Dean, two further professors, and at least two student representatives. (SH)

Article II – Objectives and Tasks

The Student Parliament of Bard College Berlin shall function and strive to achieve the following aims as the Parliament:

1. serve as the chief representative of the Bard College Berlin Student Body, whose will shall be seen as the political mandate of the Parliament (§ 18, 19 BerlHG)
2. promote the social and economic well-being of the students
3. serve as an open space for ideas, suggestions, and complaints, as well as a communicator to the administration
4. The Student Parliament shall meet with the University Leadership at least two times per semester (if necessary this number can increase)
5. participate in the fulfillment of the aforementioned responsibilities of the university, as stated in the Academic Statutes
6. promote political education, civic responsibility, and defend tolerance and basic human rights
7. acknowledge the cultural, social, and economic interests of the community
8. promote the integration of all students
9. maintain communication with the Bard HESP Network, as well as other related institutions
10. promote the objectives of the academic curriculum (AS, §21)
11. In order to achieve these objectives, the Parliament will remain in active contact with the other organs at BCB. It will function as an advisory platform, but shall not overrule the decisions of the standing committees.
12. The Student Parliament shall be responsible for collaboratively setting up the agenda for the General Assemblies as well as choosing representatives (within the Parliament) to help lead the meetings

Article III - Voting Procedures

Section 1: Electing member of the StuPA

1. Elections will take place each term, generally in **late September and late February**.
2. Students will be voted directly into the Student Parliament as non-committee-members and only then be elected for positions (election within the Student Parliament). Committee members will then choose two delegates from within their respective committees.
3. The Student Parliament will remain in place (and active) during all breaks.

Section 2: Passing of motions

1. Motions, when passed, shall henceforth be defined as the written will of the Student Parliament.
2. In order to pass a motion, a minimum of 50% of the members of the Student Parliament will need to be present, including (immediate) online presence in the form of audio (visual) communication.
3. Quorum to convene shall be defined as 50% of the present members gathering.
4. In order for a student complaint to be automatically considered a minimum of 5% of the Student Body must be signatories. Any member of the Parliament will be able to propose a motion to the floor but only the chairs will be allowed to call extraordinary sessions.
5. All motions shall be presented and discussed in the parliamentary sessions, so as to guarantee transparency.

Section 3: Amendment of the Constitution

There are two ways to amend the hereby established Constitution:

1. If at least 11 members of the Student Parliament vote in favor.
2. If there is 2/3 majority from a Student Referendum, wherein 2/3 of the Student Body votes.

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Documents cited:

BerLHG- Gesetz über die Hochschulen im Land Berlin
(Berliner Hochschulgesetz - BerlHG)
in der Fassung vom 26. Juli 2011

AS- Academic Statutes of Bard College Berlin, A Liberal Arts University October
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SH- Student Handbook