



## **Statutes for the Research Focus Centers of Hamburg University of Technology**

### **Preamble**

The main goal of the Research Focus Centers (FSP) of Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) is to intensify interdisciplinary research work, thereby sharpening the research profile of the TUHH. The core task of research is still carried out in the institutes. Furthermore, additional scientific findings are to be developed through longer-term research cooperations. Based on the structure and development plan, this will strengthen Hamburg-Harburg as a university location.

Focusing on areas of competence that are visible to the outside is indispensable for positioning TUHH in competition with other universities and for increasing its attractiveness for students and scientists. The FSP structure provides motivation for research activities and for the establishment of new research associations.

A FSP is prepared on the initiative of professors, applied for to the Presidential Board and established by the Academic Senate. The task of an FSP is to bundle the knowledge available in the participating institutes on a professional topic, to organize and design the research cooperation and to form a team of several professors in order to achieve additional scientific knowledge from the cooperation. Teamwork practiced over a longer period of time forms a necessary prerequisite and preparation for the acquisition of joint projects or coordinated research programs. The FSP structure is open to all professors, is further developed from the structural and development planning and forms a flexible platform for new research collaborations.

## **§ 1 Objective and organizational framework**

1. Research centers are established at TUHH in order to develop additional scientific knowledge that goes beyond individual disciplines, to assist in the implementation of this knowledge in practice, and to train young scientists in research.
2. A FSP is a temporary association of several institutes of the TUHH. It is open for cooperations with other scientific institutions and organizations from the chosen research area and with industry and business.
3. A FSP can be formed if several, usually at least five, professors of the TUHH declare working together for at least four years following a common program. A FSP can be applied for by any professor of the TUHH at any time at the Presidential Board. The Presidential Board informs the Academic Senate about the application. When reviewing the application, internal and, if necessary, external experts are consulted. A FSP is established upon proposal of the Presidential Board by resolution of the Academic Senate. Proposals that have not been put forward will be dealt with by the Academic Senate at the request of the applicants.
4. If necessary, a decision on the extension of the FSP will be made by resolution of the Academic Senate after prior evaluation by internal and external reviewers on the proposal of the Presidential Board.

## **§ 2 Tasks**

1. The main task of a FSP is the processing of longer-term and interdisciplinary research projects. Thus, research fields are concentrated and coordinated within the TUHH.
2. The FSP raises project funds and central resources (e.g. from the TUHH Innovation Fund).
3. The FSP participates in appointment, habilitation and doctoral procedures.
4. The FSP shall report its activities and research results to the Academic Senate once a year.
5. The FSP spokespersons advise the Presidential Board on the research strategy. They make recommendations on strategic priorities, also across FSPs, e.g. within the framework of state research funding.

The FSP spokespersons recommend the use of funds of the TUHH research fund.

### **§ 3 Selection criteria**

A FSP is established when the research topic meets several of the following criteria:

- clear research objectives,
- originality and degree of innovation,
- degree of overlap with the structural and development planning of the TUHH,
- interdisciplinary character of the research topic,
- promising perspective for further funding by third parties,
- promotion of young scientists.

### **§ 4 Membership**

1. There are full and associate members.
2. Full members are the participating professors of the TUHH. Persons who actively support the work of the FSP may become associate members.
3. Full members have active and passive voting rights at the General Meeting, associate members have the right to speak.
4. Full members have the right to contribute projects to the work program of the FSP and to use the services of the FSP. By decision of the General Meeting, associated members can be treated as full members.
5. Applications for membership are to be addressed to the spokesperson of the FSP. The General Meeting decides about the membership.
6. Membership is terminated by personal declaration or by resolution of the General Meeting.

### **§ 5 General Meeting**

1. The full and associate members constitute the General Meeting. The full members are entitled to vote.
2. The General Meeting constitutes a quorum if all members have been duly invited and more than half of the members are present or have delegated their vote in writing.
3. The General Meeting shall propose a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker for election to the Academic Senate from among the regular members for a four-year term.
4. The General Meeting decides on
  - the research program and the organization
  - the admission of new members
  - the termination of membershipswith at least  $2/3$  of the members present.
5. The General Meeting is invited in writing by the spokesperson at least four times a year. At the request of at least half of the members, the spokesperson must convene the general meeting within four weeks.
6. Resolutions of the General Meeting require a simple majority of the members present. Upon request, voting shall be by secret ballot.
7. Minutes are to be taken of each General Meeting.

## **§ 6 Spokesperson and deputy spokesperson**

1. The spokesperson represents the interests of the FSP internally and externally. He/she is responsible for the content-related and organizational work, invites the members of the FSP to regular meetings and chairs the general meeting.
2. The spokesperson is bound by the resolutions of the general meeting. She/he reports to the general meeting about her/his work.

## **§ 7 Final provisions**

These statutes shall enter into force on the day following the adoption of the resolution by the Academic Senate of the TUHH. At the same time, the statutes for the TUHH's Research Focus Centers of 29.03.2006 shall cease to be in force.

Hamburg, September 27, 2006

Hamburg University of Technology

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