



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

Passed by the Academic Senate of Hamburg University of Technology on 26 October 2022

### **Preamble**

The main goal of the Research Focus Centers (FSPs) 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 by the institutes. Furthermore, additional scientific findings are to be developed through longer-term research collaborations. Based on the structure and development plan, this will strengthen Hamburg-Harburg as a university location.

The focus on externally visible areas of expertise is indispensable for TUHH's positioning in its competition with other universities and for increasing its attractiveness to students and researchers. The FSP structure will encourage research activities as well as the establishment of new research associations.

Preparations for establishing an FSP are initiated by the professors, the FSP has to then be formally submitted to the Presidential Board and established by the Academic Senate. The task of the FSP is to consolidate the knowledge existing within the participating institutes on a specific subject, to organize and structure the research collaboration, and to form a team of several professors in order to gain additional scientific insights from the collaboration. Teamwork practiced over a longer period of time is a necessary prerequisite and preparatory step for the acquisition of collaborative projects or coordinated research programs. The FSP structure

is open to all professors, will be further developed as part of the structural and development planning and forms a flexible platform for new research collaborations.

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

(1) FSP 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) An FSP is a temporary association of several institutes of the TUHH. It is open for collaborations with other scientific institutions and organizations from the chosen research area, as well as, with industry and business.

(3) An FSP can be formed if several, usually at least five, professors of the TUHH declare their intention of working together for at least three years following a common programme. The application for a new FSP can be submitted by any professor of the TUHH at any time to the Presidential Board. The Presidential Board informs the Academic Senate about the application. When reviewing the application, internal and, where appropriate, external experts are consulted. An FSP is established upon the proposal of the Presidential Board by resolution of the Academic Senate. Applications that have not gained a proposal will be discussed by the Academic Senate at the request of the applicants.

(4) If necessary, a decision on the extension of an 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 an FSP is to work on longer-term and interdisciplinary research initiatives. This leads to a concentration of research areas within 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) Through their membership in the Committee for Strategy Development in Research 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.

(6) Through their membership in the Committee for Strategy Development in Research the FSP spokespersons make recommendations on the use of funds of the TUHH research fund.

### **§ 3 Selection criteria**

An FSP is established if the research topic meets several of the following criteria:

1. Clear research objectives,
2. originality and innovativeness,
3. degree of overlap with the structural and development planning of the TUHH,
4. interdisciplinary character of the research topic,
5. promising perspective for further funding by third parties,
6. promotion of young scientists.

### **§ 4 Membership**

(1) There are full and associated 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 from among the regular members to the Academic Senate to be elected for a three-year term.

(4) The General Meeting decides on

1. the research program and the organization
2. the admission of new members
3. the termination of memberships

with at least 2/3 of the members who are present.

(5) The General Meeting is convened 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 their adoption 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, 26 October 2022

*Hamburg University of Technology*

This translation of the „Satzung für die Forschungsschwerpunkte der Technischen Universität Hamburg – beschlossen vom Akademischen Senat der Technischen Universität Hamburg am 26. Oktober 2022“ is intended solely as a convenience to the non-German-reading public. Any discrepancies or differences that may exist between this translation and the official German version are not binding and have no legal effect for compliance or enforcement purposes.