**ABDULLAH GÜL UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT SENATE REGULATION**

**CHAPTER ONE**

**Purpose, Scope, Basis, and Definitions**

**Purpose**

**ARTICLE 1** – (1) The purpose of this regulation is to establish the procedures and principles regarding the formation, objectives, and execution of the Abdullah Gül University Student Senate within the framework of a student-centered university approach aimed at enhancing the quality of education and training activities.

**Scope**

**ARTICLE 2** – (1) This regulation covers the formation, duties, and authorities of the Student Senate within the scope of improving quality in education and training activities under a student-centered university approach.

**Basis**

**ARTICLE 3** – (1) This regulation has been prepared based on national and international principles that promote student participation in higher education, in line with Abdullah Gül University's Institutional Quality Policies, Article 35 of the Higher Education Law No. 2547, Article 17 of the Higher Education Quality Assurance and Higher Education Quality Board Regulation titled "Duties of the Higher Education Institution Quality Commission," the European Union Acquis Chapter 26 on "Education and Culture," the Bologna Process, and the Council of Europe’s Working Group on Fundamental Values in Higher Education, to which Turkey is a party.

**Definitions**

**ARTICLE 4** – (1) The following terms in this regulation refer to:

University: Abdullah Gül University

Rectorate: The Rectorate of Abdullah Gül University

Rector: The Rector of Abdullah Gül University

Vice Rector: The Vice Rector assigned by the Rectorate

University Senate: The Senate of Abdullah Gül University

Student Dean’s Office: The Abdullah Gül University Student Activities Coordination Office

Student Dean: The Coordinator of Student Activities at Abdullah Gül University

Committee: The University Student Representative Election Committee

Student Senate: The Abdullah Gül University Student Senate

Senate President: The President of the Student Senate elected by the Abdullah Gül University Student Senate

Student Representative: A student elected to represent the units of Abdullah Gül University

Club: Any student club defined in the Abdullah Gül University Student Clubs Regulation

Agenda: The list of topics to be discussed in the Abdullah Gül University Student Senate meetings

Decision: The resolutions made regarding the agenda items discussed in the Abdullah Gül University Student Senate meetings

**CHAPTER TWO**

**Formation, Purpose, and Duties of the Student Senate**

**Formation of the Student Senate**

**ARTICLE 5** –(1) The Student Senate elects its President for a two-year term during its first meeting. The President is elected by a majority vote of the Student Senate members.

(2) The Student Senate consists of members elected from among candidates meeting the qualifications outlined in paragraph 3 of this article. The membership is as follows:

1. One undergraduate student representative from each department (must be a Turkish citizen).
2. Up to three student representatives from the preparatory school.
3. Up to three international student representatives.
4. Up to three student representatives selected from among student club presidents.
5. One graduate student representative from each institute with a graduate program.

(3) Requirements for Student Senate membership applications:

1. Undergraduate students must be in their second or third year; graduate students must be in their coursework period.
2. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 (not required for graduate students).
3. Not a member of or involved in any political party organization.
4. Not affiliated with or receiving/giving financial support to associations, foundations, or communities with explicit political ties.
5. No criminal record.
6. No disciplinary sanctions.
7. Active student status with no frozen or inactive registration.
8. No ties to any terrorist organizations.

(4) Priority in elections is given to:

1. Students with disabilities.
2. Female students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields.

(5) Reasons for termination of Student Senate membership:

1. Missing two consecutive meetings or three meetings within a year without an excuse.
2. Graduation.
3. Resignation.
4. Failure to meet the qualifications in Article 5, Paragraph 3.

(6) Replacement of vacant seats:

1. A new member is selected using the same procedure to complete the remaining term.

(7) A student cannot hold more than one representative position at the same time.

**Application and Selection of Student Senate Members**

**ARTICLE 6 –**

(1) The election schedule for the Student Senate is determined by the Student Dean’s Office by the end of November and published on the university’s website.

(2) Applications are submitted through an online application form available on the Student Dean’s Office website.

(3) Applications are preliminarily evaluated based on the criteria in Article 5, Paragraph 3.

(4) Eligible candidates are invited for an interview conducted by the Committee. Successful candidates are elected and announced on the Student Dean’s Office website.

(5) Applications and interviews are conducted in English.

(6) If a Senate member’s term ends for any reason under Article 5, Paragraph 5, a new member is selected using the same procedure to complete the remaining term.

(7) If the Student Senate is dissolved for any reason, it is reconstituted following the procedures in this regulation.

(8) Student Senate members serve a two-year term.

**Purpose and Duties of the Student Senate**

**ARTICLE 7 –**

(1) The purposes of the Student Senate:

1. Encourage student participation in education, quality, and accreditation processes.
2. Support student rights and interests and contribute to university policies and services.
3. Enhance the academic, social, sports, and cultural experiences of students on campus.
4. Strengthen relationships between students, faculty, and university administration to address student concerns and develop innovative solutions.
5. Contribute to and support the development of a student-centered education system.

(2) Duties of the Student Senate:

1. Represent student opinions and perspectives from their respective faculties and departments.
2. Establish an effective communication mechanism between students and university administration.
3. Evaluate university policies and their impact on students and provide recommendations.
4. Communicate student expectations and needs regarding education, health, sports, and culture to the administration.
5. Conduct projects and initiatives aimed at increasing student satisfaction.
6. Inform students about decisions affecting them.
7. Increase student participation in academic and social events at the university.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**Operational Procedures of the Student Senate**

**Meetings**

**ARTICLE 8 –**

(1) Members must submit agenda items in writing to the Student Dean’s Office at least five business days before the meeting.

(2) The agenda is prepared by the Student Dean’s Office Secretariat.

(3) The final agenda is sent to members electronically at least two business days before the meeting, except in urgent cases.

**Meeting Invitation, Location, and Time**

**ARTICLE 9 –**

(1) The Student Senate convenes twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring semester, as a regular meeting with the participation of members.

(2) Apart from the regular meetings mentioned in the first paragraph of this article, if the members submit an agenda to the Student Dean's Office in accordance with Article 8 of this Directive, the Student Senate convenes with the participation of members.

(3) The meeting invitation is made by the Student Dean's Office.

(4) The meeting location, date, and time are determined by the Student Dean's Office and announced to the members electronically at least two business days before the meeting date.

(5) If needed, relevant officials or authorized experts may be invited to the meetings by the Student Senate.

(6) If requested by the Rector, Vice Rector, or Student Dean, the Student Senate may be convened, and the requesting authority presides over the meeting.

**Quorum for Meetings**

**ARTICLE 10 –**

(1) The quorum for the Student Senate meeting is more than half of the total number of members.

(2) Before the meeting starts, the attendance sheet prepared by the Student Dean's Office is signed by the Student Senate President and members. If the quorum is met according to the attendance sheet, the Student Senate President opens the meeting. If the quorum is not met, the Student Senate President records the situation in a report signed by the attending members and closes the meeting.

**Voting**

**ARTICLE 11 –**

(1) Each agenda item discussed is voted on separately. Each member has one vote. Members are required to cast their vote as either "accept" or "reject." Abstaining from voting is not allowed. In case of a tie, the President's vote determines the outcome.

(2) Voting is conducted openly. In open voting, vote counting is carried out by the Presidency.

(3) The President and members who do not attend the meeting cannot cast their votes in writing or authorize another member to vote on their behalf.

(4) Those who attend the meeting without being a member do not have voting rights.

**Decisions**

**ARTICLE 12 –**

(1) Student Senate decisions are made by a majority vote of the attending members.

(2) The decisions made are documented as a decision record by the rapporteur and signed by the members.

(3) Once signed, the decisions are forwarded to the relevant units or individuals by the Student Dean's Office within two (2) business days.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**Miscellaneous and Final Provisions**

**Unspecified Matters**

**ARTICLE 13** – (1) In cases not covered by this regulation, relevant legislation and University Senate decisions apply.

**Enforcement and Execution**

**ARTICLE 14** – (1) This regulation enters into force upon its approval by the University Senate.

**ARTICLE 15 – (1)** The Rector is responsible for executing its provisions.