

LANGUAGE POLICY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG

Establishment of a temporary commission of the Rectorate (Art. 71 para. 1 of the University Statutes: Language policy and its institutional anchoring)

Mandate of the Rectorate of 2 March 2020

1 Initial situation and objectives

As part of the preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2020 - 2030 (Art. 9 para. 1 UniG; *Strategy 2030*), the Rectorate has formulated a draft of the University of Fribourg's language strategy. The draft of *Strategy 2030* will be submitted to the faculties and corporations as well as other interested parties for consultation, probably in mid-March 2020 with a deadline of approximately the end of May 2020.

In parallel with the preparation of the draft *Strategy 2030*, the Rectorate initiated the reorganisation of the Language Centre over the course of 2019 and adopted various decisions in this regard at its meeting on 2 March 2020. The consultation process carried out prior to the adoption of these resolutions highlighted in particular the need to formulate the language policy of the University of Fribourg. For further details, please refer to the attached document.

Against this background, the Rectorate decided at its meeting on 17 February 2020 to appoint a temporary commission. In this way, it intends to ensure a more in-depth and broadly-supported discussion of the University's draft language strategy within the framework of the procedure for the adoption of *Strategy 2030*. In addition, the Rectorate intends to further concretise this strategy by developing a language policy for the University. Together, the language strategy and language policy should form the basis for the future development, positioning and profiling of the bilingual University of Fribourg and its units. Finally, in coordination with the language strategy and policy, the Rectorate aims to specify and formulate the general objectives pursued with the open access courses provided by the Language Centre.

2 Order

Against this background, the Rectorate has issued the following mandate to the Commission:

- A. Drafting of a statement for the Rectorate on the guidelines on bilingualism and multilingualism formulated in the draft of *Strategy 2030* and, if necessary, the formulation of proposals for adaptation; this must be done by the end of August 2020 at the latest.

Considering the consultation schedule for *Strategy 2030*, the Rectorate has asked the Commission for an interim report as of the beginning of June 2020.

- B. Drafting a proposal for a language policy for the Rectorate which concretises the language strategy in the following areas in particular:
- Positioning and profiling of the University of Fribourg as a bilingual university, especially in teaching and research on a national and international level.
 - To define more precisely the role and self-image of the University of Fribourg as a bridge between the language cultures at cantonal, national and international level.
 - Identification of possible contributions of bilingualism and multilingualism to the realisation and implementation of the development goals and strategic guidelines formulated in *Strategy 2030*.
 - Formulation of basic principles for ensuring attractive learning conditions for first, second and foreign language students and ensuring equal opportunity.
 - Determination of the importance and weighting of English in teaching and research, particularly with regard to the international positioning of the University of Fribourg and its attractiveness for foreign researchers and students.
 - Formulation of basic principles concerning the implementation or realisation of bilingualism in the administration.

These tasks are to be based on the reflections on the language strategy (point A above) and on *Strategy 2030* which is expected to be adopted by the Rectorate in September 2020. University language policy should leave the faculties and units sufficient scope for implementing bilingualism and multilingualism in a way that takes into account their specific needs and characteristics. A draft of the language policy must be submitted to the Rectorate by mid-October 2020.

- C. Specification and formulation of the general objectives of the open access courses offered by the SPC. These objectives are to be formulated by voting on the results of the reflections on points A and B above and in consideration of the Rectorate's decisions in this regard. They form the basis for the later development of the Language Centre's offerings and for the formulation of the learning objectives of individual courses. A corresponding proposal shall be submitted to the Rectorate by the beginning of December 2020.

3 Composition of the Commission

The composition of the Commission is as follows:

- The Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation responsible for language policy, Prof. Katharina Fromm (Representative of the Rectorate, Executive Committee)
- The President of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Language Centre, Vice-Rector Prof. Franz Mali
- Another member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Language Centre
- The Director of the Language Centre, N.N., as representative of the Language Centre

- A representative of the Department of Multilingualism Research and Foreign Language Didactics
- One representative of each of the five faculties
- One representative each of the student bodies, scientific staff, professors, administrative and technical personnel.

The Commission may entrust the Scientific Advisory Board of the Language Centre with the development of basic principles.

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