



DOCTORAL
CONVENTION



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Doctoral Convention: General Assembly

*Doktorandenkonvent:
Vollversammlung*

4 December 2024

4. Dezember 2024

doktorandenkonvent@uni-heidelberg.de

<https://www.doktorandenkonvent.uni-heidelberg.de/>

Agenda / Tagesordnung

1. Administrative Procedures / *Administratives*
2. How does the Doctoral Convention work? / *Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?*
3. Report from the former Executive Committee (ExCO) / *Bericht des alten ExCO*
4. New Executive Committee (ExCO) Members / *Neue Mitglieder des ExCO*
5. Finances / *Finanzen*
6. Communication strategy / *Kommunikationsstrategie*
7. Federal Association of Doctoral Candidates (BuPro) / *Bundesverband Promovierende*
8. Baden-Württemberg University law reform / *LHG-Novelle*
9. Baden-Württemberg University funding cuts / *Hochschulfinanzierung*
10. Open discussion / *Offene Diskussion*

1) Administrative procedures

Administratives

Administrative issues / *Administratives*

- Language
 - Giving consent to take pictures
 - Open voting
 - Election of the session chair
 - Recorder of minutes
- *Sprache*
 - *Einwilligung auf Fotos zu erscheinen*
 - *Offene Abstimmungen*
 - *Wahl der Sitzungsleitung*
 - *Protokollführung*

Administrative issues // Administratives

Session chair:

Pablo Gonzalez Jabalera

Wahl der Sitzungsleitung:

Pablo Gonzalez Jabalera

Technical moderator:

Carolina Elizondo

Technische Leitung:

Carolina Elizondo

Recorder of minutes:

Clara Escañuela Nieves

Protokollführung:

Clara Escañuela Nieves

Abstimmung: Ja - Enthaltung - Nein //

Voting: Yes - Abstain - No



2) How does the Doctoral Convention work?

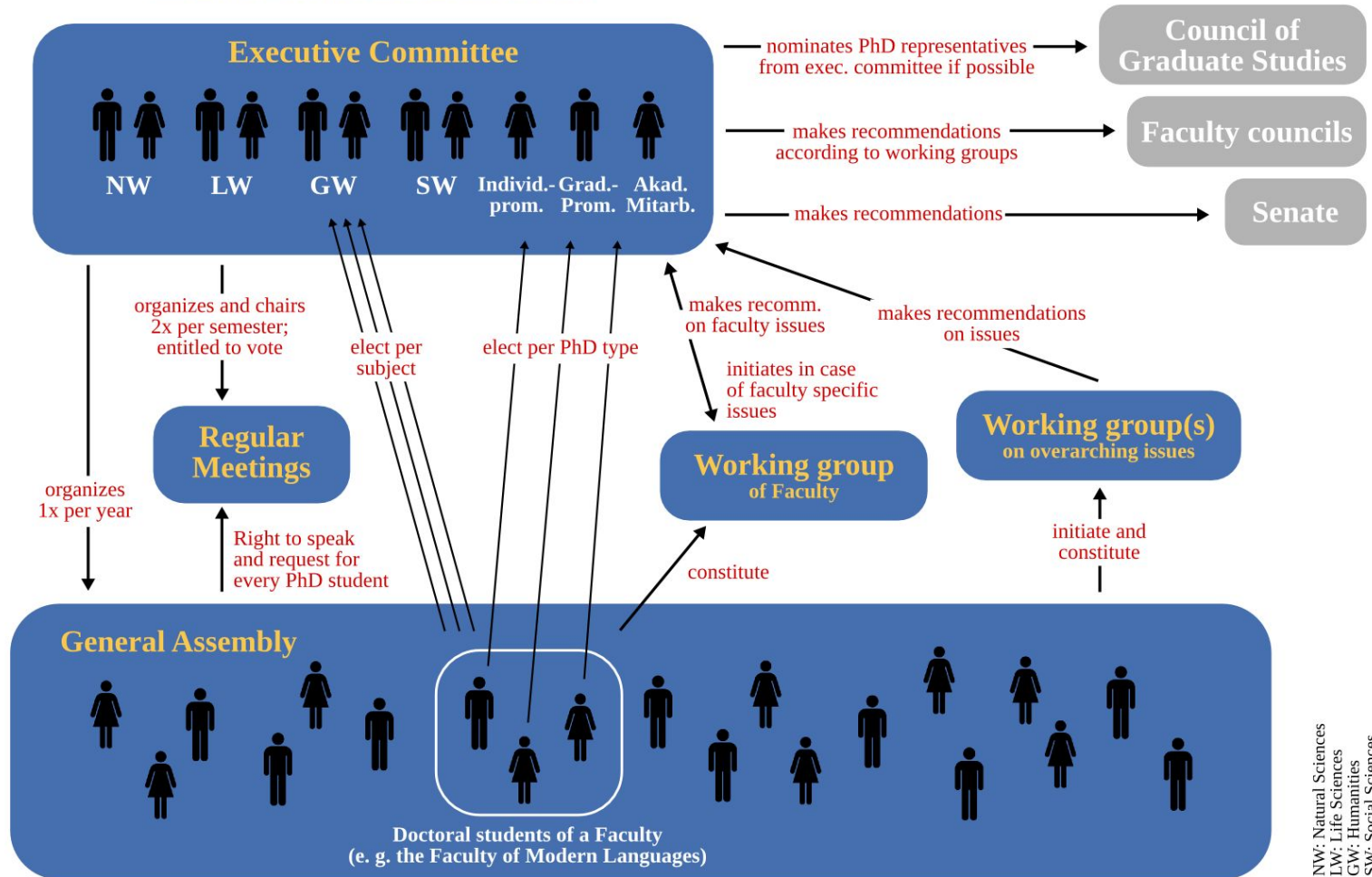
Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?

How does the Doctoral Convention work?

Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?

Convention of Doctoral Students

according to rules of procedure draft from Oct 3, 2015



How does the Doctoral Convention work?

Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?

§10 – Finances

- (1) According to §65 a (5) Higher Education Act, the Doctoral convention uses the dues of the enrolled doctoral candidates for their purposes.
- (2) The dues are managed by the Body (VS) and assigned in coordination with the Doctoral convention. The Finance Regulations of the VS are used to regulate the management of the funds of the doctoral candidates. The Doctoral convention pays a financial contribution to the VS. This contribution covers the administration expenses of the VS as well as the services of the VS which can be made use of by doctoral candidates.
- (3) The executive committee appoints up to two doctoral candidates as finance commissars. They compile a budgetary plan and work together with the finance officer and budget commissioner of the Body.

§ 10 – Finanzen

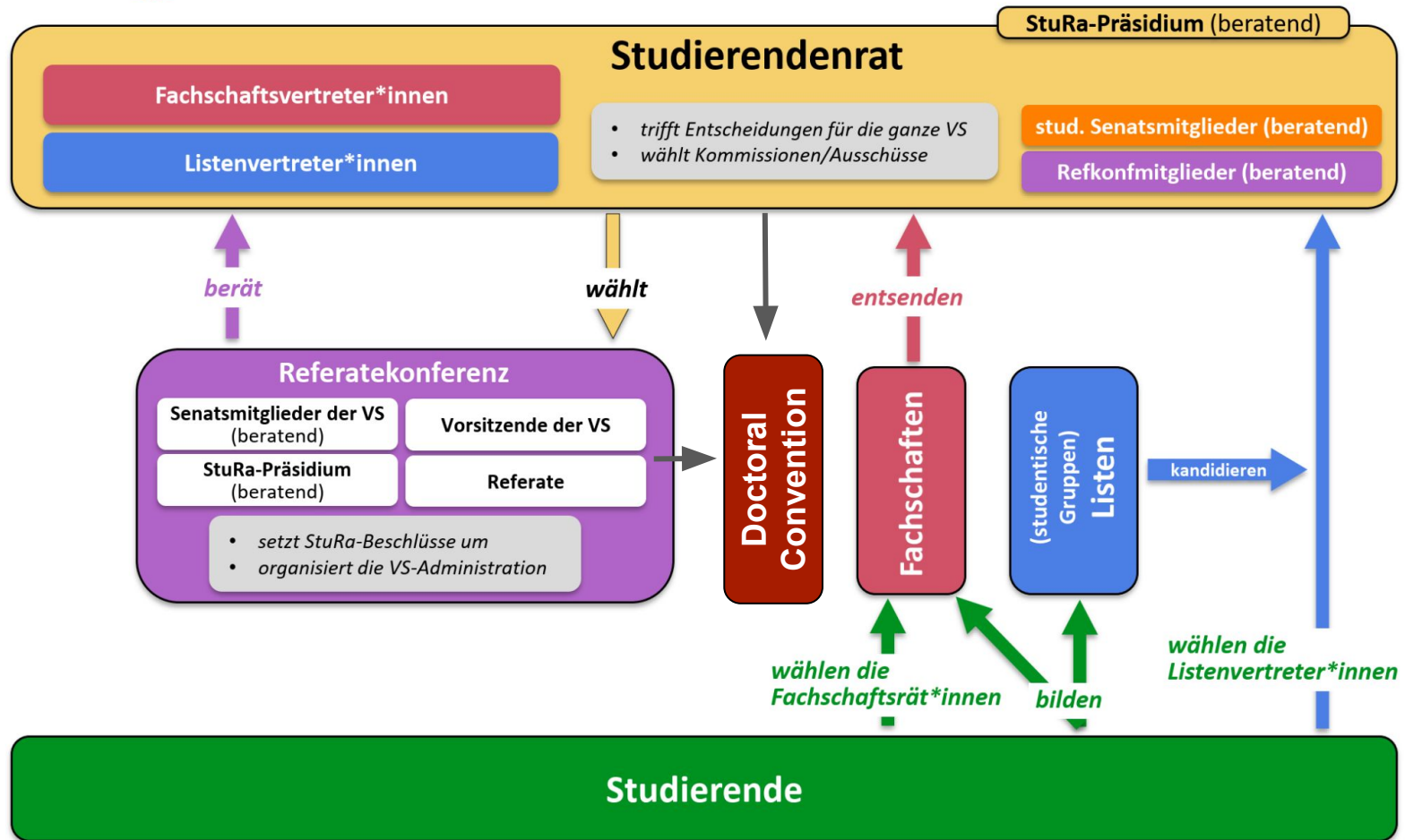
- (1) Gemäß § 65 a Abs. 5 LHG verwendet der Doktorandenkonvent die Beiträge der eingeschriebenen Doktorand:innen für deren Belange.
- (2) Die Beiträge werden von der verfassten Studierendenschaft (VS) verwaltet und in Abstimmung mit dem Doktorandenkonvent vergeben. Für die Bewirtschaftung der Mittel der Doktoranden werden die Regelungen der Finanzordnung der VS sinngemäß angewandt. Der Doktorandenkonvent leistet in Absprache mit der VS einen finanziellen Beitrag an die VS. Dieser Beitrag wird für Verwaltungsaufwand des Studierendenrats sowie für die Leistungen der VS, die auch von Doktorand:innen in Anspruch genommen werden können, gezahlt.
- (3) Der Vorstand bestellt bis zu zwei Doktorand:innen zu Finanzverantwortlichen. Sie erstellen auf Grundlage von Beratungen in der Vollversammlung einen Haushaltsplan für den Doktorandenkonvent und arbeiten mit den Finanzreferent:innen der VS und dem:der Beauftragten für den Haushalt zusammen.

How does the Doctoral Convention work?

Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?



Die Verfasste Studierendenschaft der Universität Heidelberg



How does the Doctoral Convention work?

Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?



Carolyn Roder and Fritz Beck
Chairpeople (*Vorsitzende*)



Kirsten-Heike Pistel
Commissioner for the Budget (*Beauftragte
für den Haushalt*)

Johannes Müller, Duc Thien Bui, Theodoros Argiantzis, Miriam Kaden
Financial officers (*Finanzreferent*innen*)

How does the Doctoral Convention work?

Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?

The Council for Graduate Studies:

1. **Advisory and Strategic Role:** The Council for Graduate Studies advises the Rectorate, faculties, and the Graduate Academy on the development of overarching structures, quality standards, and strategic goals to support young researchers.
2. **Coordination and Oversight:** It promotes interfaculty collaboration, harmonizes strategic projects, and oversees compliance with university guidelines on good scientific practice, diversity, and equal opportunities.
3. **Operational Support:** The council appoints selection committees for funding, proposes ombudspersons, and forms committees to assist in implementing its tasks.

The Faculty Councils:

1. The structural and development plans of the Faculty.
2. the formation, alteration and closure of Faculty departments/structures.
3. The Study Course and Examination Regulations of the Faculty.

How does the Doctoral Convention work?

Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?

The Graduate Academy:

It is the central coordinating body for all support services related to general advising, professional and academic development and financial assistance for doctoral candidates at Heidelberg University.



Dr. Helke Hillebrand
Director

How does the Doctoral Convention work?

Wie funktioniert der Doktorandenkonvent?

PhDs in the University Senate:

- Highest governing body of university
- 4 PhD seats with voting rights (out of 41)
- Final stage of decision making
→ Faculty level representation essential!
- PhD-relevant topics: doctoral regulations, appointments of new professors...
- Advisory seat for PhD candidates in Appointment Committees for new Professors.



3) Report from the former Executive Committee (ExCO) *Bericht des alten ExCO* 2023-2024

Former Executive Committee Members

2023-2024



Oliver Gilliam (DKFZ)
Speaker ExCo
Financial Officer
Rep: Life Sciences
WG: "Doctoral Regulations"



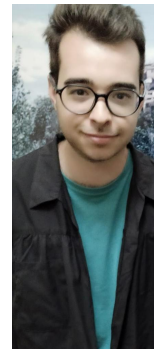
Deepa Elizabeth John (English)
Co-speaker ExCo
Event Officer
Rep: Graduate Schools
WG: ProKo



Darya Katkova (English)
Event Officer
International Officer
Rep: Individual PhD



Halyna Karpusha (ZMBH)
Financial Officer
Rep: Academic Employees

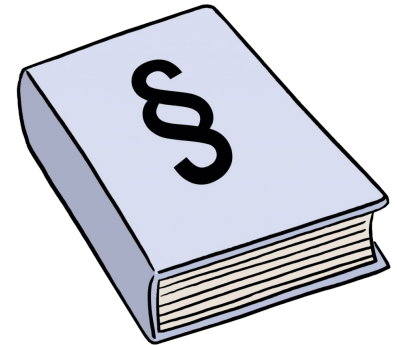


Rodrigo Agustín Lana (English)
PR/Communication
Rep: Humanities



Our tasks

- Proofread doctoral regulations of the certain faculties
- Propose amendments
- Meet and discuss with representatives from the faculties
- Our statement is given to the Senate as highest university body



Done in 2024:

- Faculty of Philosophy
 - Online defense, better supervision, improved readability of document
- Faculty of Math, Natural Sciences, Engineering (Gesamtfakultät)
 - Clear timeframe of PhD (4-5 years depending of faculty)
 - Online defense (PhD student has to agree to this)

Activities of the former ExCo

Meeting with the rector Prof. Frauke Melchior



Marie-Luise-Jung Award and Foundation



Activities of the former ExCo

Past Events



Christmas cookie baking



Round table first Wednesday every month



Neckarwiese Summer Party

Activities of the former ExCo

Past Events

ChemBioPharm-Weekend



Workshops:

- *Job opportunities in Pharma and Bioscience*
- *Who am I and how can I find my way*
(Workshop on career opportunities beyond academia)

Hygiene products for research groups and offices



Vote to release the former ExCo Members 2023-2024

4) New Executive Committee Members

Neue Vorstandsmitglieder

New Executive Committee Members / *Neue Vorstandsmitglieder* 2024-2025



Zahra Karimian (HIGH)
Speaker
Rep: Individual PhD Training
WG: International Students



Pablo Gonzalez Jabalera (IPMB - Biochemistry)
Public Relations (PR) Officer
Rep: Social Sciences
WG: BuPro



Clara Escañuela Nieves
(MPIK - Physics)
Financial Officer
Rep: Natural Sciences



Nicole Villanueva
(Philosophy)
Communications, Officer
Rep: Humanities and Arts
WG: ProKo Baden-Württemberg



Alba María Diego
(Pharmacology)
Financial Officer
Rep: Graduate Schools
WG: BuPro



Carolina Elizondo
(Biosciences)
Co-Comm. & Co-PR
Rep: Life Sciences



Elyas Hussein
(Medical Informatics)
Co-Speaker
Rep: Doctoral Employees

Advisors from the former ExCo / *Berater des ehemaligen ExCo*



Oliver Gilliam (DKFZ)
Former Speaker ExCo
Financial Officer
Rep: Life Sciences
WG: “Doctoral Regulations”



Rodrigo Agustín Lana (English)
Former PR/Communication
Rep: Humanities



Halyna Karpusha (ZMBH)
Former financial Officer
Rep: Academic Employees

Newly elected positions

- Senate (Hannah Klein, Ludmila Hustus and Joris Frenz).
- 4EU+ Academic Council (Rodrigo Agustin).
- MathNatIng-Faculty (Gesamtfakultät, Christoph Blattgerste).
- Student representative for the appointment committee for the W3 endowed professorship in “Molecular Biophysics” at HITS/IWR (Tommaso Bartoloni).
- Council for Graduate Studies (Pablo Gonzalez Jabalera, Ludmila Hustus).

5) Finances

Finanzen





Budget (*Haushalt*):

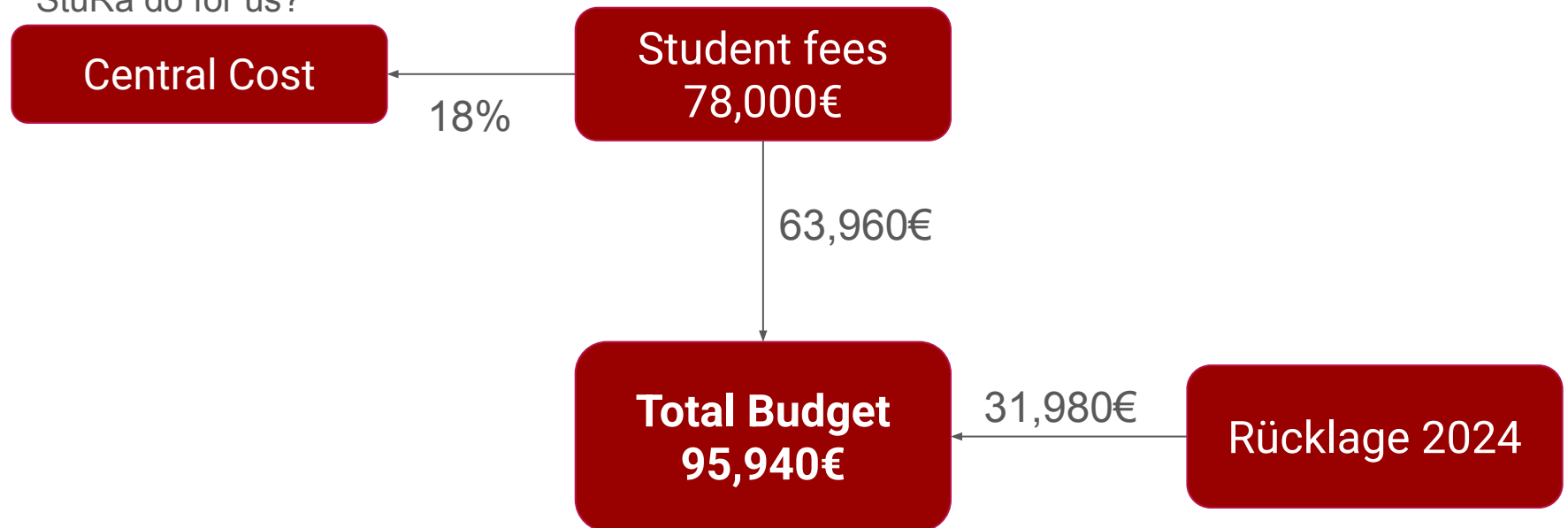
- Draft for 2025 Budget in preparation
- Budget this year: 95.940€
- Spend this year (YTD): ~ 4.000€ until August
 - ☐ <https://www.stura.uni-heidelberg.de/finanzen/haushalt/>
- Increase of contribution to StuRa from 18% to 38% ?

Voice your ideas! Any suggestions welcome!



Finances / Finanzen 2025

How much work does
StuRa do for us?



Finances / *Finanzen*: Regulations

Social events



- max of 5€ per person for food
- max of 30g of alcohol per person (preferably much less)

Working events



- max of 8.70€ for dinner
- max of 14.50€ for lunch
- max of 5.80€ for breakfast
- max of 30g of alcohol per person
- Dinner at an evening event lasting four hours or longer and for which no lunch was provided: €14.50 per person
- Catering for a full-day event (e.g. freshman day/weekends): 29,- € per person

Finances / *Finanzen*: Budget Plan

2023

6.072,02€

2024

4.417,24€

How can we make the most out of the 95,940€?

- Workshops on Career Prospects
- Partial funding of Deutschkurs for Doctoral Students
- Introductory events for PhD students (& international)
- New employee to improve our website
- Translation of all regulations and official documents
- Social events: Monthly Stammtisch! and more
- Alumni day

Voice your ideas! We are here for you!

Vote on the financial suggestions



6) Communication strategy

Kommunikationsstrategie

Communication strategy / *Kommunikationsstrategie*

Social media, website and Newsletter

- Increase visibility of ExCo and its activities
 - Get the students to engage and connect
 - Publicise and advertise events and opportunities
-
- Mediate between students and ExCo
 - Initiate and maintain close contact with the university committees
 - Generate new networking possibilities outside of the university



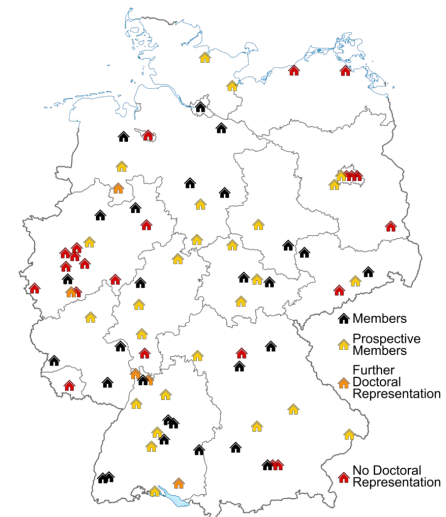
Subscribe to our Newsletter!

Vote on the communication strategy

7) Federal Association of Doctoral Candidates *Bundesverband Promovierende* *(BuPro)*

Bundesverband Promovierende (BuPro)

- Their aim is to unite local PhD representations in a democratic umbrella organisation to improve the scientific community by supporting the researchers, representing over one hundred thousand doctoral candidates across Germany.
- They are registered as a lobby group in the *Bundestag*.
- Heidelberg University is a full member of BuPro.
- We want to support the organisation with a donation of 1000 euros.
- We want to request a proportional vote in their General Assembly:
 - Uni Heidelberg (9000 PhDs) - 1 vote.
 - Uni Bayreuth (200 PhDs) - 1 vote.



Vote on BuPro contribution and the request on increased representation

8) State University Act
Landeshochschulgesetz
(LHG)-Novelle
and Doctoral Convention BW
Promovierendenkonvente BW
(ProKos)

LHG-Novelle and Prokos

- With an amendment to the State University Act (LHG), the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science wants to strengthen education and further training.
- The following points are supported by the ExCo and the GA:
 - Matriculation should be optional – “*Annahme zur Promotion an der Fakultät*” is the basis for university membership
 - “*Annahme als Doktorand*” solely triggers status group membership “*Doktorand:in*”. The individual remuneration must not be the trigger the status group membership; whether or not employed with the university should not allow for opting out of the group of doctoral candidates.
- We want to support the BW Doctoral Conventions Association (Prokos) efforts to introduce the desired changes in the law and to foster collaboration and coordination between the State doctoral representatives.

Vote on the LHG-Novelle suggestions and Prokos support

9) University funding

Hochschulfinanzierung

University funding / *Hochschulfinanzierung*

- **Inadequate Funding Increases:** Planned annual funding increases of 3.5% (2026–2030) are insufficient, as 3.1% is allocated to rising personnel costs, leaving only 0.4% for other essential expenses like infrastructure and renovations. This falls short of the 6% annual increase needed to address inflation and actual costs.
- **Budget Reallocation Issues:** Universities are forced to divert funds from core budgets to cover operational and infrastructure costs, which should be state-funded.
- **Impact on Education and Research:** These funding constraints risk undermining the quality of education and research, threatening the long-term sustainability of the higher education system in Baden-Württemberg.
- The ExCo would like to support the Rector in her protest against the e state's planned cuts to higher education funding.

Vote on supporting the protest against the University funding cuts

10) Open discussion / *Offene Diskussion*



Contact / *Kontakt*

Email: doktorandenkonvent@uni-heidelberg.de

Website: www.doktorandenkonvent.uni-heidelberg.de



Newsletter