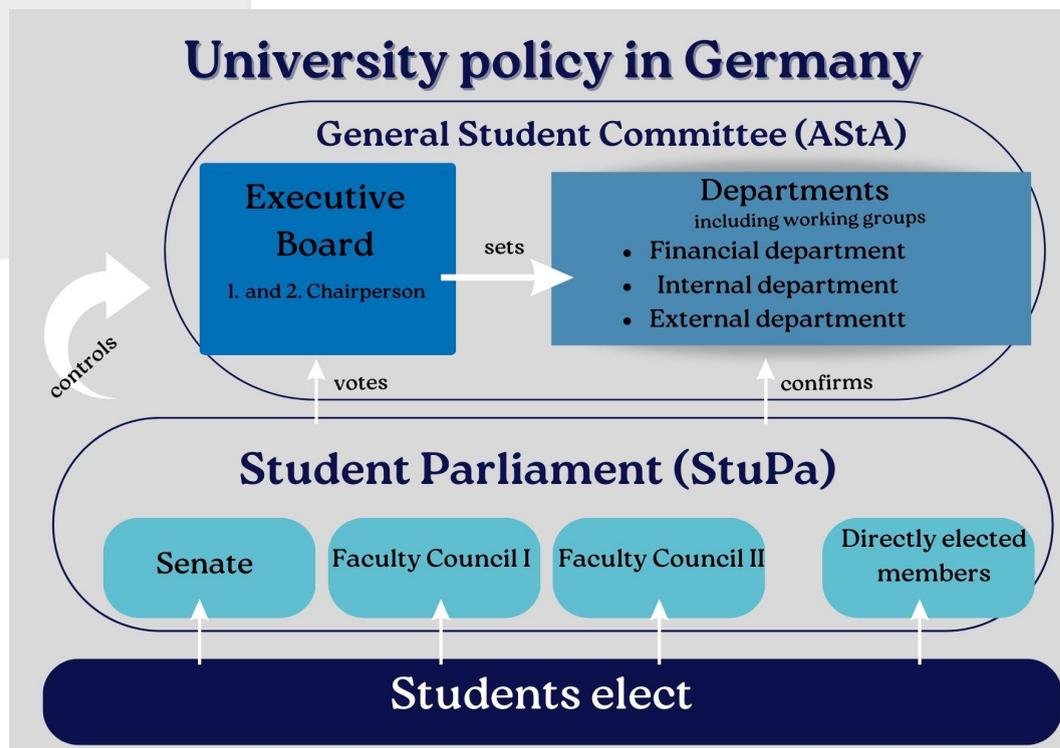




Introduction

Every university in Germany has a more or less developed student parliament in which students can articulate their interests. Engagement here takes the form of university groups of the established democratic parties, such as the RCDS or the LHG, but also departmental or group-based lists are among them. In recent years, these have often been characterized by polarizing and extreme claims. This development in particular is viewed critically by many of those involved at the university and promotes a development of "us against them". Nevertheless, a commitment to university politics is a praiseworthy activity, as it enables the formation of contacts and friendships. In addition, involvement in university politics is part of a long tradition, as the student revolution with the Wartburg Festival of 1817 laid the foundation for today's civil society.

University Policy



University policy refers to any action aimed at achieving certain goals in the academic sphere and shaping university life. A distinction must be made between academic and student self-government.



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Student self-government and co-determination

Academic self-government

The university and its members organize themselves in a defined administration (this may vary between universities), there are different types of boards that advise and make political and administrative decisions and distribute tasks and responsibilities to institutions and individuals.

There are boards with decision-making authority (councils, senate, board of trustees), which must be elected, and boards without decision-making authority (commissions, committees), which are appointed by the assigned council.

Four status groups are represented in the committees: Professors, Students, Academic Staff and Other Staff. Anyone can be elected who submits a form to their status group after the election announcement; students usually form parties (lists with like-minded people). Elections are then held at regular intervals.

Student self-government

This is understood to mean the representation of the students' interests vis-à-vis the university and the public. The student body is organized independently. For the administration of the students, the student parliament serves as the only body. In the student parliament, decisions are discussed and made and responsibilities are distributed. The members of the AStAS, the student household committee and the student election committee are also appointed here.

Every enrolled student can stand for election, the seats are then distributed by the votes. The elections take place annually.

Glossary of higher education policy

- **AStA (General Student Committee):** This is the executive organ of the student union, that is the student "government". It is elected by the student parliament. The AStA consists of an executive board and officers for specific areas of responsibility.



Student self-government and co-determination

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- **Fachschaft/Student council:** A representative body at universities; composed of all students of a department, faculty or institute.
- **Hochschulwahlen/University elections:** University elections take place once a year at the university. Depending on the respective federal state, various bodies are elected (StuPa, Senate, Convention, etc.).
- **Präsident/President:** Represents the entire university, in some federal states also called rector.
- **Präsidium/Praesidium:** Governing body of the higher education institution headed by the president, in some federal states it is called the rectorate.
- **Senat/Senate:** This is the supreme body of a higher education institution, which is organised as a democratically elected collegial board and performs strategic, controlling as well as consulting tasks.
- **Studentenparlament (StuPa)/Student Parliament:** It is elected by all students at a university, usually by list voting. It is the most important organ of student self-administration, the legislative power of the student society. The tasks of the StuPa include elections, monitoring, discharging and dismissing members of the AStA and its advisors, electing the Council of Elders, the Audit Committee (RPA) and the Election Committee. In addition, the parliament is responsible for enacting, amending and repealing regulations of the student body and approves the household budget. In some federal states, the StuPa is also called "Konvent" or "Studentenrat".

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