

**PROTOCOL OF VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY STUDENT PARLAMENT  
SITTING No. 211122**

2021m.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. 7p.m.

Online conference

Kaunas

The chairman - Ieva Vengrovskaya

Secretary - Erika Dervinytė

Members of the Student Parliament of Vytautas Magnus University participated (Appendix No. 1)

**AGENDA:**

- I.** Registration of participants in the Student Parliament sitting
- II.** Opening of the Student Parliament sitting
- III.** Approval of the sitting agenda
- IV.** Election of The Secretary of the sitting
- V.** Approval of The Chairman of the sitting
- VI.** Presentation on VMU Student Parliament activities and documents (*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaja*)
- VII.** Election of the Chairman of the Vytautas Magnus University Student Parliament (*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaja*)
- VIII.** Deliberation on VMU Student Parliament Translator and Recorder (*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaja*)
- IX.** Deliberation on VMU Student Parliament activities and dates of sittings in 2021–2022. m. (*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaya*)
- X.** Discussion on the possibility for doctoral students to improve their foreign language skills (*Speaker - Andrius Šmitas*)
- XI.** Discussion on doctoral students' scientific consultant (*Speaker - Andrius Šmitas*)
- XII.** Regarding the direct elections of the President of VMU SR (*Speaker - Martynas Butkus*)
- XIII.** Regarding the preparation of the cafeteria at Putvinskio str. 23 (*Speaker - Emil Starodubov*)
- XIV.** VMU SR parliament election reform (*Speaker - Martynas Butkus*)
- XV.** Inquiry about VMU Student Social Fund (*Speaker - Martynas Butkus*)
- XVI.** Other questions
- XVII.** Closure of the Student Parliament sitting

**I. Considered: Registration of Participants.**

43 members of Vytautas Magnus University Student Parliament participated out of 57 possible participants (*Appendix No.1*)

**II. Considered: Approval of agenda.**

(*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaya*)

Question *Regarding the preparation of the cafeteria at Putvinskio str. 23* was moved after the question *Deliberation on VMU Student Parliament activities and dates of sittings in 2021–2022. m.*

**RESOLVED: The agenda was approved.**

**III. Election of the Secretary of the sitting.**

(*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaya*)

**RESOLVED: Erika Dervinytė, Administrator of the VMU SR Office, will be the Secretary of the Student Parliament.**

**IV. Approval by the chairman**

(*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaya*)

**RESOLVED: Ieva Vengrovskaya, The Chairman of this Student Parliament.**

**V. Presentation on VMU Student Parliament activities and documents**

(*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaya*)

VMU SR Articles of Association: <https://vdusa.lt/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/VDU-SA-Istatai-2020.pdf>

VMU SR Rules of Procedure: <https://vdusa.lt/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Darbo-reglamentas.pdf>

**VI. Election of the Chairman of the Vytautas Magnus University Student Parliament**

(*Speaker - Ieva Vengrovskaya*)

Žygimantas Menčėkovas nominated his candidacy.

Gustė Žukauskaitė nominates Gabrielė Jonuškaitė.

Gabrielė Jonuškaitė agrees.

Introduction of Žygimantas Menčėkovas.

Introduction of by Gabrielė Jonuškaitė.

*Daniel Mačichin:* Question for both candidates. Since Žygimantas is a representative of the Šauksmas and Gabrielė is an active member of the Student Representation, how will you ensure your impartiality as The Chairman of Parliament?

*Žygimantas Menčekovas:* Since I am a philosopher, it would be possible to get involved in the discussion of what impartiality is and whether it is possible to ensure it. I think it's more important to say what position you are in than to hide or somehow deny that you're a member of some group. I am a man of truth and truth is very important to me. And no matter if the truth is VMU SR in this light, no one denies it. And here I am impartial. Aristotle seems to have said well, "although Plato is my friend, the truth is a greater friend." I make no reservations about this and I think I am impartial.

*Gabrielė Jonuškaitė:* I will not lie, I expected this question. I am an active member of VMU SR, I will not hide it, but if I spoke during the meetings of the Student Parliament, I would not speak as a representative, but as a representative of VMU Academy of Education, elected by the students of the faculty. I do not think it is possible to be one hundred percent biased in this position, I will try as much as possible to hear the voice of the representatives and not my personal ambitions. If I have to speak as a Member of Parliament with a mandate, I will certainly say so.

*Žygimantas Menčekovas:* I would like to add to my answer if possible. In my pedagogical field, I pay a lot of attention to students who do not speak. It is very important to me that everyone has the opportunity to express their position. And if there is any problem with my impartiality, Parliament will always have the opportunity to replace the Chairmen.

*Andrius Šmitas:* I have three questions: two questions for Žygimantas and one for Gabrielė. The first question for Žygimantas: Why do you think you will be able to achieve the goals you set out in your presentation? And the second question, how do you assess your failure in last year's election of the Chairman of the Student Parliament? What conclusions did you draw, what thoughts came up?

*Žygimantas Menčekovas:* I think the problem is more about achieving a personal goal, declaring a climate emergency at university; it will definitely be a lot of challenges and a lot of dialogue here. I plan to use activists from the Academy of Agriculture to help. At least my initial position is to come to the Rectorate with a proposal to publish that help, but to negotiate what instruments could be and what it means when you declare a state of emergency. All the more so in the United Kingdom, for example, this is not something new: some 161 universities have already declared a climate emergency. I think it will all be difficult but possible to achieve. As for the technical work as President of Parliament, I think I am responsible and my goals are not very ambitious and can be achieved very easily. Most of the work will be on the control of the working groups, but I hope that everything will be resolved by choosing working group coordinators who will be more responsible in organizing the work of the working groups. And in answer to the second question, I was not running for the position of the Chairman of the Parliament, but for the

President of the Vytautas Magnus University Student Representation. Very good question, I really didn't even think about it. First of all, my defeat was probably due to the fact that I didn't even want to win, what makes my current candidacy different. This time I want to win. Then I was an alternative to expressing some vision of what Student Self-Government might look like. It seems to me that vision must have attention and it would be wrong to reject those proposals altogether.

*Andrius Šmitas:* Thanks, Žygimantas. Question to Gabrielė, why do you think you are a suitable candidate for the position of the Chairman of the Student Parliament as a person, and not because you have read the statutes, regulations? What personal qualities do you have or do you think the Speaker of the Student Parliament should have?

*Gabrielė Jonuškaitė:* I should think, because I really don't like to praise myself. I prefer it when the work speaks for me. I am a future teacher, so I try to make sure everyone is heard, to notice if something is wrong. I really like order in the activities that are important and my favorite. I am also scrupulous and I try to keep everything in order and I can say that sometimes I am a perfectionist.

*Ieva Vengrovskaya:* Since I know Gabrielė better than Žygimantas, it will be a question for him. Šauksmas goes with its vision, ideas and they are really useful and relevant to students and society as a whole, especially this year when we talk about climate change. The question from me is, are you really claiming that position? Why do you think this is the number one issue for students? And are there no other issues relevant to students that should be addressed by parliament and that are mundane to be resolved in one parliamentary term or in several sittings?

*Žygimantas Menčekovas:* When I say my goal, I say my goal as a parliamentarian, which is about the climate crisis, not the goal of the Šauksmas. It is only an integral part of the Šauksmas. Of course, there are many problems; the mistake would be to oppose each other. It seems to me that our program and the one I spoke focused on problems, especially social problems. And, for example, one of the initiatives, the Welfare Fund, is a certain practice of having a certain budget of money that could be given to students in poorer situations in the current situation, or the same call to address the problem of work. Clearly, if there was more time, I could prove why the climate issue is important and how it affects us all. Parliament is a great place for that, because it is an institution of progressivity. Basically, all progressive ideas have to come to Parliament. It is no coincidence that my candidacy for the post of the Chairman of Parliament is very suitable for my office.

*Ieva Vengrovskaya:* Do we still have questions from parliamentarians? Do candidates have questions for each other?

*Gabrielė Jonuškaitė:* Did you mention your qualities suitable for the position of the Chairman of the Parliament, can you name them?

*Žygimantas Menčekovas*: I am disabled, we all understand that. My main disability is hearing impairment. When I received my hearing aid as a child, the first sounds I heard were the chirping of birds. When I started thinking about why I enjoy listening to others, I always thought it was because of my disability. My disability gives me the ability and desire to listen to others. If anyone has a problem, I will be happy to listen to it and I will enjoy listening to it. I think this is very important as the Chairman of Parliament.

**RESOLVED: Gabrielė Jonuškaitė was elected the Chairman of the Student Parliament - 30 votes, 7 votes for Žygimantas Menčėnkovas, 5 parliamentarians abstained.**

**VII. Deliberation on VMU Student Parliament Translator and Recorder**

*(Speaker – Ieva Vengrovskaja)*

*Žygimantas Menčekovas*: The idea is great, I really support it. Perhaps the position of translator could be formalized as a volunteer? If it is done by a VMU student, it seems to me that a scholarship or something similar could be obtained in this way, and it would be a financial incentive.

*Emil Starodubov*: I wanted to clarify; can an interpreter not necessarily be a Member of Parliament?

*Ieva Vengrovskaja*: Yes, it would be even better if it was not a parliamentarian, because as an interpreter he would not be able to fully participate in the sitting.

*Žygimantas Menčekovas*: In general, I think that work should be rewarded. Therefore, if we want to pay the interpreter, why not pay the recorder for his work too.

**RESOLVED: To leave the question open on these positions.**

**VIII. IX. Deliberation on VMU Student Parliament activities and dates of sittings in 2021–2022. M**

*(Speaker – Ieva Vengrovskaja)*

*Gustė Žukauskaitė*: Martynas' suggested days are Wednesdays, so time wise it could be difficult for someone, because there may be those who can't always join on Wednesdays. Then I would like to go to the dates suggested by Ieva. My personal suggestion is if there is an opportunity to anticipate and then we will be able to adjust our schedules and all agendas.

*Andrius Šmitas*: Senate sittings take place on Wednesdays, once a month, so I think it would be quite useful for Parliament to do so the day after the Senate sitting. Also, parliamentarians who are also members of the Senate will not be physically able to attend a sitting of Parliament. I would also suggest not holding a report-election conference on

March 10, because, as you said, it will be a long weekend because of a national holiday and everyone will want to return home as soon as possible.

*Justas Ivanauskas:* I would like to delay the time of the proposed sittings, the best time would be around 7 p.m. or 7:30 p.m., as some have evening lectures.

*Ieva Vengrovskaya:* 7 p.m. I think would be optimal, because I really don't want anyone to sit until 10 or 11 o'clock in the evening.

*Gabrielė Jonuškaitė:* I am a member of the Senate myself and I dutifully join the sittings. I really do not think it would be qualitative after the Senate sitting that I would be tired of attending a sitting of Parliament on Wednesday. Yes, Senate meetings do not take place every Wednesday, but they may strike so much that we cannot change the dates of Senate meetings. For other dates, my suggestion would be to decide only for the time being in January and for the next part-session in March. Also, we don't all know what the schedule for our spring semester will be; maybe so many who don't have evening lectures now will have them in the spring.

*Ieva Vengrovskaya:* I understand, but I want to emphasize that it is very important for us to decide on the date of the March reporting conference. This meeting will not be in the evening, the reporting conference will usually take place in the morning.

*Martynas Butkus:* The essence of this proposal is to choose approximately every two months. We can just decide it will be 7 p.m. and a day to vote in the Facebook group because it will take a long time until you decide the dates.

*Aurelija Ramanauskaitė:* I wanted to say that we will have an event with the doctoral students' club on January 27th, and as a result, most of the doctoral students will be either tired or unable to attend. For this reason, doctoral students would prefer January 19th.

**RESOLVED: The next sitting of the Student Parliament will be held on January 19th at 7 p.m. The reporting-election conference will be on March 18th. The dates of the next sittings will be decided in the course of the sitting.**

#### **IX. Regarding the preparation of the cafeteria at Putvinskio str. 23**

*(Pranešėjas - Emil Starodubov)*

*Ieva Vengrovskaya:* I would like us to somehow elect a few people now. It would be fun for us to continue with those students who are interested in the canteen issue, who is interested, to test Kaunas cafeteria and evaluate where there is good food and where it is cheap.

*Martynas Butkus:* I will join the working group. I think it is important to emphasize another point that we in Šauksmas were discussing that we would propose the following solution: we, a working group in the Student Parliament, are preparing a cafeteria with a

minimum price per meal, an opportunity for students to socialize or organize events and so on. Under those terms of the tender, with the help of the administration, look for any private business that would agree to those terms.

*Emilija Drabužinskaitė*: I would also like to contribute to this working group. I have already been in this working group during the last parliamentary term, so I would be happy to rejoin.

*Raminta Milašiūtė*: I would also like to contribute to the working group.

**RESOLVED: To set up a new working group on this issue. The new working group consists of Emilija Drabužinskaitė, Emil Starodubov, Martynas Butkus, Ieva Vengrovskaja and Raminta Milašiūtė.**

## **X. Discussion on doctoral students' scientific consultant**

*(Speaker - Andrius Šmitas)*

*Aurelija Ramanauskaitė*: I wanted to say that this is not the only position of Andrius and not only mine, it is a common question when talking to other doctoral students. More time is needed to consider this issue and perhaps to conduct a survey, perhaps to form the same working group. This is one such thing that is directly relevant to the lives of doctoral students.

*Ieva Vengrovskaya*: I have a suggestion that doctoral students in Parliament describe the problem and suggestions with arguments. The Doctoral Club could also contribute to this.

**RESOLVED: Doctoral students in the Student Parliament, together with the Doctoral Students' Club, will prepare a document describing the problem and making reasoned suggestions.**

## **XI. Other questions**

*(Speaker – Žygimantas Menčėkovas)*

*Emil Starodubov*: Here's the theme, as with other progressive topics, where students should go ahead. I think it is too late to push this topic aside and it is the students who would start it.

*Ieva Vengrovskaya*: My suggestion would be, perhaps, to discuss in the Parliament's internal group what the proposals are and to discuss in the next parliament which proposals are acceptable to us.

**RESOLVED: to discuss the proposals made before the next meeting in the Student Parliamentary Group, and to finalize at the next meeting which are appropriate.**

**XII. Closure of the Student Parliament sitting**

**RESOLVED: The sitting of Student Parliament is closed**

The chairman

Ieva Vengrovskaya

Secretary

Erika Dervinytė