Introduction
Section 2a of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) relates to the Graduation Fund (Profilleringsfonds) and contains regulations concerning financial support for students who incur study delay due to extraordinary circumstances. (Stb.2010, 119).

The Board of the University approved the regulations set out below concerning the granting of financial support on the basis of these legal regulations after approval by the University Council on 29th of June 2017.

Appendix 1 to these Regulations discusses joint regulations set up by the Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen and the University of Groningen for their joint student organizations.

The Board of the University can issue a ‘certificate of participation’ as proof of participation to students who have been awarded a committee or consultative body grant by the Graduation Fund.

See also: www.rug.nl/studievertraging. This page provides more information about these regulations, as well as a link to the request form.

Contents
Chapter 1 General provisions
Art. 1 Definitions
Art. 2 Conditions for financial support

Chapter 2 Membership of consultative bodies and the committees/boards of University bodies
Art. 3 Conditions
Art. 4 Scope and amount of the consultative body grant
Art. 5 Provisional and definitive consultative body grant
Art. 6 Request period for a provisional grant
Art. 7 Request period for a definitive grant
Art. 8 Request procedure
Art. 9 Decision
Art. 10 Documentary evidence
Art. 11 Payment and repayment of committee grants

Chapter 3 Membership of a consultative body or committee (PhD scholarship students)
Art. 12 Conditions
Art. 13 Scope and amount of the consultative body grant
Art. 14 Scope and amount of committee grants for GOPHER and GRIN
Art. 15 Request procedure
Art. 16 Documentary evidence

Chapter 4 Membership of a student organization committee
Art. 17 Conditions
Art. 18 Amount of committee grant
Art. 19 Request period for a committee grant
Art. 20 Request procedure for a provisional committee grant
Art. 21 Request procedure for a definitive committee grant
Art. 22 Decision
Art. 23 Documentary evidence
Art. 24 Payment of financial support

Chapter 5 Waiving of tuition fees for student board/committee members
Art. 25 Conditions
Art. 26 Request procedure for waiving of tuition fees
Art. 27 Documentary evidence

Chapter 6 Programme committees
Art. 28 Conditions
Art. 29 Amount of financial support
Art. 30 Request procedure
Art. 31 Documentary evidence
Art. 32 Payment of financial support

Chapter 7 Top-level sport
Art. 33 Conditions
Art. 34 Amount of financial support
Art. 35 Request procedure
Art. 36 Documentary evidence
Art. 37 Payment of financial support
Art. 38 Top-level sport facilities
Art. 39 Transitional provision

Chapter 8 Transitional and final provisions
Art. 40 Possibility of appeal
Art. 41 Concurrence
Art. 42 Hardship clause
Art. 43 Deviation from the regulations
Art. 44 Date of commencement and validity
Art. 45 Citation and publication of these regulations

Appendices:
1. University of Groningen and Hanze University of Applied Sciences
   Joint Regulations for Committee Grants
2a. Recognized student organizations
2b. Membership of consultative bodies and the committees of University bodies
2c. GOPHER/GRIN board membership
3. Criteria for granting of top athlete status

Chapter 1 General provisions

Article 1 Definitions

Ba: The nominal duration of a Bachelor’s degree programme.
Committee grant: Financial support for carrying out duties relating to membership of a University administrative body or recognized student organization.
CLRS: Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights.
Board of the University: The Board of the University of Groningen.
Waiving of tuition fees
for student board/committee members: A situation where a student is registered at the University of Groningen but, contrary to the provisions of Article 7:34 WHW, has been exempted from payment of statutory tuition fees because he/she is fulfilling a full-time board membership as referred to in Article 7:47a WHW.
CUOS (Central Executive Board for Student Organizations): Body set up by the Board of the University to facilitate student organizations.
DUO: Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs [Education Executive Agency].
FOS-cie (Student Financial Support committee): An official committee installed by the Executive Board of the Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen.
Joint organization: An organization for students registered both at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences and students registered at the University of Groningen.
Hanze University of Applied Sciences organization: An organization for students registered at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen.
Higher education: Education provided at universities (WO) and universities of applied sciences (HBO).
Consultative body grant: Financial support for consultative body membership at the University of Groningen.
Degree programme: A Bachelor’s or Master’s degree programme.
Performance-related grant: A travel allowance, possibly with the addition of a supplementary grant and bonuses. The performance-related grant is awarded by DUO for the combined nominal duration of the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programmes. The travel allowance is awarded for the combined nominal duration of the Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programmes, plus one extra year.
PhD scholarship student: A student who has been admitted to a PhD scholarship programme at the University of Groningen.
UG: University of Groningen.

UG organization: An organization for students registered at the University of Groningen.

Student: A person who has paid tuition fees and is registered at the University of Groningen, with all the rights connected to registration as set out in WHW Article 7.34.

A person enrolled as a student in a degree programme at the University of Groningen.

Student finance: A performance-related grant that students receive during the nominal duration of their degree programme, followed by a three-year loan period, in accordance with the WSF 2000.

Academic year: A period of time that starts on 1 September and ends on 31 August of the following year.

Top-level sport grant: Financial support for top athletes.

UFC: University Funds Committee; an official committee installed by the Board of the University which advises the Board with regard to decisions made on the basis of these Regulations.


Statutory tuition fees: The tuition fees as referred to in WHW Art. 7.45 for registration as a student, set by the Minister.


All other terms used in these regulations will have the meaning that the Act ascribes to them.

**Article 2. Conditions for financial support**

1. Through the Graduation Fund, the University of Groningen provides financial support to student members of consultative bodies, committees and boards, to committee members of student organizations and to top athletes who

   - are enrolled as full-time students in a degree programme and have not yet gained their degree
   - have paid the relevant statutory tuition fees to the University of Groningen
   - are or were entitled to a performance-related grant under the WSF 2000.

2. The University of Groningen provides financial support to PhD scholarship students who satisfy the conditions set out in Chapter 3 of these Regulations.

3. The University of Groningen will grant exemption from payment of statutory tuition fees as referred to in Article 12.8 of the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees 2017-2018 to board or committee members who satisfy the conditions listed in Chapter 5 of these regulations.

**Chapter 2  Membership of consultative bodies and the committees/boards of University bodies**

**Article 3. Conditions**

In addition to the provisions of Article 2 of these Regulations, Bachelor’s students who are members of a consultative body, committee or board as set out in Appendix 2b to these Regulations are entitled to financial support if they obtained a provisional or definitive positive study advice in the propaedeutic phase.
Article 4  Scope and amount of the consultative body grant
1. The number of consultative body/committee grant months for each membership of a consultative body, board or committee is specified in Appendix 2b.
2. For academic year 2016-2017, the amount of the grant is:
   a. Faculty Board advisory member € 794.20 per grant month
   b. Student assessor on the Board of the University € 794.20 per grant month
   c. University Council member € 694.20 per grant month
   d. Faculty Council member € 694.20 per grant month
   e. CUOS member € 694.20 per grant month

Article 5  Provisional and definitive consultative body grant
The financial support is awarded in the form of a consultative body/committee grant; a provisional grant can be requested in anticipation of this.

Article 6.  Request period for a provisional grant
1. Provisional grants must be requested within two months of the start of the membership period of the consultative body or committee/board.
2. Students who have received a provisional grant must submit written confirmation of the membership period as set out in Article 10.3 after their membership has ended and before 31 January of the following year. The written confirmation must be issued by the new consultative body or committee.

Article 7.  Request period for a definitive grant
1. Definitive grants must be requested between 1 September and 31 January of the academic year following the academic year in which the applicant was a member of the consultative body or committee.
2. A provisional consultative body or committee grant as referred to in Article 6 will be converted into a definitive grant after the written confirmation within the meaning of Article 10.3 has been submitted.
3. Requests submitted after 31 January of the year after the academic year in which the consultative body or committee activities took place will not be processed.
4. The provisional grant will be withdrawn if the UFC receives the confirmation and/or request within the meaning of Articles 7.2 and 7.3 after 31 January.

Article 8.  Request procedure
1. When requesting financial support, students must use the digital request form on the website www.rug.nl/studievertraging.
2. When requesting provisional allocation of support, students must upload the documentary evidence specified in Articles 10.1 and 10.2 of these Regulations via the website, and must then fill in the digital request form in accordance with Article 8.1.
3. When requesting definitive allocation of financial support, students must also upload the documentary evidence specified in Article 10.3 via the website.
4. Students can check the progress of their request via the website referred to in Article 8.1.
5. If the request is incomplete, the student will be granted four weeks to complete the request. If the request is not completed within this term, it will not be considered any further. The student will be notified of this.

Article 9.  Decision
1. The Board of the University will make a decision with regard to a request after consultation with the UFC. This will take place as soon as possible and within a maximum of 8 weeks of receipt of the completed request. The decision will be:
   a. either non-consideration of the request because it was submitted after the deadline, or
b. non-consideration of the request because it was incomplete and the missing information was not provided before the deadline, or
c. the granting of the consultative body or committee grant, or
d. rejection of the request.

2. The decision, supported by reasons, will be communicated to the student in writing.

**Article 10. Documentary evidence**

Documentary evidence as referred to in Article 8 comprises:

1. A notification from DUO stating that the student is or was entitled to a performance-related grant.
2. An appointment decree.
3. A confirmation of the period of membership of the consultative body or committee/board, provided by the consultative body or committee/board succeeding that of which the student was a member.

**Article 11. Payment and repayment of committee grants**

1. Payment will be made to the student’s bank account number within a reasonable period of time after the financial support has been definitively approved.
2. If a student who is awarded support under these regulations prematurely deregisters, the consultative body or committee grant will be terminated on the date of deregistration, after which payment/repayment will occur on a pro rata basis.
3. If the declaration referred to in Article 10.3 shows that the committee member ended his/her committee membership prematurely, the committee grant will be paid out pro rata.

**Chapter 3 Membership of a consultative body or committee (PhD scholarship students)**

**Article 12. Conditions**

A PhD scholarship student must be registered as such with the University of Groningen at the time the consultative body or committee/board duties are performed in order to qualify for this type of consultative body or committee grant.

**Article 13. Scope and amount of the consultative body grant**

A PhD scholarship student who is a member of a Faculty Council or the University Council is eligible for financial support for 2 or 6 months respectively in the form of a PhD grant.

**Article 14. Scope and amount of committee grants for GOPHER and GRIN**

1. A maximum of four grant months per year are available for board members of the GOPHER and GRIN student societies (see Appendix 2c).
2. PhD scholarship students who have been board members of GOPHER or GRIN for a full year are eligible for remuneration to the amount of two PhD grant months.

**Article 15. Request procedure**

1. PhD scholarship students must submit their request for a definitive consultative body or committee grant to the University Funds Committee (UFC) between 1 September and 31 January of the year following the academic year in which they were members of the consultative body or committee, by completing the digital request form on the website: www.rug.nl/studievertraging
2. At the start of each committee year, the current GOPHER and GRIN boards must indicate which board members (no more than two) are eligible for a committee grant. This indication will be regarded as a request for provisional allocation of financial support.
3. At the end of each academic year, and in any case before 31 January, the new board
must state that the board member who is requesting a grant was a member of the board during the entire year. This statement must be enclosed with the request for definitive allocation of financial support.

4. Articles 9 and 11 apply mutatis mutandis to the request procedure for financial support.

**Article 16. Documentary evidence**
The following documentary evidence must be enclosed with each request:

a. A statement to prove that the PhD scholarship student has been appointed a board member.

b. When requesting a definitive grant or conversion of a provisional grant to a definitive grant: a declaration of membership period, confirming the period of committee membership.

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**Chapter 4 Membership of a student organization committee**

**Article 17. Conditions**

1. Students who, during an academic year, are members of a committee or board of a student organization listed in Appendix 2a of these Regulations are eligible for financial support if they meet the criteria set out in Article 2 of these Regulations.

2. In addition to the provisions of Article 17.1:
   
a) the student must have obtained a provisional or definitive positive study advice during the propaedeutic phase
   
b) students who have started the propaedeutic phase of a Bachelor’s degree programme at the University of Groningen must meet the requirements regarding a provisional or definitive positive study advice within two months of the start of the consultative body or committee/body membership.

**Article 18. Amount of committee grant**

1. An amount is made available to board/committee members of student organizations for the number of committee grant months determined by the Board of the University on the recommendation of CUOS, in accordance with Appendix 1 of these Regulations.

2. The amount available for committee/board members of student facilities is € 694.20 per grant month.

3. The student organizations decide how the amounts specified in Appendix 2a are allocated among their appointed committee/board members. No later than 2 months after the beginning of the administrative year, the committee/board must submit an overview of the grant allocations to the UFC via the website rug.nl/studievertraging and to the FOS-cie of the Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen via the e-mail address profileringsfonds@org.hanze.nl.

4. The minimum amount that a student organization can award a committee/board member is € 400.

5. The maximum amount that can be awarded to a member of a committee/board of a student facility is € 4,165. The maximum amount that can be awarded to a member of a committee/board of another student organization named in Appendix 2a is € 2,665.

**Article 19. Request period for a committee grant**

1. A committee grant must be requested by the individual committee member in the year of membership.

2. Requests submitted after the year following the academic year in which the consultative body or committee activities took place will not be processed.

**Article 20. Request procedure for a provisional committee grant**
1. Students may submit a request for provisional allocation of financial support at any time during their committee membership year by completing the digital request form on the website rug.nl/studievertraging.

2. Students must upload the documentary evidence specified in Articles 23.1 and 23.2 of these Regulations via de website, and must then fill in the digital request form in accordance with Article 20.1.

3. The student can check the progress of the request on the website referred to in Article 20.1.

4. Students who submit an incomplete request form will have until the final day of their committee year to submit their request form for financial support. Once the committee year has ended, they can submit a request for definitive allocation, as set out in Article 21 of these Regulations.

**Article 21. Request procedure for a definitive committee grant**

1. Students must request definitive financial support within 3 months of the end of the relevant committee year by submitting the digital request form.

2. All documentary evidence listed in Article 23 must be enclosed with the request for definitive allocation of financial support.

3. The student can check the progress of the request on the website referred to in Article 20.1.

4. If the request is incomplete, the student will be granted four weeks to complete the request. If the request is not completed within this term, it will not be considered any further. The student will be notified of this.

**Article 22. Decision**

1. The Board of the University will make a decision with regard to a request after consultation with the UFC. This will take place as soon as possible and within a maximum of 8 weeks of receipt of the completed request. The decision will be:
   a. either non-consideration of the request because it was submitted after the deadline, or
   b. non-consideration of the request because it was incomplete and the missing information was not provided before the deadline, or
   c. granting of the committee grant, or
   d. rejection of the request.

2. The decision, supported by reasons, will be communicated to the student in writing.

**Article 23. Documentary evidence**

Documentary evidence as referred to in Articles 20 and 21 comprises:

1. A notification from DUO stating that the student is or was entitled to a performance-related grant.

2. In the case of Bachelor's students, a confirmation issued by the Faculty Board stating that the student has passed the propaedeutic phase or received a positive study advice.

3. A confirmation of the period of committee/board membership, provided by the committee/board succeeding that of which the student was a member.

**Article 24. Payment of financial support**

1. Payment will be made to the student's bank account number within a reasonable period of time after the financial support has been definitively approved. The date of payment must be within a year of deregistration.

2. Committee grants are awarded according to the allocation amounts specified by the organization. If the confirmation referred to in Article 23.3 shows that the committee member ended his/her committee membership prematurely, the committee grant will be paid out pro rata.
Chapter 5. Waiving of tuition fees for student members

Article 25. Conditions
1. The University of Groningen will grant exemption from payment of statutory tuition fees as referred to in Article 12.8 of the University of Groningen Regulations for Registration and Tuition Fees 2017-2018 to board/committee members of the student organizations listed in Appendix 2a of these Regulations, on condition that:
   a. they were registered as students at the University of Groningen in academic year 2016-2017 and, up until the request date, earned 60 ECTS on average per year during the period they were enrolled in their degree programme, or
   b. gained their Bachelor’s degree at the University of Groningen within four years.
2. Students must be eligible for 5 committee grant months in order to qualify for exemption from payment of statutory tuition fees.
3. Exemption will apply once, for one academic year, from 1 September 2017 until 31 August 2018.
4. In order to qualify for exemption from payment of statutory tuition fees, at least 9 months of the student’s committee year must fall within the academic year for which exemption is being requested.
5. The student may not follow course units, sit examinations or take the final assessment during the academic year for which exemption is being requested.

Article 26. Request procedure for waiving of tuition fees
1. In order to qualify for waiving of tuition fees, students must submit the digital request form to the UFC in June (i.e. before 1 July). The form can be found on the website: www.rug.nl/studievertraging.
2. The documentary evidence listed in Article 27 must be enclosed with the request.

Article 27. Documentary evidence
Documentary evidence as referred to in Article 26 comprises:
1. A notification from DUO stating that the student is or was entitled to a performance-related grant.
2. An appointment decree that proves that the student is eligible for 5 committee grant months and states the start and end dates of the student’s board/committee membership.
3. The most recent printout of the student’s study results in chronological order, showing that he/she has earned the required number of ECTS credit points in the degree programme for which he/she is registered or that he/she has completed a University of Groningen Bachelor’s degree programme within four years. This must be an authorized printout from the Student Administration Office (i.e. not the student’s own printout from Progress WWW).
4. Clear documentary evidence that the student was registered at the University of Groningen in the academic year preceding the committee membership year.

Chapter 6. Programme committees

Article 28. Conditions
Students sitting on a programme committee during a given academic year are eligible for financial support if they meet the criteria set out in Article 2 of these Regulations.

Article 29. Amount of financial support
The financial support consists of a remuneration of €37 per meeting for a maximum of 12 meetings. Extraordinary circumstances may lead to compensation for more than 12 meetings.
**Article 30. Request procedure**

1. Requests for financial support for activities performed as a result of membership of a programme committee must be submitted in writing to the relevant Faculty Board between 1 September and 1 February of the academic year following that in which the activities were performed.

2. Requests submitted after 1 February of the academic year following the year in which the activities were performed will not be processed unless the individual submitting the request can prove that the request was delayed due to force majeure.

**Article 31. Documentary evidence**

The student must hand in a declaration to the faculty from the chair of the programme committee, stating that the student was indeed a member of the committee during the academic year to which the request pertains.

**Article 32. Payment of financial support**

Payment will take place once the academic year in which the membership occurred has ended.

**Chapter 7 Top-level sport**

**Article 33. Conditions**

Students who practise top-level sport and satisfy the conditions in Article 2 of these Regulations are entitled to financial support in the form of a top-level sport grant, if they

a. have been granted top athlete status on the basis of the criteria in Appendix 3 of these Regulations, and

b. have attained top-level sporting achievements in accordance with the qualification list for top athletes (*Kwalificatielijst Topsporters RUG en HG*) that is valid in that year, or have attained such an achievement in a later year following a previous award of a top-level sport grant, and

c. have earned at least 60 ECTS credit points, or a multiple thereof in the case of previous awards of a top-level sport grant.

**Article 34. Amount of financial support**

1. The maximum number of times that a top-level sport grant can be awarded is equal to the number of years of the nominal duration of the student's degree programme.

2. The amount of the top-level sport grant is € 2,000.

**Article 35. Request procedure**

1. Students who wish to be considered for a top-level sport grant must report to the top-level sport coordinator before 1 November. The top-level sport coordinator will assess whether the student meets the criteria for top athlete status as specified in Appendix 3. The top-level sport coordinator will draw up a list of the students who have been granted top athlete status in that academic year.

2. The top-level sport coordinator will also assess whether the student meets the requirements for top-level sporting achievements as set out in the *Kwalificatielijst Topsporters RUG en HG* for the relevant year. The top-level sport coordinator will draw up a list of the students who have attained such achievements.

3. Top-level sport grants must be requested using the digital request form on the website rug.nl/studievertraging.

4. The student can check the progress of the request on the website referred to in Article 35.3.

5. If the request is incomplete, the student will be granted six weeks in which to complete
the request. If the request is not completed within this term, it will not be considered any further. The student will be notified of this.

6. The Board of the University will make a decision with regard to the request after consultation with the UFC. This will take place as soon as possible but within a maximum of 8 weeks of receipt of the completed request.

7. The decision will be:
   a. either the granting of financial support, or
   b. rejection of the request, or
   c. non-consideration of the request because it was submitted after the deadline, or
   d. non-consideration of the request because the request was incomplete and the missing information was not provided before the deadline.

8. The decision, and the reasons for it, will be communicated to the student in writing.

**Article 36. Documentary evidence**
No later than seven days after submitting the request, the student must upload a printout of his/her study results to the University website via the link rug.nl/studievertraging.

**Article 37. Payment of financial support**
Payment will be made on the date indicated by the student to the student’s bank account. Payment must be made no later than one year after the student’s enrolment ends, or after he/she has been awarded the degree.

**Article 38. Top-level sport facilities**
1. A student who has been granted the status of top athlete in accordance with Appendix 3 of these Regulations can apply to the top-level sport coordinator for the following top-level sport facilities during the entire year in which top-level sport is practised:
   a. an adapted study programme
   b. a free ACLO sports card and gym membership
2. The top-level sport coordinator may decide that an athlete who does not yet meet the criteria in Article 32 of these Regulations is still eligible for top-level sport facilities if this student is expected to meet the criteria in the near future.

**Article 39. Transitional provision**
Students who received a top-level sport grant in academic year 2014-2015 or before can apply for a top-level sport grant under the conditions that applied in that year.

**Chapter 8 Transitional and final provisions**

**Article 40. Possibility of appeal**
Students can lodge an appeal with the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights (CLRS), via the website www.rug.nl/clrs or P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, against a decision taken by or on behalf of the Board of the University on the grounds of these Regulations within six weeks of the date of the decision.

**Article 41. Concurrence**
In the event that a situation of force majeure as referred to in Part A of these regulations is combined with membership of a committee or consultative body or top-level sport activities, the fixed term for these activities will be taken into consideration when determining the extent of the study delay. The maximum number of months of financial support per academic year is twelve.

**Article 42. Hardship clause**
In some cases a request for financial support may be granted if rejection would result in a
situation of unfairness of overriding nature.

**Article 43. Deviation from the regulations**
In exceptional cases the Board of the University may deviate from the provisions of these Regulations.

**Article 44. Date of commencement and validity**
These regulations will take effect on 1 September 2017 and will remain in force until 1 September 2018.

**Article 45. Citation and publication of these regulations**

1. These regulations may be cited as: ‘University of Groningen Graduation Fund Regulations 2017-2018’, possibly with the addition of ‘Part C: Financial Support for student members of consultative/administrative bodies, committee members of student organizations and top athletes’.

2. These regulations have been sent to the Faculty Boards for reference, published on the internet and included as an appendix in the Students’ Charter.

The Board of the University,

Groningen, 17th of July 2017
### Appendix 2a. Recognized student organizations

#### Student associations

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<th>Organization</th>
<th>No. of committee grant months</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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#### Sports clubs

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#### Study associations

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**Student facilities**

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**Cultural organizations**

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**Other organizations**

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Appendix 2b. Membership of consultative bodies and the committees/boards of University bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body/position</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
<th>Number of committee grant months</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Board of the University / student assessor</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Board / advisory member</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MW Faculty Board / advisor</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Council / student member</td>
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<td>Faculty Council / student member</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>CUOS / member</td>
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Appendix 2c. GOPHER/GRIN board membership
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Body/position</th>
<th>Number of persons</th>
<th>Number of committee grant months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRIN / board member</td>
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Appendix 3  Criteria for granting top athlete status

Students can be recognized as top athletes if they meet the following criteria:

a. they practise a sport at the level of recognized European and World Championship finals and/or Olympic Games, provided that the relevant sport is listed as a Category 1-4 top-level sport programme by the NOC*NSF

b. they have NOC*NSF A, B or High Potential status

c. they are part of the national youth selection of an NOC*NSF Category 1-4 top-level sport programme, with a top-level sport programme recognized and supported by NOC*NSF

d. they do not fall into categories a, b or c but practise sport at least at National Championships top level for seniors or participate in the highest national senior competition of top-level sport programmes that fall within Categories 1-4 of the NOC*NSF. The student must follow a top-level sport programme. The top-level sport coordinator will assess this. The criteria concerning the level and the top-level sport programme for this category are dependent on the relevant sport discipline and are available from the top-level sport coordinator.

e. they are recognized as top athletes by the Board of University, on the recommendation of the top-level sport coordinator, on a basis other than those specified above.