



University of Peradeniya
Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

BY-LAWS

THE UNIVERSITIES ACT NO.16 OF 1978

**By-laws made by the Council of the University of Peradeniya
under Section 29(n) read with Section 135(1)(d) of the
Universities Act No.16 of 1978**

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PART 1 – GENERAL

1. These By-laws may be cited in the “By-laws No.01 of 1996, relating to Students Discipline” and shall come into operation on 26th October 1996. These By-laws supersede any other By-laws or Regulations that may have been issued to students earlier.
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any of the provisions of these By-laws, the Vice-Chancellor shall take appropriate action he deems necessary to maintain discipline at the University and nothing in these By-laws shall be construed in a manner to detract from the powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed upon the Vice-Chancellor by the Universities Act No.16 of 1978 [hereinafter referred to as the “Act”] or by any other Instrument.
3. (1) Upon the coming into operation of these By-laws, there shall be established a Board of Discipline [hereinafter referred to as the “Board”] constituted as provided in Sub-paragraph (2).
(2) The Board of Discipline shall consist of the following Members, who shall hold office for a period of 03 (three) years with effect from the date of appointment.
 - (i) The Dean of each Faculty;
 - (ii) A Proctor, if any, or a Deputy Proctor nominated by the Proctor;

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- (iii) Two Wardens nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (iv) Two members of the Council nominated by the Council, from among its appointed members;
 - (v) Two Senior Student Counsellors nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.
- (3) The Registrar or his nominee shall be the ex-officio Secretary of the Board.
 - (4) The Chairman of the Board shall be elected by the members from among the Deans and he shall preside at all meetings of the Board. If the Chairman is unable to reside at a meeting the members shall elect any Dean to preside at such meeting.
 - (5) The Chairman shall hold office for a period of one year reckoned from the date of his election so long as he retains the status of membership by virtue of which he was eligible for election as the Chairman of the Board he is eligible for re-election.
 - (6) The quorum for the meeting of the Board shall be seven members.
4. Subject to the provisions of the Act, and of any other appropriate Instrument, the Board shall have the following powers, duties and functions:
 - (i) To regulate and determine all matters concerning the maintenance of student discipline within the University;
 - (ii) To make Rules pertaining to student discipline within the University;
 - (iii) To hold inquiries or cause inquiries to be held pertaining to allegations of indiscipline or misconduct on the part of any student or students of the University;

- (iv) The Vice-Chancellor may appoint a Committee of Inquiry to inquire into an incident where he thinks it appropriate in the circumstances and the Board of Discipline shall consider such reports made by such Committee and recommend appropriate action.
- (v) To impose appropriate penalties or punishments, on any student or students who have been found guilty of any acts of indiscipline or misconduct or who have been found guilty of an offence under these By-laws or, of acting in contravention of the provisions of these By-laws or the Rules made by the Board;
- (vi) To do such other acts incidental to the powers aforesaid, as may be required in order to further the objectives of these By-laws.

PART II

5. Without prejudice to the generality of the powers duties and functions conferred upon or imposed in the Council by the Act or any other Instrument, the Council shall be responsible for the administration and implementation of these By-laws.
6. (1) These By-laws shall apply to every Registered Student of the University of Peradeniya [hereinafter referred to as the "University"]
 - (2)(a) For the purpose of these By-laws "Registered Student" means any student who had already been duly admitted and registered at the University, for any academic year or any student who is duly admitted and registered from time to time in respect of any academic year, or other period of study.
 - (b) "Academic Year" for the purpose of these By-laws shall be construed to mean the academic year as decided by the Senate from time to time.
 - (3)(a) Every student of the University shall be of good behaviour and shall at all times conduct himself in an orderly manner befitting the status of an undergraduate or graduate student.

- (b) Students of the University shall at all times endeavour to safeguard the dignity, good name and reputation of the University.
7. Students are admitted and registered as undergraduates or graduate students of the University, subject to their good behaviour and the observance of strict discipline.
 8. Each and every student duly registered as a student of the University, shall be issued with a copy of these By-laws, the provisions of which will be binding on him in conformity with the declaration made by him in terms of Section 17(b) of the application for University admission submitted by him to the University Grants Commission.
 9. Upon the receipt of an application on the prescribed form for registration as a student of the University together with such documents as may be necessary for this purpose, the Registrar or such other officer as may be nominated by him for this purpose shall register such student and shall issue to the student so registered an Identity Card and a Students' Record Book bearing the photograph of the student concerned duly embossed with the seal of the University which shall be final and conclusive evidence pertaining to the identity of the student and also to the accuracy of the particulars stated therein.
 10. Every registered student of the University shall have in his possession either such Identity Card or Students' Record Book which he shall produce when called upon to do so by a member of the academic staff or by any officer authorized by the Vice-Chancellor or Registrar for this purpose.
 11. If any registered student shall fail to produce or wilfully refuses to produce or neglects to produce such Identity Card or Students' Record Book when called upon to do so by an authorized officer of the University, such student shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence punishable under these By-laws.

12. In the event of the failure or the refusal to produce such identity Card or Students' Record Book to an member of the academic staff or an authorized officer, such officer shall have the power to take such student to custody and to produce him before the Dean of the respective Faculty or, Warden of the respective Hall of Residence of such student if he claims to be residing in a Hall of Residence for identification. In the event of such student not being a resident of a Hall of Residence, such student may be produced before the Marshal/Chief Security Officer, who shall report him to the Proctor for appropriate action.
13. The particulars stated in the Identity Card or Students' Record Book shall be deemed to contain prima facie evidence of the status of the student and shall be in the manner prescribed in Schedule I of these By-laws.
14. (1) The Dean of each Faculty of the University shall have full power and authority to exercise supervisory control over the discipline of all students within the Faculty.
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor may appoint a senior academic member as the Proctor of the University and he shall act on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor in matters of student discipline within the University. The Vice-Chancellor may delegate any of his powers and duties regarding student discipline within the University to the Proctor.
- (3) The Vice-Chancellor may, in consultation with the Dean and the Proctor, appoint a member of the academic staff of each Faculty as the Deputy Proctor for such Faculty.

The first Deputy Proctor may be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the Dean of the respective Faculty.

- (4) The Deputy Proctor shall assist the Dean and the Proctor in matters of student discipline within the Faculty.
15. For the purpose of exercising the powers conferred upon the Dean by the proceeding paragraph the Dean may issue from time to time instructions as he deems necessary for the maintenance of discipline in such Faculty.

16. Where the Dean of a Faculty of the University is satisfied that there is a likelihood of the breakdown of the smooth functioning of his Faculty due to the disorderly behaviour or conduct on the part of a student or students the Dean may take immediate remedial measures with the assistance of the Proctor and his Deputies to prevent a breakdown of the functioning of the Faculty by -
 - (i) Reprimanding such student or students for disorderly behaviour, or
 - (ii) Suspension of such student or students from the University or from attending lectures/courses, etc., for a period not exceeding two weeks.
 - (iii) Reporting to the Vice-Chancellor for action such behaviour of a student or students where a Dean is of the opinion that the incident is of such nature that it requires the intervention of the University authorities for appropriate action under the By-laws of the University
17. The Dean shall report to the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctor any disciplinary action taken by the Dean under these By-laws.
18. Upon the coming into operation of these By-laws the University shall have full power and authority to consider and assess the conduct of each student in determining the eligibility of such student for the conferment on him of the degree, diploma, certificate or other academic distinction.
19. Every registered student shall be bound to protect and safeguard the property of the University. "Property" for this purpose includes buildings, libraries, lecture halls, furniture, equipment, and all other movable and immovable assets of the University.
20. If in the event of any student being found guilty of damaging or destroying or attempting to damage or destroy the property of the University, he shall be deemed to have committed an offence and shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws.

21. Every student shall endeavour to foster a corporate and community spirit of life and shall always respect the liberty, freedom and personality of fellow students.
22. No student shall engage in anti-social actions or in any action calculated to humiliate, ridicule, hurt or harass a fellow student, or any other person with the University or engage in any other anti-social conduct which may bring the University into disrepute.
23. No student shall incite provoke or aid and abet any other student in the commission of any of the acts specified herein before.
24. Any student who acts in violation of paragraphs 6(3)(a) & (b) and 21 to 24 of these By-laws shall be guilty of an offence punishable under the provisions of these By-laws.
25. (1) No meeting may be held within the University premises by any student or students, University Union or society or other association of students of the University except with the written approval of the Proctor. The Dean of the Faculty may permit the holding of a meeting of the Faculty students, Faculty Unit or Society where it is restricted to the students of such Faculty.
 - (2) Where the approval of the Dean/Proctor, as the case may be, has been so granted subject to such terms and conditions relating to the venue and date of such meeting and its duration and any other matter as may be deemed to be necessary in the circumstances, the meeting must be held in conformity with all such terms and conditions.
 - (3) Any student who summons or causes the holding of a meeting other than in the manner prescribed in the foregoing paragraph or aids and abets any other person to summon or hold such meeting, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable for punishment, under the provisions of these By-laws.
 - (4)(a) Unless the prior written consent of the Vice-Chancellor has been obtained, no subscription or currency may be collected from among the students, staff of the University or the general public

by any student or office-bearer of any union, society or association.

- (b) Provided, however, that the provision of this paragraph shall not apply to a subscription collected by a registered union, society or association in accordance with its Constitution or any By-laws made in terms of Section 115(2) of the Act.

26. (1) No notice, pamphlet, publication or other printed material detrimental to the good name and discipline of the University, words or defamatory of any member of the staff or student of the University, may be published and/or distributed, circulated or exhibited in any Hall of Residence, Lecture Hall/Room, Laboratory or on any other building or any other property standing on the premises of the University within its territorial boundaries.

Provided, however, that the provision of this paragraph shall not apply to notices, pamphlets, publications and printed material relating to the activities of any registered Students' Union, Society or other Association established and recognized under Section 115 of the Act and intended solely for the furthering of academic or social objectives.

Provided that such material shall not be detrimental to the good name and discipline of the University, or any member of the staff or student of the University.

27. The Board of Discipline may for any breach of these By-laws or for any offence punishable under the provisions of these By-laws by any registered student, recommend to the Vice-Chancellor the imposing on him of any one or more of the following punishments -
 - (i) A written warning or a severe reprimand;
 - (ii) Suspension from the University;
 - (iii) Withdrawal of residential facilities and accommodation;

- (iv) Withdrawal, cancellation or suspension of any financial benefits, assistance or award under the Mahapola Scholarship Scheme, any Bursary Scheme or Endowed Scholarship Scheme.
 - (v) Disqualification from sitting any University Examination for a specific period.
 - (vi) Suspension of the release of the results of any University Examination for a specific period;
 - (vii) Expulsion from the University.
28. (1) The Board of Discipline or any Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Board or the Vice-Chancellor for purposes set out in paragraph 4(iii) or 4(iv) shall have the power to summon any student of the University, to attend any Inquiry or to give evidence thereat and to direct any student to make a written statement concerning any matter pertaining to his conduct or behaviour or to the conduct or behaviour of any other student within the University.
- (2) Such Committee of Inquiry shall conduct such inquiries in accordance with the rules of natural justice as far as possible.
- (3) Before the commencement of such inquiry, every accused student shall be informed of the charge or charges against him to be tried at the inquiry before the Committee of Inquiry.
- (4) An accused student shall be allowed to be present either in person or with a representative of the Peradeniya Students' Union or the respective Faculty Students' Union, at the inquiry, and may also be allowed to suggest to the Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry any questions that may be put to any person who testifies before the Committee of Inquiry.
- (5) The Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry may at his discretion put to the witness such questions suggested by or on behalf of the accused student.

- (6) Under exceptional circumstances the Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry may allow the witnesses to give evidence recorded in camera.
29. (1) Upon the declaration of an order of closure of the University by the University authorities every student of the University shall be bound to act in accordance with this Order and shall leave the University premises before the stipulated time specified in such Order.
- (2) Any student who acts in contravention of the provisions of the foregoing paragraph shall be deemed to have committed an offense and shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws.
30. (1) Any student on whom a punishment has been imposed by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Board of Discipline and who is aggrieved by the decision of the Board regarding the punishment may, within a period of one month from the date of communication to him of such punishment or penalty, appeal against such punishment or penalty to the Vice-Chancellor.
- (2) Upon the receipt of an appeal, the Vice-Chancellor shall refer such appeal to an Appeals Committee appointed by him.
- (3) The Appeals Committee, for the purposes of the above paragraph, shall consist of three persons of legal/academic eminence appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

The Appeals Committee shall have the power to review the decision of the Board of Discipline regarding the punishments imposed and may either affirm, vary or set aside the decision regarding the punishment.

31. (1) It would be the duty of a Warden of a Hall of Residence to impose discipline among the students of the Hall of Residence and act in consultation with the Proctor regarding matters pertaining to student discipline in the Hall of Residence.

(2) A Warden of a Hall of Residence shall inquire into complaints of breach of discipline and take appropriate action by himself where the act of indiscipline is not of a serious nature and may impose any of the following punishments.

- (i) Suspension from the Hall of Residence for period not exceeding two weeks;
- (ii) A written warning

(3) In every case in which a Warden acts under the above provisions, he shall submit a report to the Proctor and shall act in consultation with the Proctor. Where the Proctor is of the view that the breach of discipline is of such nature that it calls for his intervention, he may act in the manner laid down in these By-laws.

(4) Any student who is aggrieved by the punishment imposed by a Warden shall have the right to appeal to the Vice-Chancellor forthwith, and the Vice-Chancellor instruct the Proctor to conduct a formal inquiry where he considers it desirable, depending on the nature of the incident.

32. (1) The Dean of a Faculty shall impose discipline among the students of the Faculty and shall act in consultation with the Proctor and Deputy Proctor of the Faculty regarding matters pertaining to student discipline in his Faculty.

(2) The Dean of a Faculty shall inquire into complaints of breach of discipline and take appropriate action by himself where the act of indiscipline is of such a nature that it could be adequately dealt with by imposing any of the following punishments –

- (i) Suspension from academic activities for a period not exceeding two weeks;
- (ii) A written warning

(3) In every case in which a Dean acts under the above provisions, he shall submit a report to the Proctor.

(4) Any student who is aggrieved by the punishments imposed by a Dean of a Faculty shall have the right to appeal to the Vice-Chancellor who may review the punishment and/or order the conduct of a formal inquiry where he considers it desirable, depending on the nature of the incident.

33. (1) Subject to the provisions of the Universities Act and other Statutes of the University, the Proctor shall be the authority in-charge of the maintenance of discipline among the students of the University.

(2) In discharging the above duties, he shall act in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor and with the assistance of the Deputy Proctors.

(3) The Proctor shall inquire into complaints of breach of discipline in the University and take appropriate action.

(4) Where the incident of indiscipline is of such a nature that it can be adequately dealt with by the imposition of the following punishments, he may act by himself –

- (i) Suspension from the University for a period not exceeding five weeks;
- (ii) A written warning.

(5) In every case in which the Proctor acts under these provisions, he shall submit a report to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any student who is aggrieved by the punishment imposed by the Proctor, shall have the right to appeal to the Vice-Chancellor forthwith and the Vice-Chancellor may review the punishment and/or order a formal inquiry where he considers it desirable.

(7) In cases in which incidents of indiscipline are reported, the Proctor shall conduct a preliminary inquiry and submit his observations to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate action under these By-laws.

34. (1) A Deputy Proctor of a Faculty shall assist the Dean of the Faculty to maintain and impose discipline among students of the Faculty and shall report to the Dean regarding such matters.

(2) A Deputy Proctor shall also assist the Proctor in the maintenance of discipline among the students of the University.

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Please note that 'He' denotes both sexes