Statute on the USTP Board's Working Committee for Quality Development in Research (Period 2026–2029)

The standing working committees of the USTP Board create a framework for cross-disciplinary collaboration between the bodies and organisational units of USTP that are concerned with the topics of the committees. They pool knowledge and experiences of the faculties, the USTP Board, and the service and competence centres, advance the strategic further development of teaching, applied research, and internationalisation to ensure the implementation of competence- and future-oriented studies at university level, and support quality assurance in teaching and research and the evaluation of the entire teaching operations including the curricula. Establishing working committees and defining their Statutes are within the responsibility of the USTP Board in agreement with the Provider (§ 10 para. 3 line 10 of the University of Applied Sciences Act – FHG).

The Committee for Quality Development in Teaching sets great store by fostering a quality-oriented higher education culture and supports the continuous improvement of quality development in research. The committee (within the meaning of §10 para. 3 line 6 FHG) plays an important role in achieving high participation of full-time teaching and research staff in applied and practical research and development activities. We reflect on existing procedures, analyse results, and prepare recommendations on the further development of quality management – thereby making an important contribution to ensuring high quality standards and evidence-based further development of research at USTP.

1. Competencies and Responsibilities: Preparing a Basis for Decision-Making

By giving recommendations to the USTP Board, the Committee supports quality development and management in research and advances the strategic further development of applied research. It integrates a circle of representatives of the USTP Board, heads of institutes, researchers, and representatives of USTP services that are relevant to research.

The working committee addresses the challenges, potentials, current developments, as well as the national and European framework conditions and guidelines for the strategic further development and quality assurance of research.

The composition of the committee members ensures collaboration with the service and competence centres for Research and Cooperations and Higher Education Development and Quality Management (HSE-QM).

2. Assignments and Decisions

The committee is associated with the statutory defined tasks of the USTP Board pursuant to § 10 FHG. It is therefore responsible for matters that are key to providing consultation to the USTP Board – thus playing a significant role in the formation of opinions. Tasks are assigned to the committee by the head of the committee. Requirements for assignments may be given to the head of the committee by the USTP Board, other committees, the Extended Management Board focusing on academic teaching in education and training. In addition, the committee itself may define fields of responsibilities contributing to quality assurance in research.

The committee does not have any decision-making competencies. In accordance with the University of Applied Sciences Act (FHG), the competence to make decisions remains with the USTP Board in agreement with the Provider.

3. Tasks Pertaining to Teaching and Research pursuant to § 10 FHG and to Quality Management at USTP

a. Tasks of the USTP Board Pertaining to Research pursuant to § 10 FHG

§ 10 (3) 6. strategic development in consultation with the Provider of teaching, applied research, and internationalisation to ensure competence- and future-oriented studies at university level;

§ 10 (3) 8. assuring the quality of teaching and research as well as evaluating all teaching, including examination regulations and curricula.

b. Tasks of the USTP Board Pertaining to Quality Management at USTP

PDCA cycle on Applied R&D and Knowledge Transfer; multi-year USTP-wide measures/recommendations derived from the evaluation of the further development of content and structure of research units for the USTP Board as input for the Extended Management Board’s field of responsibility for academic teaching.

4. Composition of Members of the Committee for Quality Development in Research (2026–2029)

The members of the Working Committee are nominated by the Chairperson of the USTP Board (if necessary, in agreement with the Faculty Heads) and decided upon by the USTP Board. The committee's composition should ensure that appointed committee members are experienced staff members with strong professional expertise, a great level of commitment, and intrinsic motivation for the topics of the working programme. They should have a solution-oriented attitude taking the entire organisation into account and should think independent of their individual position and their own unit, department, or study programme. Collaboration with the service and competence centres for Research and Cooperation and HSE-QM is essential. The selection criteria are defined as follows:

- Balanced representation, in other words:
  - Integration of representatives of the Faculties
  - Integration of researchers
  - Integration of students
  - Integration of representatives of relevant services (Research and Cooperations, HSE-QM; if needed, further services are included)
- Gender balance and balanced representation in terms of age, professional experience, and duration of affiliation with USTP
- A reasonable group size for discussion and collaboration (approx. 8–10 persons)
- A minimum of two USTP Board members should be part of the committee
- Further colleagues may be invited to contribute to specific topics, on individual occasions, if needed