

## **The Higher Education Council and Universities Law**

**Issued by the Royal Decree No. 8 dated 4/6/1414 H(1)  
according to the cabinet of Minister's Resolution No. 60 Dated 2/6/1414H(2)  
Umm Al-Qura Gazette, Issue No.3481 dated 13/6/1414 H(3)**

### **Article 1**

Universities are academic and cultural institutions that work according to the principles of Islamic Sharia, and implement educational policies by providing under-graduate and post-graduate education and studies, promotion of academic research, authorship, translation and publication, and society development within competence.

### **Article 2**

Each university shall enjoy a body corporate and a financial legal liability that allows the right of possession and suing.

### **Article 3**

Universities and other higher education institutions shall have a council to be cited as ' Higher Education Council '. Each university shall have a council to be named ' The University Council '.

### **Article 4**

This regulation shall apply to include:

- (1) Um- Al Qura University - Main Center in Makkah.
- (2) Islamic University - Main Centre Al - Madinnah.
- (3) Imam Mohamed Bin Saudi Islamic University - Main Center in Riyadh city.
- (4) King Saudi University - Main Center in Riyadh city.
- (5) King Abdul Al Aziz University -Main Center in Jeddah city.
- (6) King Fahad University for Petroleum and Minerals - Main Center in Dhahran city.
- (7) King Faisal University Main Center in Al Hafoof city.
- (8) Future Universities - unless otherwise the establishment decree stated.

### **Article 5**

Each University shall contain a number of faculties, institutes and research centers, and supporting deaneries and centers. The Universities stated in the previous Article shall be constituted of faculties, institutes, research centers, supporting deaneries and centers, and others academic institutes, and schools under the university level, established when such regulation is issued, and also the supporting deaneries and centers decided by the Council for Higher Education (CHE).

#### **Article 6**

Names of faculties, institutes and research centers, and the supporting deaneries and centers may be subject to amendment by a Council of the Higher Education's decision in accordance with a recommendation of the competent university council.

#### **Article 7**

Some attached faculties, institutes and research centers outside the University main center may be established by a decision of the Council for Higher Education (CHE) in accordance with a recommendation of the competent university council.

#### **Article 8**

Each faculty or institute shall include a number of divisions, if ever required according to the nature of the faculty or the institute.

New divisions may be established by a decision by the Council for Higher Education (C.H.E) in accordance with the suggestion of the competent university. Here a consideration shall be given to the non-duplication of similar divisions in the same university's faculties and centers located in one position.

#### **Article 9**

Each faculty, institute and supporting deaneries shall have a suitable academic, financial, and administrative authorities in accordance with the regulation issued by the competent University Council within its limits of competence and authorities. Such authorities shall show the limits of authorization of the boards of faculties and institutes, the deans and principals' divisions' boards and the head of divisions.

#### **Article 10**

When required, in accordance with the suggestion of the competent University Council and the approval of the Council for Higher Education (CHE), the University may attach undergraduate level educational units. Here special regulations shall assign the level of study, syllabuses and management knowledge in such units.

#### **Article 11**

Arabic language shall be the media of instruction in universities. When required, another language may be used for teaching upon a decision by the competent University Council.

#### **Article 12**

The Prime Minister/and the President of the Higher Committee for Education Policies / shall be the President of the Council for Higher Education (CHE).

#### **Article 13**

The Minister of Higher Education shall lead the council of each university, and shall be responsible to control the implementation of the State educational policy in the field of higher Education, the control and the implementation of this Law and the related regulations in the current available universities and those to be established later on. All universities subjected to this Law shall be attached to the Minister of Higher Education and come under his supervision.

#### **Article 14**

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall be constituted from:

- The Prime Minister and the President of Higher Committee for Education Policies – President.
- The Minister of Higher Education; Deputy President.
- The Minister of Education.
- The Minister of Finance and National Economy.
- The Minister of Labor and Social Affairs.
- The Minister of Planning.
- President of the Civil Service Public Chamber.
- General President of Girls Education.
- Universities Vice – Chancellors.

#### **Article 15**

The Council for Higher Education shall be the higher authority responsible for education affairs above secondary schools level, its supervision and coordination among institutions, with the exception of military education. The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall be responsible for universities in the following particulars:

- (1) Guidance of higher education in accordance with related drawn policy.
- (2) Supervision of higher education development in all its sectors.
- (3) Realize coordination among universities, especially in academic divisions and awarding of degrees.
- (4) Approve the establishment of faculties, institutes, academic divisions, research centers and supporting deaneries in the current universities. The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall have the right to amalgamate such faculties, institutes, divisions, centers and supporting deaneries, or to cancel those as required.
- (5) Deciding the rules for establishing museums, academic societies and issue of periodicals.
- (6) Issuing universities joint regulations.
- (7) Issuing the regulations for the universities personnel including the Saudis and non – Saudis university staff. This shall cover salaries, awards and allowances, which shall be Pre-prepared by the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy and the Civil Service Public Chamber.
- (8) Issuing the regulation for the appointment of Saudis teaching staff, their promotions, loaning, deputation and transfer to other jobs inside and outside the university and reporting back to their academic jobs. Such regulations shall be pre-prepared by both the Ministry of Higher Education and the Civil Service Public Chamber.
- (9) Issuing the regulations of the Universities Financial Affairs including the rules of students and others awards and bursaries, after being pre-prepared by both the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.
- (10) Deciding the necessary rules to encourage Saudi qualified persons, available outside the universities, to teach at the faculties and institutes or to conduct certain research at academic research centers, under certain rewards.
- (11) Suggesting the amendment of Council for Higher Education ( CHE) and Universities Law.
- (12) Discussing the annual report of each university and submitting it to the Prime Minister.
- (13) Deciding the necessary rules for the modernization of programs, specializations, and the rules for set- evaluation ; and the endorsement of graduate and post –graduate foreign academic study programs.
- (14) Deciding the rules to establish above secondary schools, private educational institutions, and the authorization and the supervision of such institutions.

(15) Subjects referred by the Council for Higher Education President to the Council (CHE).

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall have the right to constitute permanent or temporary committees from its members or others to study what it assigns them to.

#### **Article 16**

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall hold upon the invitation of its president or acting president three sessions yearly. The president or the acting president shall have the right to invite the Council (CHE) to an exceptional session or more if necessary. The quorum for the Council (CHE) session shall be two- thirds of its members at least. Decisions shall be issued by the absolute majority of attendees votes. If votes equalize, the president side shall outweigh.

#### **Article 17**

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall have a secretary- general, to be appointed by the (CHE) president upon a recommendation of the Minister of Higher Education, to undertake the responsibility of the Council (CHE) secretariat and to prepare its works.

#### **Article 18**

The University management shall be undertaken by:

- The University Council
- The Vice -Chancellor.
- The Principals.

#### **Article 19**

The University Council shall be formed as follows:

- (1) The Minister of Higher Education -President.
- (2) Vice -Chancellor - Deputy President.
- (3) University Principals.
- (4) Secretary General of the Council for Higher Education (CHE).
- (5) Deans.
- (6) Three experts, to be appointed by the Minister of Higher Education for Three years.

## Article 20

Being obliged to the requirements of this regulation, the other regulations, and the requirements of the decisions of Council for Higher Education (CHE), the University Council shall undertake the management of academic, administrative, and financial affairs, and the implementation of the University general policy, and specially shall have the right for:

- (1) Endorsing training and a board missions.
- (2) Suggesting the establishment of faculties, institutes, divisions, research centers, supporting deaneries, and the amendment of their names or their amalgamation or cancellation.
- (3) Deciding academic specializations and post-graduate study programs.
- (4) Awarding academic degrees to the University graduates.
- (5) Awarding honorary Ph.D.
- (6) Assigning the particulars of the studying calendar in accordance with the general framework of starting and ending studies, and allocating vacations within such a frame.
- (7) Loaning, deputizing and delegating of teaching staff to academic assignments, and grant them sabbatical leave, and termination of their services in accordance with such rules.
- (8) Deciding syllabuses, studying plans, text books and references in accordance with the suggestions of the competent faculties and institutes.
- (9) Suggesting students awards and bursaries according to their different categories.
- (10) Approving the University budget and submitting such budget to the Minister of Higher Education.
- (11) Deciding the University internal regulations without the consequence of any financial or professional benefits.
- (12) Suggestion the University regulations or their amendments.
- (13) Discussing the annual report in preparation to its review at the (CHE).
- (14) Fixing allocations to be assigned for each faculty, institute, supporting deanery, and independent research center, in order to allow expenditures within the limits of the financial regulations.
- (15) Discussing the university final account in preparation for its submitting to the Prime

Minister.

(16) Deciding the university non- academic activities plan.

(17) Deciding finally the appointment of teaching staff according to the recommendation of the academic council.

(18) Accepting donations, grants wills, and others ; since those shall not contradict or oppose the basic purpose for establishing the university.

(19) Establishing the rules for visiting students and students transferred from and to the university.

(20) Considering subjects referred by the Minister of High education, vice-chancellor or suggested by any member of the Council for Higher Education CHE for review.

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall have the right to constitute permanent or temporary committees from its members or others to study what the CHE has assigned them to do.

#### **Article 21**

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall meet in accordance with the invitation of its president once each month at least. The president shall have the right to invite the Council for Higher Education (CHE) for meeting if that shall be necessary. Furthermore, the president shall invite the Council (CHE) if two -thirds of its members presented a written request for such. The Minister of Higher Education shall have the right to claim listing of any considered issue in the agenda or postponing such issue before holding the meeting of the Council for Higher Education (CHE). The quorum for the Council (CHE) session shall be two - thirds of its members at least. The Council for Higher Education (CHE) secretariat shall be undertaken by one of its members upon the nomination of the Council (CHE) and the approval of its president.

#### **Article 22**

the absolute majority of the member attendees shall issue the decisions, of the Council for Higher Education (CHE). Moreover, if votes equalize, the president side shall outweigh.

#### **Article 23**

The vice-chancellor shall be appointed and abdicated to his post by a royal decree a recommendation of the Minister of Higher Education. His appointment shall be at the premium class (grade 15+). All rules of the excellent class employees shall be applied to the vice - chancellor post.

#### **Article 24**

The university vice –chancellor shall be reporting to the Minister of Higher Education according to this Law, and shall undertake the management of the academic, administrative and financial affairs ; and supervise the application of this Law, its regulations, the decisions of the CHE, the regulations of the university and the decisions of its councils. Also the vice – chancellor shall represent the university at the other corporations, and shall have the right to delegate some of his authorities.

#### **Article 25**

The vice – chancellor shall present a report about the university affairs and activities to the Minister of Higher Education each academic year, and within a time limit not exceeding the fourth month of the second academic year. Such shall be typical to the elements and factors established by the Council for Higher Education (CHE). The report shall be approved and endorsed by the competent university council. The Minister of Higher Education shall submit the report to the Council for Higher Education (CHE), to be discussed at its first session in preparation to submit it to the Prime Minister.

#### **Article 26**

(1) For each university there shall be one principal or more. The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall decide the number of principals to be selected from the members of the teaching staff, who engaged the grade of an associate professor at least.

(2) The university principals shall be assigned and abdicated to his job by a CHE decision and according to the nomination of the vice – chancellor and the approval of the Minister of Higher Education. The assignment of the principal shall be for three years and renewable twice.

(3) The principal shall be allowed the first grade of level fifteen class, and the decided benefits of such position. If the principal salary is more than the first grade salary, according to the cadre of the teaching staff members, he shall be given his salary in addition to the due allowances or promotions, even this may exceed the last grade of level fifteen class.

(4) If the principal abdicated his post, he shall be allowed his salary according to his academic grade. If such a salary is less than what he collects during his assignment as a principal, he shall be paid the difference until it vanishes by allowances and promotion.

(5) The decided rules of allowances and promotions of the members of teaching staff at universities, shall be applied to the principal during the period of his assignment.

#### **Article 27**

Principals shall assist the vice – chancellor to manage the university affairs. Regulations allocate their authorities. If the vice – chancellor is absent or his post remained vacant, the most senior principal, out of other principals, shall take the vice – chancellor post.



## **Article 28**

An academic council shall be established in each university to undertake the supervision of the academic affairs of the members of the teaching staff, and the research, studies and publication affairs. The academic council shall have the right to:

- (1) Recommend the appointment of the members of teaching staff at the university.
- (2) Decide final academic promotions of the members of the teaching staff, according to the rules set by the Council for Higher Education (CHE).
- (3) Encourage academic research, authorship, translation and publication. And shall have the right for:
  - (a) Establish rules to encourage the preparation of academic research.
  - (b) Suggest the establishment of academic research centers.
  - (c) Coordinate among academic research centers, and the establishment of a general plan for such centers.
  - (d) Organize the relations with out - university research centers.
  - (e) Determine motivational and commendation incentives for the scientific works, refereeing such and order their payments.
  - (f) Publish the researches, books and thesis agreed to publish.
  - (g) Recommend the issuance of scientific periodicals.
  - (h) Recommend the establishment of academic societies, museums and conduct of coordination among such societies and museums.
  - (i) Prescribe the referred text books, thesis that need to be reviewed.
- (4) Evaluation of academic certificates presented by the Saudi teaching staff members.
- (5) Consider subjects referred by the university council.

## **Article 29**

The academic Council shall be established as follows:

- (1) The University principal for post - graduate studies and academic research - President.
- (2) One member of the teaching staff from each faculty or institute at the associate

professor grade at least. The university council according to the nomination of the faculty or center board, and the approval of the vice - chancellor, shall issue an appointment decision.

A number of other members working in academic research and aspects may be added to the membership of the academic council by a decision that shall be issued by the university council. Those shall not exceed half the total members. All members shall be appointed for a period of two years, renewable for once.

The council shall have the right to constitute permanent or temporary committees from among its members or others to study what the council shall assigned them to do.

### **Article 30**

The Academic Council shall meet once a month, at least upon the invitation of its president. The president shall have the right to invite the council to a meeting if necessary. The Council may meet upon a written request of one third of its members, or upon a request of the vice - chancellor who shall have the right to request listing any matter in the agenda, and lead the council in his presence. The quorum for the meetings shall be two - thirds of the members of the council at least.

### **Article 31**

Decisions of the Academic Council shall be issued under the absolute majority. If votes equalize, the president side shall outweigh. Decisions shall be considered valid if not opposed by the vice - chancellor within fifteen days starting from the date of receiving such decisions. If the vice chancellor opposed the decisions, he shall return them to the Academic Council including his opinion to restudy such decisions. If the academic council kept the same opinion, the opposed decisions shall be referred to the university council to be considered at a regular or exceptional session. The university council shall have the right to approve, amend or cancel the decisions, the university council decisions shall be considered final.

### **Article 32**

The faculty or institute board shall be managed by:

- The board of the faculty or institute.
- The dean of the faculty or institute.

### **Article 33**

The faculty or the institute board consists of:

- The dean; as President.

- The principal.

- Heads of divisions .

The university council, upon a recommendation by the faculty or the institute and the approval of the vice – chancellor, shall have the right to add three members or more to its membership, to be selected from the faculty, institute, or corresponding faculty at the branches of the university. The council shall assign the duration of membership.

#### **Article 34**

Being committed to the requirements of this regulation, the other regulations and what shall be decided by the Council for Higher Education (CHE) or the university council, the faculty or institute board shall consider matters related to the faculty or the institute, and shall, specially, have the right to:

- (1) Suggest the appointment of teaching staff members, teaching assistants and lecturers, and their loaning, deputation and promotion.
- (2) Suggest study plans or their amendment, and coordination among divisions.
- (3) Suggest syllabuses, textbooks and reference at the faculty or institute divisions.
- (4) Encourage the preparation of scientific researches, their coordination among the faculties and institutes, and publication of such researches.
- (5) Suggest the examinations dates, and establishing means of their organization.
- (6) Suggest the internal regulations of the faculty or institute.
- (7) Suggest training plans and a board missions necessary for the faculty or the institute.
- (8) Suggest non – academic (extramural) activities plan.
- (9) Decide on the student's matters within the competence of the board, and referring others to the university council.
- (10) Consider what the university council, its president or deputy president refers to the board for study and projection of opinion.

#### **Article 35**

The faculty or institute board shall meet once each month at least by an invitation of its president. The quorum for the meeting shall be two – thirds of the members of the board. Decisions shall be issued by the absolute majority of the votes of the attendees members. If votes equalize the president side shall outweigh.

The board decisions shall be valid unless being opposed by the vice – chancellor within fifteen days of the date of receiving them. If the vice – chancellor opposes the decisions, he shall return them to the faculty board including his opinion to restudy such decisions. If the board kept the same opinion, opposed decisions shall be referred to the university council for decision at a regular or exceptional session. The university council shall have the right to approve, amend or cancel the decisions. The council decision shall be considered final.

The faculty or institute board shall have the right to constitute permanent or temporary committees from among its members or others.

#### **Article 36**

The dean of the faculty or the institute shall be appointed from Saudi teaching staff members who are distinguished by their academic and administrative efficiency, and by decision to be issued by the Minister of Higher Education in accordance with the nomination of the vice – chancellor. The appointed shall be for two renewable years.

#### **Article 37**

The dean shall undertake the academic, administrative and financial affairs of the faculty or the institute within the limits of this Law and its regulations, the dean shall present to the vice – chancellor at the end of each study year a report about the education affairs and all other activities of the faculty or institute.

#### **Article 38**

Each faculty or institute shall have a principal or more to be selected from the members of the Saudi teaching staff who are distinguished by their academic and administrative efficiency. Those shall be appointed by the vice – chancellor for two renewable years, and in accordance with the nomination of the dean. The principal shall assist the dean to perform his work. If there is more than one principal, the most senior principal shall be the acting dean during his absence or if the post is vacant. One of the principals shall undertake the secretariat of the faculty or institute.

#### **Article 39**

The deans of the supporting deaneries shall be appointed from the Saudi teaching staff members, who are distinguished by their academic and administrative efficiency, and by a decision issued by the Minister of Education according to the nomination of the vice – chancellor. Such an appointment shall be for two renewable years.

#### **Article 40**

Principals may be appointed to supporting deaneries, and shall be selected from Saudi teaching staff members who are distinguished by their academic and administrative

efficiency. Such appointment shall be for two renewable years. The principal shall assist the dean to perform his work, and Law as a dean if absent or the post is vacant.

### **Divisions of Faculties and Institutes**

#### **Article 41**

Each division of a faculty or an institute shall have a board to be constituted from the members of the teaching staff. Each division shall have academic, financial and administrative authorities with the limits of this Law and its regulations.

#### **Article 42**

The division board shall meet at the invitation of the head of the board once each month at least. The quorum for a meeting shall be two - thirds of the members of the board.

Decisions shall be issued by the absolute majority of the votes of the attendees members. If votes equalize, the head side shall outweigh.

The board decisions shall be deemed valid if not opposed by the dean of the faculty or institute within fifteen days from the date of receiving decisions. If the board kept the same opinion, the opposed decision shall be referred to the faculty board, which shall have the authority to decide the matter.

#### **Article 43**

The division board shall suggest to the faculty board the studying plan, syllabuses, textbooks and reference. Also the board shall suggest the appointment of the teaching staff members, lecturers, teaching assistants and their promotion. Furthermore, the board shall study academic research projects, the distribution of lecturers, exercises and training works among the members of the teaching staff and teaching assistants, beside the organization and coordination of the division works.

Each division shall teach the syllabuses within its specialty after the university council has endorsed them. The division council may form permanent or temporary committees from its members.

#### **Article 44**

The head of the division shall be appointed from the Saudi teaching staff members, who are distinguished by their academic and administrative efficiency, by a decision to be issued by the vice - chancellor in accordance with the nomination of the dean of the faculty or institute. The appointment shall be for two renewable years. The head of the division shall be responsible about the management of the academic, administrative and financial matters, and shall present. a port to the dean about the division's works at the end of each academic year.

#### **Article 45**

The teaching staff members shall be:

- 1- The Professors.
- 2- Associate professors.
- 3- Assistant Professors.

#### **Article 46**

The faculty or institute may appoint lecturers, teaching assistants, and research assistants to re-qualify them for the membership of the teaching staff and to demonstrate exercises, practical lessons and other works, under the supervision of the teaching staff. Also languages teachers and technical personnel may be appointed.

#### **Article 47**

Non - Saudis may be appointed as members of the teaching staff if Saudis are not available to engage such jobs. Lecturers, teaching assistants, languages teachers, technical personnel, and research assistants may be appointed also.

#### **Article 48**

Distinguished famous part- time persons may be assigned, by a decision to be issued by the vice - chancellor, to teach or supervise researches or academic thesis, according to suggestion by the division board and the recommendation of the faculty or institute. The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall allocate the conditions of their selection and rewards.

#### **Article 49**

If required, visiting staff of Saudis and non - Saudis specialists may be used for a limited period, by a decision to be issued by the vice - chancellor in accordance with the division's suggestion and the recommendation of the faculty board. This shall be in accordance with rules to be established by the Council for Higher Education (CHE).

#### **Article 50**

Each university shall have an independent special budget to be issued by a royal decree that allocate revenues and expenditures. The budget execution shall be subject to the control of the General Control Chamber. The universities fiscal year shall be the State fiscal year.

#### **Article 51**

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall establish the pre – expenditure rules of financial control, after being prepared by the Minister of Higher Education, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy and the General Control Chamber.

**Article 52**

The university council shall appoint one accounting controller or more, without breaching the control authority of the General Control Chamber. Those shall have the legal qualifications, the rights and the duties of a controller at share companies.

**Article 53**

The University revenues shall be constituted from:

- 1- Funds allocated at the budget.
- 2- Donations, grants, wills and charities (Wagf).
- 3- University property rents and their business use returns.
- 4- Any revenues resulting from research projects, studies, or services provided to others.

**Article 54**

a- The University shall have the right to conduct studies or scientific services to Saudi authorities, against money amounts. The returns of such studies and services shall be deposited in a separate account and allocated for the purposes assigned and controlled by the Council for Higher Education (CHE).

b- The university council shall accept donations, grants, wills and charities (Wagf). It shall also have the right to accept conditional donations or allocated for special purposes, if the conditions or the purposes are compatible with the role of the university. Such donations shall be deposited in a separate bank account to be allocated for the purposes assigned and controlled by the Council for Higher Education (CHE).

**Article 55**

The Cabinet of Ministers shall assign the rewards for attending the sessions of the Council for Higher Education (CHE), the Councils of the universities and the academic councils.

**Article 56**

The current university regulations and the other organizational decisions shall remain valid, except those contradicting with this Law, until the issue of the new regulations, which shall be issued within a maximum of two years from the starting enforcement date of this Law.

#### **Article 57**

The duration for assigning university principals, deans and heads of divisions to their posts, in this Law, shall be counted from the date when divisions' heads assume their posts. If the principals, deans, deans, principals and heads of divisions exceed this duration, they shall remain in their posts until the new occupants of such posts are appointed. This shall be completed in a period not exceeding one year from the starting date of this Law enforcement.

#### **Article 58**

The Minister of Higher Education shall undertake, in coordination with the universities and the related authorities, the preparation of executive regulation of this Law, and its submission to CHE for approval and issuance.

#### **Article 59**

1- This Law shall repeal the universities regulations stated in article four of it, and the Higher Council for Universities Law issued by royal decree No. 10 dated 15/04/1393H, and all contradicting Laws and regulations.

2- The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall replace the Higher Council for Universities (HCU) which its Law was issued under royal decree No. 10 on the 15/04/1393 H.

#### **Article 60**

This Law shall be published in the gazette (Umm Al-Qura) and shall become effective sixty days after its publishing date.

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(1) 18 Nov 1993.

(2) 16 Nov 1993.

(3) 27 Nov 1993.