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VERSION IS LEGALLY BINDING.**

**Rules and Regulations
for the Graduate School of North American Studies
of the John F. Kennedy Institute of North American Studies
of the Freie Universität Berlin**

Preamble

Pursuant to § 14 section 1 clause 1 and 4 of the Partial Basic Regulations (Teilgrundordnung) of 27 October 1998 (FU – memoranda no. 24/1998) in connection with § 83 section 1 of the Berlin Universities Act (Berliner Hochschulgesetz – BerlHG) in the version of the public announcement of 13 February 2003 (GVBl. p. 81), last amended by the act of 06 July 2006 (GVBl. p.713), the counsel of the John F. Kennedy Institute of North American Studies (counsel) has issued the following Rules and Regulations for the Graduate School of North American Studies (Graduate School) of the John F. Kennedy Institute of North American Studies on 31 January 2007:

Table of contents

- § 1 Tasks and objectives of the Graduate School
- § 2 Graduate grants
- § 3 Areas of research and fields of study
- § 4 Members and institutions of the Graduate School
- § 5 General assembly
- § 6 Executive Board
- § 7 Director
- § 8 Administrative Secretary
- § 9 International academic advisory committee
- § 10 Implementation

§ 1 Tasks and Objectives of the Graduate School

- (1) The Graduate School of North American Studies (Graduate School) is a subsection of the John F. Kennedy Central Institute of North American Studies of the Freie Universität Berlin. The Graduate School operates in cooperation with the disciplines named in section 2.
- (2) The Graduate School offers a doctoral study program in North American Studies (doctoral studies) which is involving the academic disciplines Cultural Studies, Literature, History, Political Science, Economics and Sociology. The doctoral program is designed to prepare highly qualified and promising students for academic positions in universities, research institutions and other private and public institutions with academic affiliations as well as for upper-level positions in politics and international organizations, the arts and media.
- (3) The doctoral program is particularly geared to students who within the framework of their dissertation projects wish to specialize in one discipline with an emphasis on North America in one of the above-mentioned disciplines. At the same time, the Graduate School encourages a strong interdisciplinary orientation of the dissertation projects. The students conduct their research, while working closely with their mentors.
- (4) The Graduate School aims to offer a theoretically and methodologically rigorous teaching and study program. Individualized forms of teaching and studying are designed to promote autonomy and originality in the research questions pursued. Towards this end, the Graduate School will further facilitate individual research possibilities at American and Canadian research institutions.
- (5) The conditions of admission, the application and selection process as well as content, structure, objectives, organization and requirements of performance are regulated by the Academic Rules and Regulations for doctoral studies in North American Studies at the Graduate School of the Central John F. Kennedy Institute of North American Studies within the framework of the Dahlem Research School of the Freie Universität Berlin Berlin dated 31 January 2007.
- (6) All members and institutions of the Graduate School are obliged to act in the interest of gender equality and uphold the compatibility of academic work and family life as laid out in the Women's Advancement Directive (FFR) of the Freie Universität Berlin dated 17 February 1993 (FU-memoranda no. 17/1993).

§ 2 Doctoral Grants

(1) Each year the Graduate School offers 10 three-year doctoral grants. The selection committee awards the grants on the basis of the selection process laid out in §§ 3, 4 of the Academic Rules and Regulations of the Graduate School of North American Studies of the John F. Kennedy Institute of North American Studies at the Dahlem Research School of the Freie Universität Berlin dated 31 January 2007.

(2) The doctoral students are to combine their dissertation project with a research stay at an American or Canadian institution, archive or university library. For this purpose, travel grants can be applied for.

§ 3 Areas of Research and Fields of Study

(1) The Graduate School particularly promotes research in the areas of

- North American Culture
- North American Literature
- North American History
- North American Politics
- North American Economy
- North American Society

(2) Within the scope of the topic “The Challenges of Freedom: The American Century and Beyond,” the following fields of research are to be focused on particularly:

- American Exceptionalism in the Present Context
- Nations, Ethnicity, Diaspora and Border Lands
- The Conservative Revolution and New Social Movements
- The Role of Religion in American Public Life
- Art, Aesthetics and American Culture
- Neo-liberalism as Economic and Cultural Paradigm
- Globalization and the “American Centuries”

(3) The areas and fields of study may be reviewed, if necessary, every five years by the International Academic Advisory Board (Internationaler Wissenschaftlicher Beirat).

§ 4 Members and Institutions of the Graduate School

(1) Members of the Graduate School are both the university professors teaching and mentoring within the program and the doctoral students. Professorial membership is incumbent upon the continuance of the co-operation agreement pursuant to clause 1. A termination of membership must be communicated in written form.

(2) The General Assembly decides on the application of new members by the Executive Board.

(3) Students who do not receive financial support from the Graduate School can be accepted as associate members provided that they fulfil the entrance requirements in accordance with §§ 3, 4 of the Academic Rules and Regulations of the Graduate School of North American Studies of the John F. Kennedy institute of North American Studies at the Dahlem Research School of the Freie Universität Berlin dated 31 January 2007.

(3) Institutions of the Graduate School are the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Director.

§ 5 General Assembly

(1) The members of the Graduate School pursuant to § 4 section 1 and 3 form the General Assembly.

(2) The General Assembly can make recommendations concerning all aspects of the Graduate School. It particularly makes recommendations relating to program coordination and development. The Executive Board further develops these recommendations for presentation to the General Assembly. The rights and duties of other university institutions according to the Berlin University Act (Berliner Hochschulgesetz) and to the Partial Basic Regulations dated 27 October 1998 (FU-memoranda no. 24/1998) remain unaffected.

(3) The Director calls a meeting of the General Assembly at least once per semester who also chairs the meeting. The General Assembly adopts its own by-laws. In all other points, general legal regulations apply.

§ 6 Executive Board

- (1) The members of the Graduate School elect an Executive Board made up of four voting members: three members of the faculty and a student representative. Faculty members serve for a term on two years and student representatives for one year. Re-election is possible.
- (2) The Director of the Graduate School is a full member of the Executive Board with voting privileges. He or she presides over the Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board elects a vice Director from its faculty members on the Executive Board.
- (3) The Executive Board designates a general ombudsperson drawn from the Graduate School's core faculty and on the basis of student recommendation. The ombudsperson will participate in an advisory capacity in the Executive Board meetings
- (4) The chairperson of the advisory board of the John F. Kennedy Institute, the Executive Secretary and the gender ombudsperson are included in the Executive Board in an advisory capacity.
- (5) University departments involved in the doctoral study program through affiliated members are to be informed of pertinent cases and decisions through the appropriate faculty channels.
- (6) The Executive Board advises and decides on all matters pertaining to the Graduate School. This particularly applies to the internal allocation of personnel and material resources. The rights and duties of other university institutions pursuant to the Berlin University Act (Berliner Hochschulgesetz) and to the Partial Basic Regulations (Teilgrundordnung) remain unaffected.

§ 7 Director

- (1) The core faculty of the Graduate School elects a Director from its own ranks.
- (2) The Director is confirmed as the representative for the doctoral study program in North American Studies pursuant to § 6 section 1 of the Academic Rules and Regulations of Graduate School of North American Studies of the John F. Kennedy Central Institute for North American Studies at the Dahlem Research School of the Freie Universität Berlin, dated 31 January 2007.
- (3) It is incumbent on the Director to head the Graduate School as well as to implement the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Executive Board. He/she represents the Graduate School publicly. The Director is further responsible for the general regulation of business. A full financial report of accounts is to be presented to the General Assembly annually.
- (4) The Director is supported by an office. The office organizes the meetings of the General Assembly, of the Executive Board and of the International Academic Advisory Board (Internationaler Wissenschaftsbeirat).
- (5) The rights and duties of other university institutions pursuant to the Berlin University Act (Berliner Hochschulgesetz) and to the Partial Basic Regulations (Teilgrundordnung) remain unaffected.

§ 8 Executive Secretary

- (1) The Executive Secretary supports the members of the Graduate School by advising and coordinating the activities of the Graduate School and of the Freie Universität Berlin. He or she cooperates closely with the administrations of the central institutes and the university faculties as well as the central university administration. The Executive Secretary is particularly responsible for public relations and the continuous collection of data for evaluation purposes.
- (2) The Executive Board appoints the Executive Secretary. Through the administration of third party funds (Drittmittelverwaltung), the Director administers third party funds and can authorize the Executive Secretary to conduct the business of the Graduate School.

§ 9 International Academic Advisory Board

- (1) The International Academic Advisory Board advises to the Executive Board and the Director in all academic matters. It monitors and evaluates the activities of the Graduate School and supports the development of new and existing curricula.
- (3) Upon nomination by the Director or the President's office, members of the Academic Advisory Board are appointed for a period of three years. A second term is not possible. The number of members aims to ensure an appropriate representation of the areas specified in § 3 section 1.
- (4) The International Academic Advisory Board (der Internationale Wissenschaftliche Beirat) may consult external experts in the fields of politics, science and culture.
- (5) The Director and the Executive Board ensure that the recommendations and suggestions of the International Academic Advisory Board are evaluated and applied to the degree possible.
- (6) The International Academic Advisory Board meets at least once per year under the direction of the Director. The Executive Board can at any time call further meetings of the Advisory Board.

§ 10 Implementation

These rules and regulations come into force on the day after being published in the FU-memoranda (official journal of the Free University Berlin, Amtsblatt der Freien Universität Berlin).