

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic Senate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (AVU) held on April 2, 2025, at 9:30 in the Aula AVU

The meeting was held in a hybrid format (in person and online).

Attendance:

Members of the Academic Chamber of the Academic Senate (8)

According to the attendance sheet (titles omitted):

Nik Timková, Pavlína Morganová, Eva Míčková, Markéta Pavlíková, Tomáš Vaněk, Jan Kracík, Tomáš Otoupal

Online: Lenka Zamrazilová

Members of the Student Chamber of the Academic Senate (7)

According to the attendance sheet: Dorota Václavíková, Jiří Kaňák, Hedvika Ocásková, Cyril Filcík

Online: Heřman Hůrka, Adéla Gertruda Kurešová, Filip Brandejský

Members of the AVU leadership (titles omitted):

Tomáš Pospiszyl, rector-designate (effective from April 15, 2025)

Sárka Krtková, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs

Anetta Mona Chisa, Vice-Rector for Art and Research

Excused Absences:

Academic Chamber of AS AVU (titles omitted):

Theodora Popova, Tomáš Svoboda

Student Chamber of AS AVU:

None

A total of 15 senators were present.

The Academic Senate was quorate for all items on the agenda.

The meeting was chaired by the AS AVU Chair Nik Timková.

Minutes were recorded by Lucie Pesrová.

Proposed Agenda of the Academic Senate Meeting – April 2, 2025

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Approval of the meeting agenda
3. Information from the management of AVU
4. Working committees of the AS AVU
5. Rules of Procedure and Electoral Regulations of the AS AVU
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

Meeting Proceedings

1. Opening

Chair Nik Timková welcomed all senators, T. Pospiszyl, and the Vice-Rectors. She presented the proposed agenda and opened the floor for discussion. Item 6 was amended to include the review of the AS AVU meetings schedule for the summer semester and discussion of budget and compensation for Senate members. The Chair closed the discussion and called for a vote.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Revised proposed agenda of the Academic Senate Meeting – April 2, 2025 approved as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Approval of the meeting agenda
3. Information from the management of AVU
4. Working committees of the AS AVU
5. Rules of Procedure and Electoral Regulations of the AS AVU
6. Any Other Business (AOB)
 - review of AS AVU meeting schedule (summer semester)
 - budget and compensation for Senate members

Resolution

AS AVU approves the agenda for the meeting held on April 2, 2025, with the inclusion of the above-mentioned additions to item 6.

Vote: 10-0-1 (In favour – Against - Abstained) 8 in favour in person, 2 online, 1 abstention

Resolution passed.

3. Information from the management of AVU

3.1. Vice-Rector for Art and Development, Anetta Mona Chisa, addressed the Senate with the following updates:

1. Self-Assessment Report of AVU – as part of the International Evaluation Panel (MEP), composed of domestic and international external evaluators, AVU will submit a Self-Assessment Report to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) concerning its research activities for the period 2019–2024. The submission deadline is expected at the turn of September and October 2025. The document (approx. 100+ pages) is being prepared by Lamija Čehajić and Kateřina Hochmuth. Five meetings between AVU and MEP members are scheduled for the summer.
2. Graduation Exhibition – curators: Pavlína Morganová and Michal Pěchouček. P.Morganová presented the current status of the exhibition preparations and invited all to the joint photoshoot of the graduating students on April 8, 2025, at 15:00 in front of the main AVU building. The image will serve as valuable visual material for the exhibition catalogue. She emphasized that the catalogues of AVU graduation exhibitions represent significant support for the academy's institutional memory.
3. Evaluation Report of the "Art in Context" Study Programme – based on the evaluation report, AVU received a set of recommendations from the evaluation committee. The report outlines both strengths and deficiencies of the programme in specific areas.
The AVU Artistic Board will meet to discuss the findings on April 30, 2025.

3.2. Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, Šárka Krtková, presented the following updates from the studies division:

1. A security threat was reported in one of the studios. The matter is being handled by the Crisis Staff in coordination with the Police of the Czech Republic. No further information can be disclosed at this time.
2. Changes in Programme Sponsors:
 - D. Zahoranský resigned as sponsor of the Master's follow-up programme. Matěj Smetana is the new sponsor.

- Tomáš Hlavina replaces Matěj Smetana as the new sponsor of the “Art in Context” programme.
- Restoration of Sculpture – guarantor: Vojtěch Míča. Materials for the National Accreditation Bureau (NAU) are being prepared to obtain accreditation for the Restoration of Sculpture programme, aiming to launch the admission process in autumn.

Study Department – Staffing Changes:

- Tereza Zemanová will take up the post of Head of the Study Department from May 1, 2025. The current Head, Pavlína Talacko, will return to the International Office.
- Martina Cabadajová – new Education Department Officer from April 15, 2025
- Petra Ptáčková – new Education Department Officer from May 1, 2025

Ongoing consultations are being held with Adéla Miškin Holubová (Vice-Rector of AMU) and Lukáš Prokop (legal counsel at AMU, now partly employed by AVU) to address the transition to the new accreditation system. The process is currently imbalanced and is being gradually remedied. A Pedagogical Plenum and Programmes board meeting with both consultants is scheduled for next week.

3.3. Further updates from Vice-Rector Šárka Krtková on behalf of the Rectorate:

1. In line with the amended Higher Education Act, academic employees must disclose any additional academic affiliations or appointments. A questionnaire for this purpose is available at the HR department (Ms. Kulhavá). All staff are requested to complete it – only 12 responses had been submitted at the time of the meeting.
2. Gender Equality Plan – A new five-year Gender Equality Plan (2025–2029) was approved in March. This builds on the previous two-year plan prepared by Klára Cozlová Čmolíková. The first year is transitional. Further revisions may be made once the new leadership is established..

3. Personnel changes:

The Department of Art Theory and History will be led by Vít Havránek from April 1, 2025, succeeding Tomáš Pospiszył (re-elected as Rector).

- Jana Mokošová becomes IT Systems Methodologist from April 1, 2025 (under the Rectorate) and retains her role as IS/STAG coordinator. She will oversee all IT systems directly under the Rector. For IT assistance, use the IT Helpdesk or contact Tomáš Kuchař (Head of IT) or Pavel Gašparín.
- Jana Kitzlerová will terminate her employment by mutual agreement on April 30, 2025.

4. New Vacancies:

- IT Specialist
- Assistant for the professional study programme “Art and Contemporary Technologies”

- Assistant – Restoration of Painting and Polychrome Sculpture: interviews to be held on April 14, 2025
- Assistants (2 FTEs) – Restoration of Modern Art from Non-Traditional Materials: application deadline end of April
- Head of the studio and Assistant for study work in Intermedia 3: Applications by March 31, 2025; public presentations for the committee are currently being prepared.

5. Closed Selection Procedures:

- Assistant – Restoration of Modern Art (focus: techniques, heritage, materials research): Štěpánka Mlčková appointed
- Assistant – Artyčok.tv Editorial Staff: Dominik Gajarský appointed

6. Closed Selection Procedures – non-academic staff :

- Accountant (replacing Lenka Škvorová): Ivana Skočdopolová appointed

7. Annual Report of AVU – currently in progress. Š. Krtková expressed gratitude for submitted contributions.

8. Habilitation Procedures:

- Adam Pokorný to be appointed Professor
- Martin Gerboc to be appointed Associate Professor

9. Legal Proceedings: Trial with Atelier Emil – first hearing scheduled for April 7, 2025. The Senate will be kept informed.

10. An Ethics Committee has been convened. Š. Krtková clarified that the Senate's questions were not the impetus for its establishment. The committee is elected, and its composition remains confidential to avoid bias. The outcome of the investigation will be communicated to the Rector, the whistleblower, and the subject of the inquiry.

11. „Kokolia Week“ – A farewell event marking the departure of Vladimír Kokolia from AVU. The event (in the format of lectures) will take place April 26–29, 2025.

12. Appointment of Rector by the President – April 15, 2025 formal appointment, start of term – May 1, 2025. Ceremonial inauguration at AVU – May 6, 2025.

Š. Krtková requested the Senate to propose a date for an extraordinary meeting to discuss the budget. The proposed date, April 16, 2025, was unanimously accepted by the Senate.

3.4. Remarks by Tomáš Pospiszyl

Tomáš Pospiszyl expressed his gratitude to the Senate for the confidence placed in him through his election as Rector of AVU. He confirmed the dates previously stated by Vice-Rector Š. Krtková regarding his official appointment by the President of the Czech Republic and the start of his term (see section 3.3, point 12).

He announced an invitation for “Breakfast at the Rector’s Office” on Monday, May 12, 2025, the first day of summer exhibition installations. He shared his intention to host various formats of school-wide meetings.

1. Restructuring of AVU management

He presented his vision for a new proposed structure of the AVU management and explained the rationale behind the proposed changes:

- Vice-Rector for Students Affairs – Šárka Krtková
- Vice-Rector for Quality and Study Development – David Fesl
- Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Research – Anetta Mona Chisa
- Chancellor – Eva Ellingerová
- Bursar – position to be filled through an open call

Discussion:

A discussion followed regarding the proposed restructuring.

P. Morganová asked how the AVU Gallery (GAVU) and the AVU Library would be managed—under which Vice-Rectorate agenda they would fall—and inquired about the placement of the PhD programme.

T. Pospiszyl responded that the structure would be finalized within approximately two weeks, including the placement of the PhD programme. He suggested that the library might fall under the agenda of Department of Theory and History of Art (KTDU) or under the Chancellor. His goal is to ensure that each division is managed appropriately.

Further questions addressed plans for institutional accreditation (posed by N. Timková). T. Pospiszyl confirmed the potential for applying, which would shift certain institutional powers and offer benefits (financial, staffing, etc.). He emphasized the importance of teaching quality and announced plans to begin preparing the application over the summer. He noted a lack of institutional self-reflection at AVU and stressed the importance of knowing what, how, and why we teach.

P. Morganová inquired about the future placement of the Project Support Department.

T. Pospiszyl replied that it would likely fall under the Bursar. He also sees a need for restructuring and administrative support for the Bursar's office, since a single person currently manages an unsustainable workload—including reconstruction projects and other large-scale activities.

4. Working Committees of the Academic Senate of AVU

Projednávalo se složení senátních komisí. N. Timková zmínila nutnost pokračování činnosti Ekonomické a Legislativní komise. It was agreed that the Study Committee should also remain active, especially given the amendment to the Higher Education Act and upcoming accreditation changes submissions to the National Accreditation Bureau NAÚ.

T. Vaněk (Economic Committee, Legislative Committee) pledged to prepare comments on the draft budget and, for the Legislative Committee, comments on the amendment to the Higher Education Act.

N. Timková: Promised to send draft theses for a new Higher Education Act, prepared by the Higher Education Council (currently on review) to the Legislative Committee by April 13, 2025.

P. Morganová emphasized the importance of maintaining functional working groups and strengthening committee activities.

N. Timková proposed that the committees could be reinforced by including external (non-senate) members.

The current committee memberships were reviewed: T. Vaněk agreed to continue in both the Legislative and Economic Committees. D. Václavíková agreed to remain in the Economic Committee and also supported expanding Senate committees with external members—a proposal is endorsed also by T. Vaněk.

6. Rules of Procedure and Electoral Regulations of the AS AVU

The Senate addressed potential updates to its internal Rules of Procedure and Electoral Regulations. N. Timková explained that the previous Senate had drafted changes to the electoral rules, but never approved them, so they were not enacted. The current version of the rules dates back to 2017. A key question raised was whether to implement hybrid voting (i.e., combining in-person and remote voting) during elections. This idea emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. A discussion followed, outlining advantages and especially the drawbacks of hybrid voting (e.g., verification issues). Alternative suggestions included postal voting or intranet-based voting (once such infrastructure is available).

P. Morganová proposed that the electoral rules should include, for example, provision that would allow the election commission to choose either the standard or an alternative method of voting, depending on the situation.

N. Timková then presented her own draft of proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Electoral Regulations and invited the Senate to review and provide feedback.

The Senate identified the following key areas for revision or clarification:

1. Voting method
2. Proportional representation in the Senate (yes/no)
3. Candidacy eligibility
4. Number of Senate members
5. Organizational structure of the Senate
6. Method of co-optation
- 7.

A discussion followed on proportional representation—proposals included applying it only to the Academic Chamber, or dividing the Student Chamber by study programmes instead of professional areas of study.

A separate discussion addressed the senatorial oath. T. Vaněk proposed considering which additional ethical standards should be reflected in the wording, to avoid redundancy.

T. Vaněk: also proposed that the Rules of Procedure should define the conditions for non-public Senate meetings.

7. AOB

Financial Compensation for Senators

A discussion took place regarding the financial compensation for the work of Senate members. T. Vaněk pointed out a disparity in the remuneration of other bodies within AVU, such as the Artistic Board, programme and class year guarantors, in comparison to the Academic Chamber of the Senate, whose members currently receive no compensation for their regular and essential Senate duties. He noted that this lack of compensation is not addressed in the Internal salary regulation of AVU and highlighted the significant discrepancy in how the Artistic Board and the Academic Senate are perceived and valued institutionally.

Minutes recorded by: Mgr. Lucie Pesrová
Translated and reviewed by Chair of AS AVU

AVU Nik Timková MFA
Chair of the Academic Senate of