AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL of the University of Barcelona, of 22 April 2020, relating to the extension of the mandate of governing bodies and officers

Background and legal basis

The serious health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic compelled the Spanish government to declare a state of alarm by Royal Decree 463/2020 of 14 March. This declaration led to the implementation of drastic population containment measures and a series of provisions in health-related, economic and social matters, which also affect every area of action of the public authorities. Against this backdrop, and by resolution of the Rector of 14 March 2020, a decision was made to close all University of Barcelona facilities and buildings and to provide teaching and administrative activity remotely with a view to maintaining critical and essential services as far as possible.

The measures implemented as a result of the closure, and in accordance with the third additional provision of the Royal Decree declaring the state of alarm, included stopping the clock on all administrative procedures, with effect from 14 March. This suspension also affected the processing of new procedures. Among the affected procedures are processes to elect new student representatives to the Senate, faculty boards and academic councils, the renewal of PDI and PAS representatives for the faculty board of the Faculty of Fine Arts (which was to be announced on 19 March and to convene on 14 May) and all other electoral procedures relating to the governing bodies and officers. This suspension led to the extension of all mandates of the governing bodies and officers.

The successive extensions of the state of alarm and the uncertainty as to when face-to-face teaching activity might resume led to a decision, by resolution of the Rector of 3 April 2020, that the face-to-face teaching of all University of Barcelona programmes corresponding to the second semester of the academic year 2019-2020 be cancelled until the end of the academic year, a situation that clearly makes it impossible to hold any type of electoral procedure once the state of alarm has been lifted.

In light of the above circumstances, and in order to ensure that the public higher education service can function in a normal way, the mandates of all governing bodies and officers of the University of Barcelona must be extended until such time that face-to-face academic and administrative activity can be resumed and the corresponding electoral processes carried out with the necessary assurances.
As a consequence, the Governing Council, which met on 22 April 2020,

**HEREBY AGREES:**

**First.** To extend the mandate of all elected governing bodies and officers of the University of Barcelona until face-to-face academic and administrative activity is resumed, thus allowing the corresponding electoral processes to be carried out with the necessary assurances.

**Second.** To publish this agreement on the website and Transparency Portal of the University of Barcelona.