# PhD Regulations

## 1. General provisions

## **Article 1.1 Definition of Terms**

In these regulations the following definitions apply:

Act / WHW	Higher Education and Research Act: Wet op het Hoger onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek, abbreviated as WHW, Stb. (Bulletin of Acts and Decrees) 1992, 593, and any subsequent amendments.
Assessment Committee	the Assessment Committee which has been appointed by the PhD Board to assess the thesis submitted by the PhD candidate
Board of Governors	the Board of Governors of the University, appointed at the TUA by the regional synods and the general synod of the <i>Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland</i> , and at the TUK by the general synod of the <i>Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland</i> .
Board of Directors	the Board of the University referred to in Articles 9.2 and following of the Act; in these regulations: the joint boards of the Universities of Apeldoorn and Kampen
Co-supervisor	a (Senior) University Lecturer with a PhD or equivalent researcher who has been appointed by the Rector on behalf of the PhD Board to assist the supervisor in supervising the PhD candidate
Degree Programme	a degree programme referred to in Article 7.3 and following of the Act
Examination Committee	the Examination Committee as referred to in Article 7.12 of the Act
Full professor	the faculty member as referred to in Articles 9.19 and 9.55 of the Act
PhD Board	the PhD Board as referred to in Article 9.10 of the Act; in these regulations, the Board of Professors of the TUA and the Senate of the TUK
PhD graduation	the public defence of the PhD thesis on the basis of which the PhD degree may be obtained
PhD programme	the programme that is designed according to the PhD candidate's knowledge and experience

the academic research on which the PhD thesis is based PhD research PhD candidate a person who has been given permission to start the PhD programme under Article 7.18(2) or (3) of the Act in conjunction with Chapter 2 of these PhD regulations, and who as such has been admitted by the PhD Board to the PhD programme PhD Thesis the academic thesis in book form, in writing or in digital form, as referred to in Article 7.18(2b) of the Act, in conjunction with Chapter 4 of these PhD regulations Rector (Rector the post-holder referred to in Article 9.3(1) of the Act, who is also Chair of Magnificus) the PhD Board Regulations the PhD Regulations of the Theological Universities of Apeldoorn and Kampen, as referred to in Article 7.19 of the Act. Research Group a group of researchers established by the Board of the University who collaborate in a common research programme Programme leader of a research group, appointed by the joint Boards of the leader Universities Supervisor the full professor, or senior lecturer with a PhD and ius promovendi, appointed as such by the rector on behalf of the PhD Board, as referred to in Article 7.18(4) of the Act in conjunction with Chapter 3 of these PhD regulations. Supervisory the Supervisory Board is charged with the supervision of the universities, **Board** appointed at the TUA by the regional and general synods of the *Christelijk* Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland, and at the TUK by the general synod of the Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland. TUA the Theological University of the Christelijk Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland located in Apeldoorn TUK the Theological University of the Gereformeerde Kerken in Nederland located in Kampen University the university at which the PhD ceremony will take place

Wherever this regulation refers to he/him, this can also be read as she/her.

### **Article 1.2 Composition of PhD Board**

- 1. The Rector Magnificus is the Chair and also a member of the PhD Board. In the absence of the Rector, a member of the PhD Board appointed by him can act as deputy Chair.
- 2. The PhD Board consists of the full professors of the TUK or, respectively, the TUA.

## Article 1.3 The PhD degree

- At the TUA and the TUK the PhD Degree is obtained on the basis of the public defence of the PhD thesis in the PhD graduation ceremony, subject to the rest of the provisions of these PhD Regulations.
- 2. The PhD will be conferred by the PhD Board.
- 3. The graduation defence will take place in the presence of the PhD Board.

## **Article 1.4 Scope of these regulations**

These PhD regulations apply to all PhD degrees at the Theological Universities of Apeldoorn and Kampen and, subject to the provisions of Chapter 11, to PhDs which are awarded elsewhere as a result of collaboration between one of these Universities and other institutions of academic learning, in so far as no deviating agreements having been made upon entering this collaboration.

#### **Article 1.5 Amendments**

Amendments to these Regulations are to be made by the Boards of Directors of the Universities, in consultation with both PhD Boards.

### **Article 1.6 Confidentiality obligation**

Without prejudice to the provisions in Article 2.5 of the AwB [General Administrative Law Act] and the relevant stipulations in the CAO-NU [Collective Labour Agreement Universities in the Netherlands], those present or involved in the correspondence regarding a PhD and the consultations in or in connection with the non-public meetings as referred to in the Chapters 6 and 7, and with respect to the discussed and the correspondence in connection with the award of the honours (*cum laude*) degree classification as referred to in Chapter 8, and in connection with the award of honorary PhD as referred to in Chapter 10, as well as in connection with the correspondence and discussions with respect to the disputes settlement of Chapter 12 of this regulation, are bound to confidentiality.

## **Article 1.8 Confidential advisers for academic integrity**

- 1. The TUA and the TUK have confidential advisers for academic integrity
- 2. The confidential advisers perform their duties in accordance with the national regulations regarding academic integrity.

## 2. The PhD Candidate

#### **Article 2.1 Definition**

A PhD candidate is an individual who has been admitted to the PhD programme and has actually embarked on writing a PhD thesis.

## **Article 2.2 Finding supervisors and co-supervisor(s)**

- 1. Prospective PhD candidates will discuss their PhD project with the, in their opinion, professor(s) and PhD (senior) lecturer(s) most suited, or with the professor or lecturer who has already taken responsibility for the supervision of the PhD project.
- 2. The request for appointment of the supervisor/co-supervisor will take place in accordance with Article 2.4, stating the order of ranking between them. At least two supervisors or a supervisor and a co-supervisor will be appointed. The maximum number of supervisors /co-supervisors is three. Only in exceptional cases can a fourth supervisor/co-supervisor be appointed.
- 3. In the case that a prospective PhD candidate cannot find supervisors or a co-supervisor, the prospective PhD candidate will look for supervisors/ co-supervisor together with the rector.
- 4. In the case that, during the preparation period of the PhD, a conflict arises between one or more of the supervisors or co-supervisor and the prospective PhD candidate, they will present this conflict to the programme leader, who will attempt to mediate in the case concerned. In the case that no solution can be found for the conflict, the rector decides.

## **Article 2.3 Application procedure**

- 1. The professor/(senior) lecturer who has been asked by a prospective PhD candidate to become their supervisor will, before taking further action, first make sure that the prospective candidate has met all requirements for application to the PhD programme, in agreement with article 2.4 of these regulations.
- 2. A prospective PhD candidate who has not met the requirements will be referred to the PhD Board by the intended supervisor before the supervisor takes the request into consideration.
- 3. Once the intended supervisor is satisfied that the prospective candidate has met the requirements, the intended supervisor will ask the PhD candidate to write a so-called research proposal according to the operative format and according to the valid procedure of the research groups.
- 4. The research proposal endorsed by the intended supervisor will be presented to the research group to which the supervisor belongs. The research group will discuss the proposal according to the operative submission procedure, after which the programme leader decides whether the new PhD candidate is eligible be admitted in to the research

- group. In the case of a positive decision, the programme leader will submit the definite version to the PhD Board to be determined.
- 5. If, in the opinion of the programme leader, the proposed research does not fit into the research programme, and yet has sufficient quality and is relevant for the University, the programme leader may decide, together with the supervisor, to present it to the PhD Board as a project external to the research programme.

## Article 2.4 Application to be admitted to the PhD programme

- 1. The prospective PhD candidate will be admitted to the PhD programme if the research group has approved the application to the programme. To be admitted the prospective PhD candidate will minimally supply an authenticated degree certificate obtained after successfully completing an examination as referred to in article 2.5 (with a record of the grades for the different modules included), a photocopy of his passport, and a provisional Research and Supervision Plan (OBP).
- 2. The PhD Board will notify the prospective PhD candidate of its decision regarding the application referred to in Article 2.4(1) as soon as possible, but within six weeks at the most. In exceptional cases this time limit can be extended.
- 3. If the subject of the PhD research is not in the same field as the examination referred to in Article 2.5, then the PhD Board will make its decision regarding admission to the PhD programme on the basis of a supplementary substantiated proposal presented by the prospective PhD candidate. The Board may also decide to set additional requirements with respect to further education to be met before admission to the programme.
- 4. As soon as the application for the PhD programme has been accepted, the PhD candidate will be registered and the date of commencement set. The PhD candidate and the supervisor(s) and co-supervisor(s) will, in the case of a candidate with labour agreement, present the provisional OBP to the programme leader within three months after commencement of employment, at the latest, and for all PhD candidates present the completely filled in OBP, in the operative format, for approval to the programme leader within at the latest three months after approval of the PhD programme. After approval, the OBP will be signed by the rector or by a person authorised by the rector.
- 5. The PhD candidate who does not have an employment agreement with one of the two universities must be registered and allowed into the project as soon as possible, but at least two years before the intended PhD graduation date.
- 6. PhD candidates will confirm that they will adhere to the Dutch Code of Conduct for Academic Practice issued by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) and the Regulations for the Protection of Academic Integrity of the Network Faith and Ideology Based Universities (NLU).

## Article 2.5 Admission to the PhD programme

- 1. The PhD programme is open to everyone who
  - a. has been awarded a Master's degree by virtue of Article 7.10a(1, 2 or 3) of the WHW, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.18(2) of the Act, and
  - b. has demonstrated the ability to conduct independent academic research by writing a thesis, and
  - c. has met the other requirements set out in these PhD regulations.
- 2. In special cases the PhD Board may admit to the PhD programme (see Article 7.18[3] of the Act) individuals who do meet the requirements set out in Article 2.5(1b and c), but not those set out in 2.5(1a). For this purpose the PhD Board will establish implementing regulations. See Appendix 1 of these PhD regulations.
- 3. PhD candidates are requested to conduct their research with respect for the doctrinal foundation of the University and demonstrate this in their thesis.
- 4. Individuals may not be allowed into the PhD programme if:
  - a. they have already obtained a PhD at one of the two universities;
  - b. they have already obtained a PhD degree at another university, unless they intend to graduate with a thesis that is based on research in another academic field than the previous thesis, such to be assessed by the PhD Board.

## **Article 2.6 Responsibility for the PhD thesis**

- 1. The PhD candidate has conducted the academic research described in the PhD thesis independently. The PhD candidate is responsible for the PhD thesis.
- 2. In the case of jointly conducted academic research, the results of the research may lead to a joint PhD thesis by two PhD candidates, provided the following requirements have been met:
  - each of the authors has made an independent and distinguishable contribution which is sufficient for a PhD degree, to the satisfaction of the supervisors and co-supervisors;
  - each of the authors accepts personal responsibility both for a particular part of the PhD thesis and for the coherence of the thesis as a whole;
  - it is indicated in the PhD thesis which share each author had in writing it.

## Article 2.7 Collaboration with supervisors and co-supervisors

The PhD candidate will hand in the manuscript to the supervisors and co-supervisors in its entirety or in sections, will make alterations as agreed, and will subsequently submit the manuscript to the supervisors and co-supervisors for approval.

## Article 2.8 Premature termination of the PhD programme

- 1. The PhD will be terminated prematurely in the case of
  - a. the decease of the PhD candidate during the PhD programme
  - b. termination by the PhD candidate
  - c. termination by the PhD Board
- 2. If a PhD candidate wishes to terminate a PhD programme, PhD candidate will notify the programme leader and the PhD Board in writing and in a well-argumented manner
- 3. The PhD Board can proceed to terminate the PhD programme prematurely if:
  - a. the PhD candidate, after having been repeatedly summoned thereto in writing, does not attend the interim appointments with the supervisor;
  - b. it is repeatedly apparent from the interim evaluations of progress that the candidate's progress is not such that they will, in the expectation of the supervisor, be able to submit a manuscript that meets the required final attainment levels for a thesis;
  - c. following a negative assessment of the manuscript by the co-supervisor or supervisor(s) or the Assessment Committee as referred to in Article 6.

## 3. The supervisor

## **Article 3.1 Appointment of supervisor**

At the proposal of the PhD candidate, the PhD Board will appoint one or more supervisors. The supervisors appointed will include at least one professor from the TUA or TUK; in addition to this supervisor, one or two full professors from other universities in the Netherlands or from another country can be appointed as supervisors. The professor of the TUA or TUK is the primary supervisor.

If an intended second or third supervisor is a professor at a foreign institution of academic education, the Rector will conduct a thorough investigation before appointing that professor.

#### Article 3.2 Appointment of co-supervisor(s)

- 1. At the proposal of the PhD candidate, and with the consent of the supervisor(s) and the intended co-supervisor, the PhD Board may also appoint a co-supervisor to join in the supervision of the PhD candidate.
- 2. The intended co-supervisor must be employed by a university; however, the primary supervisor and other supervisors may ask the Rector in writing, stating the reasons, to make an exception. The co-supervisor must have the right to use the title 'Doctor' in the Netherlands and must have expertise in the relevant academic field or fields.
- 3. Full professors may not act as co-supervisors, as is also the case with PhD senior lecturers who have been granted *ius promovendi* by the PhD Board.

4. The proposal of the PhD candidate referred to in Article 3.2(1) must be submitted in time for the co-supervisor to provide a substantial amount of supervision over the preparations for and writing of the PhD thesis.

## **Article 3.3 Duties of supervisors and co-supervisors**

- 1. The supervisors and co-supervisors will be responsible for accepting the manuscript as a PhD thesis and will ensure that the PhD thesis meets the academic standards that generally apply to a PhD thesis. The Netherlands Qualification Framework will serve as a guideline for this standard.
- 2. The supervisors and co-supervisors will supervise the PhD candidate in writing the thesis and will also ensure that the deadlines that have been agreed, or can be considered reasonable for the assessment and discussion of drafts submitted to them, are met.
- 3. The supervisors and co-supervisors will take note of the content of the manuscript of the PhD thesis, assess (parts of) the manuscript submitted, and consider whether or not it meets the requirements set by the supervisors and co-supervisors by virtue of their responsibility for the PhD thesis.
- 4. The supervisors and co-supervisors may suggest alterations and/or additions to the manuscript. The PhD candidate will follow these suggestions wherever possible.
- 5. A supervisor or co-supervisor may only withdraw as supervisor or co-supervisor in exceptional cases, stating the reasons. He will notify the PhD candidate, the other co-supervisors, the PhD Board and the rector without delay.

## **Article 3.4 Honourably discharged professors**

- 1. An honourably discharged professor may act as a supervisor only if he was appointed as supervisor before his discharge and if his approval of the PhD thesis is given within five years of his discharge.
- 2. If approval of the PhD thesis is not given within five years of the supervisor's honourable discharge, the appointment will expire and the PhD Board will appoint another professor as supervisor, after hearing the PhD candidate, unless in the opinion of the PhD Board provided more than one supervisor was appointed the appointment of a new supervisor is not necessary.

#### **Article 3.5 More supervisors and co-supervisors**

- 1. The PhD Board will appoint a minimum of two and a maximum of three supervisors / co-supervisors . In exceptional cases a fourth (co-)supervisor may be appointed. At least one of the co-supervisors or supervisors is connected to a different university than the TUA or TUK.
- 2. The co-supervisor and supervisors will allocate the tasks among themselves, taking the PhD candidate's views into account. This allocation of tasks will be recorded in a written

- statement, which if more than one supervisor has been appointed will indicate which person is the primary supervisor.
- 3. The distribution of tasks will not affect the responsibility of the supervisors and cosupervisors for the PhD thesis as a whole.
- 4. The supervisors and co-supervisors will approve the PhD thesis jointly and will jointly give the PhD candidate a statement regarding the defensibility of the propositions as referred to in Article 4.2.

## **Article 3.6 Prohibited relationships**

Close family members of the PhD candidate (to the fourth degree), or other individuals having a relationship with the PhD candidate such that they should not reasonably be required to pass judgment, will not be eligible for appointment as supervisors and co-supervisors.

## 4. PhD Thesis

#### **Article 4.1 Definition**

- 1. The PhD thesis is:
  - a. an academic thesis on a certain subject, or
    b. a compilation of academic publications that may or may not have been published previously.
- 2. Where these PhD Regulations refer to the PhD thesis, the term may also be taken to mean a part of a PhD thesis as referred to in Article 2.6(2) of these regulations.
- 3. To ensure the safekeeping of the thesis and to arrange the future availability of the thesis and research data to the TUA and TUK for further research and education, the PhD candidate must sign the license agreement, as referred to in Appendix 4. This signing should take place before the thesis is submitted for approval by the Assessment Committee. To the extent to which TUA or TUK is the employer of the PhD candidate, as regards intellectual property rights the CAO-NU and the State Patents Act will apply. TUA and TUK are entitled to deposit this work in the relevant section of the University Library, to be used for the purpose of academic teaching and research, and to publish it on the internet as referred to in Article 4.7.
- 4. The PhD candidate must ensure that the copyright provisions are met, as elaborated in article 4.7 and appendix 4, the licence agreement.
- 5. Data (such as databases) with accompanying explanatory notes must in any case be deposited for purpose of verification of the research. They are made available for further academic research according to the stipulations of the data policy of both institutions. The

Rector may grant a full or partial exemption from this requirement for a certain period if there are compelling reasons to do so.

#### **Article 4.2 Propositions**

Propositions may be added to the PhD thesis. After approval of the PhD thesis, as referred to in Article 5.1, the PhD candidate will submit the propositions to the supervisors and co-supervisors as soon as possible. They will assess the quality of the propositions submitted and also assess whether the propositions are defensible or not.

## **Article 4.3 Language**

- 1. The PhD thesis and the propositions added to it will be written in Dutch, German or English, or, with the approval of the PhD Board, in another language.
- 2. If the PhD thesis is written in Dutch, a translation of the title (and subtitle, if applicable) and also a summary of the content in English will be included as an appendix to the thesis. If the PhD thesis is written in English or German, it will include a title (and subtitle, if applicable) and also a summary of the content in Dutch as an appendix to the thesis.
- 3. If the PhD thesis is written in a language other than Dutch or English, it must include the title and a summary in Dutch and also a translation into English of the title and the summary.
- 4. The abstracts for non-experts which are intended for the communication department and for the TUA and TUK libraries will be written in Dutch and English, each containing a maximum of 250 words.

#### **Article 4.4 Contents**

- 1. The PhD thesis must include:
  - a title page which complies with the format set out in Appendix 4;
  - a table of contents;
  - an introduction which at least includes the research question of the thesis;
  - the academic analysis;
  - the conclusion;
  - the bibliography;
  - the academic summary;
  - if possible a name and subject index and/or a source index;
  - a short biography of the PhD candidate.
  - Propositions, if applicable, are added to the PhD thesis on a loose sheet.
- 2. If so desired, the PhD candidate may include a brief and concise foreword and a summary in Dutch for non-experts.

3. The supervisors see to it that the thesis will have a reasonable length. A guideline is that the body text of the thesis (including the notes) should not exceed 100,000 words.

## Article 4.5 Compilation of academic publications as a PhD thesis

- 1. Article 4.4 will apply *mutatis mutandis* to a PhD thesis consisting of a compilation of academic publications which may or may not have been published previously. The coherence of these publications will be shown in an introduction and a summarizing conclusion. The publications in question will be added as chapters.
- 2. Academic publications are eligible only if they meet the following criteria:
  - a. the publications must form a coherent whole; a guideline for this is that they have been published within a period of five years before the PhD thesis is submitted to the supervisors for assessment;
  - b. written consent must be given for use in the thesis of publications for which the copyright has been given to third parties.

#### **Article 4.6 Form**

The PhD thesis, and the propositions that go with it, will be made available in both printed and digital form.

## **Article 4.7 Printing and submission of the PhD thesis**

- 1. After receiving a notification of admission as referred to in Article 6.3, the Rector will give the PhD candidate permission to have the PhD thesis printed.
- 2. As soon as possible after the PhD thesis and the accompanying propositions have been printed, but three weeks before the date of the defence at the latest, the PhD candidate will deliver
  - to the secretarial office of the TUA or the TUK a number, to be determined by the rector, of printed copies of the thesis, with propositions if applicable;
  - to the library of TUA or TUK
    - a number to be determined by the librarian of printed copies of the thesis, with propositions if applicable,
    - the digital versions of the thesis, and propositions if applicable; if a commercial edition of the PhD thesis is also being published, then when the digital version is delivered, a copy must be provided of an agreement with the publisher in which the publisher consents to publication of the digital version;
  - for the communication department and the Repositories of TUA and TUK the digital versions of the 2 short abstracts.
- 3. The university library will make available both printed and digital versions of the thesis, in principle before the PhD graduation ceremony (provisionally, stating the date of the

graduation), but at the latest one month after the graduation ceremony. The digital version will be made public through the Repositories of TUA and TUK.

## 5. Assessment of the Thesis by the supervisors and co-supervisors

## Article 5.1 Assessment of PhD thesis by supervisors and co-supervisors

Supervisors and co-supervisors will submit their well-argued assessment of the thesis in writing by email or postal mail.

## Article 5.2 Approval of PhD thesis by supervisors and co-supervisors

If the supervisors and co-supervisors are of the opinion that the PhD thesis meets the required academic standard and can be regarded as an adequate demonstration of competence to carry out independent academic research, they will give their approval and notify the PhD Board of their approval.

## Article 5.3 Approval of PhD thesis withheld by supervisors and co-supervisors

- 1. If a supervisor withholds approval of the PhD thesis, then, at the request of the PhD candidate and after considering the assessments and after having heard the PhD candidate and supervisors and co-supervisors, the PhD Board will decide whether or not to appoint a different supervisor.
- 2. In the case that a co-supervisor withholds approval of the PhD thesis, then, at the request of the PhD candidate and after considering the assessments and having heard the PhD candidate and the supervisors and co-supervisors, the PhD Board will decide whether to appoint a different co-supervisor, unless the PhD Board is of opinion that the appointment of a new co-supervisor is unnecessary, because there are already more than one supervisors/co-supervisors.

#### **Article 5.4 Time limit**

The response of the supervisors and co-supervisors to a written request by the PhD candidate for approval of his or her PhD thesis must be provided within six weeks and if it states that approval is withheld, this decision must be well-motivated.

## **Article 5.5 Further procedure**

- 1. As soon as possible after receiving the approval referred to in Article 5.2 and if necessary after receiving the statement referred to in Article 2.5(2), and after the appointment of the Assessment Committee referred to in Article 6.1, the PhD candidate will submit the PhD thesis which has been approved by the supervisors and co-supervisors, accompanied by a submission letter, to the rector and the members of the Assessment Committee.
- 2. The PhD candidate will also submit the title page of the PhD thesis, in keeping with the designated format, to the rector.

## 6. Assessment Committee

#### **Article 6.1 The Assessment Committee**

- 1. As soon as possible after receiving the approval referred to in Article 5.2, the PhD Board will appoint an Assessment Committee. Supervisors and co-supervisors may not be appointed as members of the Assessment Committee.
- 2. The Assessment Committee will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members. In the case of a joint PhD degree, the committee can consist of more members. The primary supervisor will make a recommendation regarding the composition of the Assessment Committee. After approval by the rector, the primary supervisor will ascertain whether the candidates are prepared to be members of the Assessment Committee.
- 3. At least three members of the assessment committee are to be full professors, or senior lecturers with a PhD and ius promovendi, who are connected to a university and who have not co-authored with one of the publications included in the thesis. Of these three, at least one full professor/senior lecturer is connected to the TUA or the TUK and at least one is connected to another university in the Netherlands or a university abroad. Professors from universities abroad must be of a standard at least equal to the standard in the Netherlands.
  - For honourably discharged professors, the rule applies that they may be members of the Assessment Committee for up to five years after their honourable discharge. A maximum of two members may be added to the committee on the basis of their expertise. They must have a PhD degree.
- 4. Article 3.6 applies *mutatis mutandis* to membership of the Assessment Committee.

### **Article 6.2 Chair of the Assessment Committee**

The Rector will chair the Assessment Committee. In the case in which the Rector is supervisor or co-supervisor, the PhD Board will appoint another Chair in his place. The Chair will not be a member of the Assessment Committee.

#### **Article 6.3 Assessment Committee's decision**

- 1. Within six weeks following its appointment, the Assessment Committee will provide a decision on the PhD thesis.
- 2. In case the members of the Assessment Committee wish to deliberate, these discussions will be confidential.
- 3. The Assessment Committee will evaluate the thesis on the basis of the research question as agreed upon by the supervisors and co-supervisors and the PhD candidate.
- 4. All members of the Assessment Committee will provide a well-argued written assessment of the thesis. If more than one member arrives at a negative judgment, the Committee will refuse the approval of the thesis. In the event that *one* of the members of the Assessment Committee arrives at a negative judgment, the PhD Board will decide on the approval of the thesis, after consultation with the members of the Assessment Committee.
- 5. The Chair of the Assessment Committee will notify the PhD candidate, the supervisors and co-supervisors and, if necessary, the members of the Assessment Committee of the decision.
- 6. In case of a withholding of approval as referred to in 6.3(4), second sentence, unless otherwise decided by the rector, the Committee will be dissolved after announcement of its decision. The supervisor may request the PhD Board to establish a new Assessment Committee. Members of the dissolved Assessment Committee may be members of the new committee.

## 7. PhD Graduation

### Article 7.1 PhD Board

1. As soon as possible after being notified of the decision referred to in Article 6.3(4), the rector will give the PhD candidate permission to proceed to the defence of the thesis in the PhD graduation ceremony, which will take place in the presence of the PhD Board as well as the members of the Assessment Committee.

## Article 7.2 Date, time, location

- 1. The PhD candidate will discuss the date of the PhD graduation with the supervisors, cosupervisors and the rector as soon as possible after receiving notification of the approval of the manuscript as referred to in Article 5.1. Subject to the approval of the Assessment Committee, the date, time and place will be fixed by the university's secretarial office.
- 2. The provisions of the protocol (see Appendix 2) also apply to this graduation ceremony.
- 3. The PhD graduation ceremony must be open to the public.

## **Article 7.3 Opposition and defence of the PhD thesis**

- 1. Before the ceremony commences, the chairman will propose the sequence and the average time allowed for the opponents to speak. The primary supervisor will always have the right to present objections and will be granted opportunity to do so at the beginning or the end of the ceremony, according to his choice.
- 2. The primary supervisor will ensure that sufficient members of the PhD Board and the Assessment Committee are prepared to act as opponents by making objections.
- 3. At the request of the primary supervisor, the rector may admit to the defence, in order to oppose the thesis, individuals who hold a PhD and who are specialists in the subject area of the PhD thesis. By exception, after having received permission from the PhD Board, individuals without a PhD but with recognized expertise in the subject area of the PhD thesis will be admitted to the opposition. A written request thereto must be submitted to the PhD Board at least 4 weeks before the PhD ceremony.
- 4. After the opening address, the Chair will request the PhD candidate to give a brief explanation of the thesis. Subsequently he will, in the agreed order (as far as possible), invite the opponents to present their objections.
- 5. The objections and the defence will be delivered in the form of a personal speech in the Dutch or English language or, with the rector's permission, in another language. If so desired, this speech may be accompanied by written notes and/or quotations.
- 6. The Chair will ensure that the opponents expound their views in a brief and concise manner.
- 7. Unless the Chair decides otherwise, the public defence will be terminated one hour after commencement. The beadle will use the words 'Hora est' to indicate the end of the ceremony.

### **Article 7.4 Decision-making**

1. After the defence has been terminated, the PhD Board will withdraw for private deliberation in order to decide upon awarding the PhD degree. The supervisor will be excluded from voting.

- 2. When deciding whether or not to award the PhD degree, the committee will take into account the decision of the Assessment Committee referred to in Article 6.3(1) and the PhD candidate's defence of the PhD thesis.
- 3. A refusal to award the PhD degree on the grounds of the PhD candidate's defence of the PhD thesis must be based on the negative opinion of at least two thirds of the members of the PhD Board.

## 8. Cum Laude

### Article 8.1 Proposal to award the cum laude distinction

- 1. If a PhD candidate has shown outstanding ability to conduct independent academic research, the PhD Board may decide to confer the *cum laude* distinction.
- 2. A proposal to award the *cum laude* distinction can be put forward by the primary supervisor or by a member of the Assessment Committee. A proposal in writing stating the reasons must be submitted confidentially to the rector at least six weeks before the date of the defence.
- 3. The Assessment Committee must be unanimous in their opinion that the *cum laude* distinction should be conferred. In consultation with the Assessment Committee, the rector will nominate at least two external referees who are full professors in the subject area of the PhD thesis to support the decision. These referees must not have co-authored publications with the PhD candidate. The external referees will submit confidential recommendations in writing to the Rector within three weeks of being appointed.
- 4. If at least two referees have assessed the PhD candidate's work as 'outstanding', the Rector will make this, and the proposal to award the *cum laude* distinction, known to the members of the PhD Board as soon as possible.
- 5. Regarding the proposal to award the *cum laude* distinction, the PhD Board will take note of:
  - the significance and degree of originality of the research question and methods;
  - the academic and technical standard of the work;
  - the judgement of the external referees;
  - the quality of the defence;
  - the share of others than the PhD candidate in the PhD project;
  - language and style.
- 6. At the meeting referred to in Article 7.4(1) regarding the proposal to award the PhD degree, a secret ballot will be held among the members of the PhD Board who are eligible to vote to decide whether or not to award the *cum laude* distinction. Votes may only be for or against the proposal. A vote against the proposal will be based on the quality of the defence. The proposal will be rejected if more than one vote is cast against it. In all other

cases the proposal will be accepted. The rector, though a member of the PhD Board, will abstain from voting.

## 9. PhD Degree Certificate

## **Article 9.1 Degree Certificate**

- 1. As proof that the PhD degree has been awarded, the new PhD graduate will receive a certificate in Latin signed by the rector, the secretary of the PhD Board and the supervisor(s) and a statement written in English.
- 2. If the PhD degree has been awarded the *cum laude* distinction, this will be stated on the certificate.

## 10. Honorary PhD degree (doctor honoris causa)

## Article 10.1 Authority to award an honorary PhD

The PhD Board may award natural persons honorary PhDs for outstanding contributions to the academic discipline of Theology.

#### **Article 10.2 Procedure**

- 1. If the PhD Board intends to award an honorary doctorate, it will appoint an *ad hoc* committee of at least three members to advise the Board in this matter.
- 2. This committee will submit a proposal to the PhD Board. A recommendation in writing accompanied by a detailed account of the reasons, a curriculum vita and a list of publications, will be sent confidentially to the rector.
- 3. If the PhD Board intends to accept the recommendation, the opinion of the Board of Directors will be sought. The Board of Directors will inform the Board of Governors and the Supervisory Board.
- 4. With due regard to the views of the Board of Directors, the PhD Board will make a decision regarding the conferral of the honorary doctorate. If the PhD Board decides in favour, it will also appoint one or two full professors as supervisors.
- 5. The decision referred to in Article 10.2.4 will be made known in writing, confidentially, to the Board of Directors, the supervisor(s) and the PhD candidate.

- 6. Except in special circumstances, an honorary doctorate will not be conferred upon an individual who is not present in person at the session referred to in Article 10.4.1.
- 7. The decision will not be made public until the PhD candidate has stated that he will accept the honorary doctorate and will be present in person at the session referred to in Article 10.4(1), subject to the provisions of Article 10.2(6).

#### **Article 10.3 Certificate**

The honorary doctor will receive a specially made certificate from the supervisor(s), signed by the Rector Magnificus, the members of the PhD Board and the supervisor(s).

#### **Article 10.4 Presentation of certificate**

- 1. The certificate associated with the conferral of the honorary doctorate will be presented during a special public session of the PhD Board: the honorary PhD ceremony.
- 2. On behalf of the PhD Board, the rector will invite interested parties to attend this ceremony.

## 11. Joint Doctorate

#### **Article 11.1 Definition**

Arrangements may be made between the university and one or more other (foreign) institutions of academic learning about awarding a joint PhD degree on the basis of a PhD thesis which meets the provisions of this chapter. These arrangements will be recorded in an agreement which must be submitted to the Board of the University of the TUA or TUK for signature. This agreement must be entered into at least two years before the planned PhD graduation ceremony.

#### Article 11.2 PhD Research project

- 1. The PhD research project and the thesis based on it must be the result of one or more research programmes established jointly by the TUA or TUK and one or more institutions as referred to in Article 11.1. To as great an extent as possible, the teaching and research programmes will be set up in consultation with the Dutch or foreign partner institution.
- 2. If possible, the PhD candidate should spend a proportionate amount of the time on the PhD research project at the partner institution(s) to follow courses or to conduct research

for the PhD thesis. A statement about this will be submitted to the PhD Board. If this is not possible, the supervisor should demonstrate that, during at least a proportionate amount of the time spent on the PhD project, he has been responsible for the supervision of the PhD candidate.

#### **Article 11.3 The PhD thesis**

Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the PhD thesis must meet the requirements set out in these regulations

#### **Article 11.4 The Assessment Committee**

The Assessment Committee referred to in Chapter 6 must include at least one member from each institution involved.

#### **Article 11.5 The defence of the PhD thesis**

The defence of the PhD thesis will be conducted wholly or partially in Dutch, English or the language of at least one of the countries in which the foreign institution referred to in Article 11.1 is located.

## 12. Dispute Settlement Regulations

## Article 12.1 Disputes regarding the implementation of the PhD regulations, administrative appeal

- 1. If a dispute arises in connection with the implementation of the provisions or the appendices of these regulations concerning a decision by or on behalf of the PhD Board, an interested party may submit a substantiated notice of objection to the PhD Board within six weeks of being notified of the decision.
- 2. A committee will prepare the PhD Board's decision regarding the notice of objection.
- 3. The committee will consist of a Chair and two other members. The Chair must meet the requirements for appointment as district court judge and must not be employed by the TUA or the TUK. The two other members shall be full professors who are not members of and do not act under the responsibility of the PhD Board.

- 4. While preparing its recommendations, the committee will hear the parties involved and will be entitled to gain any information which is necessary to perform its duties responsibly.
- 5. The committee will make recommendations to the PhD Board in writing. The recommendations will be accompanied by written accounts of the hearings.
- 6. Notwithstanding the provisions of the AWB (*Algemene Wet Bestuursrecht:* General Administrative Law Act), in certain cases the PhD Board may, upon request, decide to adjust the internal time limits referred to in the PhD regulations.

#### Article 12.2 Decision of the PhD Board

- 1. Within four weeks after receiving the recommendations, but within ten weeks at the most after receiving the notice of objection, the PhD Board will make its decision known in writing, stating the reasons, to the person who submitted the objection and to other parties involved.
- 2. If the decision regarding the objection differs from the recommendation made by the committee referred to in Article 12.1(5), the reason for this difference will be stated; in all cases the committee's recommendation will be sent along with the decision.

## **Article 12.3 Appeal to the administrative court**

Within six weeks after the decision has been made known to the person who submitted the objection, an interested party may appeal against the decision of the PhD Board as referred to in Article 12.2(1) in court, provided the contested decision can be appealed under the AWB (General Administrative Law Act).

## 13. Final Provisions

#### Article 13.1

- 1. In cases not covered by these regulations, or if there is a difference of opinion as to the interpretation of the provisions of these regulations, the PhD Board will decide.
- 2. In very exceptional cases, the PhD Board, at the suggestion of the rector, may deviate from these regulations, subject to mandatory legal provisions.
- 3. Requests to deviate from the regulations must be submitted to the PhD Board in writing, stating the reasons.

## Article 13.2

If the provisions of these regulations are not complied with, the rector is authorized to postpone the PhD graduation ceremony until a date to be determined at his discretion.

## **Appendices**

## **Appendix 1**

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS AS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 2.5 (2)

A. ADMISSION to a PhD programme in exceptional cases on the basis of Dutch certificates, if the prospective PhD candidate does not meet the requirement set out in Article 2.5(1a)

#### Article A.1 Objective

The prospective PhD candidate must satisfy the PhD Board that he is able to conduct independent academic research and has a realistic chance of completing a PhD thesis.

#### Article A.2 Documentation

A prospective PhD candidate must substantiate his application as much as possible by providing certificates, (academic) publications, letters of recommendation regarding positions held, written statements by academic researchers and the proposed supervisors.

#### Article A.3 Procedure

- 1. In accordance with the current admissions procedure the prospective PhD candidate must submit an application in writing, accompanied by the available documentation, to the PhD Board to be admitted to a PhD programme.
- 2. The PhD Board will decide on the basis of the documents submitted whether or not it considers the candidate capable of conducting independent research which could lead to a completed PhD thesis, before the candidate is appointed to a position and/or starts the PhD research. If necessary, the PhD Board in question will interview the applicant. The PhD Board will communicate its decision in writing, stating the reasons. This may be accompanied by a recommendation that the candidate should make up certain deficiencies.
- 3. The PhD Board will make its decision known to the applicant in writing, stating the reasons, within six weeks. If the decision cannot be made within six weeks, the PhD Board will notify the applicant of this and state a reasonable time limit within which the decision can be expected.
- 4. If the final decision is positive, the applicant will be admitted to the PhD programme. If the final decision is negative, the applicant will not be admitted to the PhD programme.
- 5. Chapter 12 of the PhD regulations will apply *mutatis mutandis*.
- 6. Once the PhD Board has decided that the applicant will be admitted to the PhD programme, the other provisions of the PhD regulations will apply.

B. ADMISSION to a PhD programme in exceptional cases in which the requirement set out in Article 2.5(1a) has not been met, on the basis of foreign certificates

## Article B.1 Objective

The prospective PhD candidate must satisfy the PhD Board that he is able to conduct independent academic research and has a realistic chance of completing a PhD thesis.

#### Article B.2 Documentation

The prospective PhD candidate must substantiate his application as much as possible by providing certificates, (academic) publications, letters of recommendation regarding positions held and written statements by academic researchers and the (proposed) supervisors.

#### Article B.3 Procedure

- 1. In accordance with the current admissions procedure, the prospective PhD candidate must submit an application in writing, accompanied by the available documentation, to the PhD Board, which will compare the candidate's previous training with the standard in the Netherlands.
- 2. The PhD Board will decide on the basis of the documents submitted whether or not it considers the candidate capable of conducting independent research which could lead to a completed PhD thesis, before the candidate is appointed to a position and/or starts the PhD research. If necessary, the PhD Board in question will interview the applicant. The PhD Board will make its decision in writing, stating the reasons.
- 3. The PhD Board will make its decision known to the applicant in writing, stating the reasons, within six weeks. If the decision cannot be made within six weeks, the PhD Board will notify the applicant of this and state a reasonable time limit within which the decision can be expected.
- 4. If the final decision is positive, the applicant will be admitted to the PhD programme. If the final decision is negative, the applicant will not be admitted to the PhD programme.
- 5. Chapter 12 of the PhD regulations will apply *mutatis mutandis*.
- 6. Once the applicant has been admitted to the PhD programme, the other provisions of the PhD regulations will apply.

#### **Appendix 2**

#### PROTOCOL FOR THE PHD GRADUATION CEREMONY

The TUA and the TUK have each established their own protocols for the PhD ceremony. The following is the protocol for the TUA ( for a PhD ceremony commencing at 3:00 p.m.)

- 2:45 p.m. Reception of opponents, (other) participants in the cortege and the candidate with his/her paranymfs in the Senate chamber
- 2.55 p.m. The pedel leads the candidate and his/her assistants to their seats in the auditorium. Audience remains seated.

Pedel goes to the senate chamber for the next procession.

2:59 p.m. Procession: Rector, 1st supervisor, possibly 2nd supervisor, opponents and other (emeritus) professors according to seniority are led by beadle into their places behind the table.

At the entrance to the auditorium, the pedel announces: 'The Senate'.

Audience stands up.

Pedel sits at reserved seat off to the side.

3:00 p.m. The Rector opens the meeting and says the prayer, after which he invites the doctoral student to read the 'form for the defense'.

Then the Rector gives the doctoral candidate the opportunity to present his research (10 min.).

After that the rector invites the opponents to ask their questions.

4:00 p.m. After eye contact with the rector, the pedel stands up and says clearly audible: 'hora est'.

The pedel sits down again.

The doctoral candidate finishes his answer in a few sentences and pronounces the 'form after defense'.

After the doctoral candidate leaves the lectern, the audience stands up and the pedel leads the professors to the room where the deliberation takes place.

pedel leads professors in, announces: 'the senate', then the audience stands. The pedel remains standing aside (sits down when professors sit down: after handing over the doctoral bull).

After the rector has closed the session, the pedel leads the Senate and its entourage (rector, first supervisor, second supervisor if necessary, opponents and other (emeritus) professors according to their seniority, young doctor (and possibly wife and children) with their paranymphs outside.

The standing audience follows the procession to t the TUA garden room.	he reception, which takes place in

### The order of the ceremony

#### 1. OPENING BY THE RECTOR

Rector will take his cap off (all professors will do likewise), he gestures all (senate and audience alike) to take a seat, he opens the meeting by means of a hammer-blow and pronounces:

I declare this public meeting of the academic senate to be opened and I will lead in prayer,

followed by the utterance of the following formulaic prayer:

Oh Thou, the only wise God, by whom all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are revealed in Christ, we pray that Thou wouldst enlighten us by Thy Spirit, in order that we will be taught and guided by Thee. Grant that the increase of knowledge will be accompanied by the establishment of Thy truth and by the revelation of Thy glory. This we pray through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

#### Then he will continue:

Mr. promovendus, would you please present yourself to the defence of your dissertation.

Rector gestures the PhD candidate to take the lectern and takes his seat.

#### 2. THE READING OF THE PRE-DEFENCE FORMULARY BY THE PHD CANDIDATE

On authority of the rector of the university, and there unto authorized by its board of promotions, I am ready for the public defence of my dissertation, entitled: '...' (title of the dissertation) to the best of my ability, in order to obtain the title of Doctor of Theology. I will do so with the prayer that He, in Whose light alone we will see the light, will grant me His wisdom and strength. I request all who seek to please me by their opposition against my dissertation and theses, that they will state their objections clearly and concisely.

#### 3. DISPUTE

Rector stands up and says:

Now I invite ... (names of the opponents) to speak.

N.B. Only the name will be mentioned, without initials, titles and degrees.

After one hour, pedel will stand up, says loudly 'Hora est' and take his seat again. PhD candidate will conclude his response in a few sentences.

#### 4. THE READING OF THE POST-DEFENCE FORMULARY BY THE PHD CANDIDATE

Now that the defence of my dissertation has come to its conclusion, and before the senate will deliberate as to whether I may be granted the title of Doctor of Theology, may I first of all give thanks to God, for all His goodness shown to me during my studies and in this ceremony; may I also express my gratitude to the rector for his permission and to the senate for their co-operation; to my supervisors for their advice; to my opponents for the honour of their opposition; to my paranymphs for their help; and to all who have exalted the solemnity of this gathering by their presence.

After reading this formulary he will leave the lectern. He and his paranymphs will take their seats.

While all are standing, pedel will conduct the professors (who will have put on their cap) out of the auditorium in view of the deliberation (sequence: rector. Supervisor, other (retired) professors and any (senior) lecturers present, in order of seniority).

#### 5. DELIBERATION

The deliberation will be as short as reasonably possible. Following the deliberation, pedel will conduct the senate into the auditorium (announcing 'de senaat'). Supervisor will carry the PhD certificate.

Rector (who like all professors will keep on their cap until point 7 incl.) will gesture the audience to take their seats (professors remain standing until point 7 incl.) and will pronounce (the head covered) the *judicium*. PhD candidate and his paranymphs will stand in front of senate and will remain there until point 9 incl.

#### 6. THE RECTOR'S PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE JUDICIUM

The senate has agreed to grant .... (name of de promovendus) the desired title of Doctor of Theology (if applicable: with the judicium 'cum laude'). The senate has appointed professor Huijgen to confer the degree.

Only the members of senate and the graduate and his paranymphs will stand during the pronouncement.

#### 7. THE ACT OF CONFERMENT

In grateful acknowledgement of God's benevolence bestowed on this academy, and in utter dependence on Him, and being appointed by the senate, I confer upon you ... (promovendus) the degree of Doctor of Theology, granted unto you by the senate.

It is a joy to grant you the right to the title of doctor and to everything that belongs to the lawfully created Doctor of Theology and to all privileges associated with this title. I do this trusting God Almighty – from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

Following the conferment and the presentation of the certificate, all professors will take their cap off and will take their seat. (Supervisor remains standing during his speech)

### 8. SPEECH BY THE SUPERVISOR

#### 9. CONGRATULATIONS ON BEHALF OF SENATE BY THE RECTOR

After these words the graduate and his paranymphs will return to their seats.

#### 10. CLOSURE

#### Rector says:

I will lead in a prayer of thanksgiving and will close this meeting in praise and adoration. Will all please stand up.

followed by the utterance of the following formulaic prayer:

Lord our God, we thank Thee and praise Thy holy name for the blessing that Thou has bestowed upon us. Grant that this work, rewarded by Thy favour in this hour, may be fruitful for the edification of Thy Church and the furtherance of Thy Kingdom.

To Thee, the only wise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory, now and for evermore. Amen.

### Finally, rector will say:

I now declare this public meeting of the academic senate to be closed.

Followed by a hammer-blow. The rector will put on his cap (and the other professors will do likewise) and he and the other members of senate will leave the auditorium, following the pedel (sequence: rector, supervisor(s), other (retired) professors and any (senior) lecturers, if present, in order of seniority, the young doctor and his paranymphs,

immediately followed by the husband or wife and their children present, and the opposing friend). The audience will stand and follow the others.

Sequence of congratulating: first the professors will congratulate the young doctor and his/her wife/husband (and children if present) in the garden room, immediately followed by governors, trustees, lecturers and the wives of the professors, governors, trustees and lecturers. Then relatives and other guests will have the opportunity to congratulate. All others will leave the auditorium after them.

## Appendix 3

## MODEL TITLE PAGE

The TUA and the TUK each have their own standards for the title pages. The model for the TU Kampen now follows.

## THEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES IN THE NETHERLANDS AT APELDOORN

## TITLE

### **ACADEMIC THESIS**

by

(first names and surname of PhD candidate)

(date of birth and place of birth)

On the back of the title page it should only mention	On the	back of	the title	page it	should	only	mention:
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- the supervisor(s)
- the co-supervisors)
- de members of the Assessment Committee

(where supervisors /co-supervisors or Assessment Committee members are concerned who are not connected to the TUA: include the name of the institution to which they are connected)

- de authorities or bodies which have contributed to, or made the realisation of this PhD thesis possible, financially.
- (if available) the International Standard Book Number (ISBN).

## **Appendix 4**

LICENCE AGREEMENT FOR NON-EXCLUSIVE PUBLICATION IN DIGITAL FORM VIA THE STATE UNIVERSITY REPOSITORY OF A PHD THESIS DEFENDED AT THE UNIVERSITY

In accordance with the supplement to Article 4.7 of the PhD Regulations of the Theological Universities of Apeldoorn and Kampen

#### [The] PhD candidate

- consents to the global distribution of his/her PhD thesis in digital form; this distribution is nonexclusive;
- declares that the PhD thesis is his/her own work;
- declares that the electronic version is identical to the printed publication as regards content and that it
  contains all components that for technical and/or logistical reasons are not included in the printed
  publication (e.g., CDs, video, etc.);
- declares that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the PhD thesis does not infringe in any way on the intellectual property rights of others;
- declares that any transfer of his/her intellectual property rights to the PhD thesis to a third party will stipulate that such party will uphold the licence and assume this agreement;
- grants the licence in question indefinitely;
- declares to relinquish the right to terminate this licence by means of cancellation or dissolution;
- declares, with regard to any contribution that is based upon work that was sponsored or subsidised by any institution or organisation other than the Universities of Apeldoorn that he/she has fulfilled all obligations imposed by this sponsor, institution or organisation with regard to publication;
- declares that he/she has the right to grant permission as specified in this agreement, subject to the exceptions specified below.

## The Theological University of Apeldoorn

- declares that the licence will not be transferred to any third party;
- declares to have received the digital copy of the PhD thesis;
- shall transform the PhD thesis into other file formats or into other media with the goal of ensuring future digital accessibility and declares that any such transformation will be accomplished without tampering with the contents;
- shall make and keep one or more reserve copies of this PhD thesis with a view to the security and preservation of the files;
- shall, in the case that the publisher objects to the expiration of the embargos that are noted on the following page, protect the PhD candidate from any damage claims that the publisher might make in this regard.

## **Exceptions to the licence agreement**

Signature: .....

Explanation

•	If you fully agree with the non-exclusive publication, without exceptions, please leave 1till 4 blank, and sign below.
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