



## Student life and discipline at the Riga Polytechnic School and the Riga Polytechnic Institute (1862–1919)

Das Studentenleben und die Disziplin

am Polytechnikum zu Riga und am Polytechnischen Institut zu Riga (1862–1919)

**Alīda Zigmunde** Dr. paed., Professor Technical University Riga

## Student life and discipline at the Riga Polytechnic School and the Riga Polytechnic Institute (1862–1919)

What we call today "the Liberty of Research and Teaching" as the criteria of a functioning university has very early on in history of universities developed into the right of self-administration of all internal processes of universities. This didn't only mean the teaching process, the qualification of teaching personal, the regulations for doctoral dissertations, but also all things concerning students and student life. How to behave in public, but also how to behave on the grounds of the university.



# Regulations about student behaviour at the Riga Polytechnic School (1874)

1874 the administrative commission of the Riga Polytechnic School worked out a set of regulations about student behaviour and miss-behaviour under the chairmanship of its first director Dr. Ernst Nauck and his secretary Hugo von Stein and here we find as one form of punishment the "carcer" (Latin word for prison).



Dr. E. Nauck, Director des battoschen Folgtechnicums zu Rigu Director of Polytechnicum zu Riga (1862–1875) Ernst Nauck (1819–1875)



# Disciplinar-Vorschriften

für die

# udirenden der polytechnischen Schule zu Riga.

Von Sr. Erlaucht, dem Herrn Curator mittelst Rescripts vom 6. Mai 1874 Nr. 672 bestätigt.

### Regulations about student behaviour at the Riga Polytechnic School (1874)

#### **Disciplinar**-Vorschriften

für die

Studirenden der polytechnischen Schule zu Riga.

#### § 1.

Jeder Studirende hat die für sein Studium erforderlichen Lehrbücher, Utensilien und Instrumente sich selbst anzuschaffen und in Bereitschaft zu halten.

#### \$ 2.

Jeder Studirende hat den Vortrags- und Uebungsstunden, Repetitionen und Excursionen, für welche er eingeschrieben ist, pünktlich beizuwohnen und sämmtliche von den Docenten vorgeschriebenen Arbeiten auszuführen.

Anmerkung. Bei unregelmässigem Besuch der Vorlesungen schickt der Vorstand dem Studirenden einen Erkundigungszettel zu. In Krankheitsfällen ist, auf Verlangen, ein von dem Anstaltsarzte ausgestelltes ärztliches Attestat einzusenden. Bei Entfernungen von Riga ist vorher ein Urlaub vom Director zu erbitten.

#### \$ 3.

Jede Beschädigung des Eigenthums des Polytechnicums muss vollständig ersetzt werden.

Anmerkung. Die Benutzung der Bibliothek, sowie die practischen Arbeiten im Laboratorium unterliegen besonderen Bestimmungen.

#### \$ 4.

Die Studirenden haben bei Beginn des Studienjahres - neu eintretende am Tage der Aufnahme - in das bei dem Portier des Polytechnicums analiegendo Prissenzbuch Namen und Wohnung, sowie in Laufe des Studienjahres jede eintretende Wohnungsveräuderung eigenhändig einzutragen.

\$ 5. Die Beurtheilung der Verbrechen, Vergehen und Polizeisbertretungen der Stadirenden competirt den ordentlichen Gerichten. Disciplinarfehler

\$ 8.

Als Disciplinarfehler werden besonders angesehen : Vernachlässigung der Studien, Verletzung des Anstandes und der Sittlichkeit, Ungeborsam

#### gegen den Vorstand und die Lehrerschaft, sowie gegen die besonderen \$ 7.

Die Beahndungen der Disciplinarfehler bestehen in:

1) Verweis:

werden von der Anstalt beahndet.

Vorschriften der Anstalt.

- 2) Carcerstrafe:
- 3) Protocollarischer Androhung der Ausschliessung aus der Anstalt:
- 4) Ausschliessung.

#### \$ 8.

Für die Wahrung der Disciplin und Ordnung unter den Studirenden hat in erster Linie der Director Sorge zu tragen; insoweit eine Vernachlässigung der Studien in Betracht kommt, liegt diese Sorge den Vorständen der Fachabtheilungen ob.

#### \$ 9.

Für grössere Disciplinarvergehen existirt eine Disciplinar-Commission. Sie besteht aus dem Director und zweien anderen Gliedern der Plenar-Conferenz, welche von derselhen auf 3 Jahre gewählt werden.

#### § 10,

Die Disciplinar-Commission entscheidet in gewissen Fallen definitiv In Fallen, welche ihre Competenz überschreiten, fallt ihr die Aufgabe zu, die wider die Studirenden verlaufharten Beschwerden sofort zu priten, die Beklagten zu vernehmen und den Thatbestand zu constativen, beror die Angelegenheiten an die Plenarconferenz zur Urtbeilafällung



# The treatment of the disciplinary errors consisted in:

- 1) Expulsion
- 2) Carcer (student prison)
- 3) Threat of exclusion from the institution
  - by protocol
- 4) Exclusion



This institution "carcer" existed already at universities in Germany and in Tartu (Dorpat). They have a long tradition in university life. All punishments were decided by the "Disciplinary Commission" which oversaw the proceedings and decided on the degree of punishment. (hours or days or more than one day in the carcer). The director of the Riga Polytechnic presided over the proceedings and was assisted by two co-presidents of the commission. To keep the order in the house of the student side the Riga Polytechnic had administrative personal called "Pedel", (plural Pedelle)' who were a sort of internal police. Students had to obey when they were called to orser by a "Pedell". They roomed around where students were active on the ground of the Polytechnic. The regulations comprise amonishments and punishments. These written down and published regulations were necessary so that every student would be treated equal befor the law.



Students who came to Riga had been living with their parents at very different locations from all over Russia. So these students didn't come only from Livonia. They had all been under the regulations of their parents. So having arrived at the Riga Polytechnic they all smelled the air of liberty, but they had to be put into an new order. The order the university requires for functioning without problems. Among the bad behaviours were marked: Drinking in public and infighting. In general students didn't commit crimes.



So among the punishments were: Expulsion from the university, but this was very rarely done, because the students families had to pay fees for the students. so this punishment is a two sided sword, because the university would punish itself by loosing a student and loosing his fee. The Riga Polytechnic School was financed by the town of Riga and several other towns of Livonia and by the fees of its students, so the expulsion of a student would in a certain way reduce its finances.



The expulsion of students was also due to the events of the 1905 revolution. For example, meetings were held in the auditoriums. The gendarmerie was not allowed to come to the university. It turned out that people had entered the street, so ID cards were introduced in the future, which had to be handed in at the entrance door.



The carcer ha been closed at the beginning of the 20th century, but the Disciplinary Commission existed up until the last days of the Riga Polytechnic Institute when it was dissolved in 1919 to be reborn as the Latvian University



## Thank you!



