

Appendix B:

FGB guideline for the dissertation

The VU doctorate regulations stipulate the following:

Article 17: Conditions (VU Doctorate Regulations)

1. The dissertation shall bear witness to the PhD candidate's ability to carry out independent academic research.
2. The dissertation shall consist of either a single academic discourse on a given subject or a collection of separate academic articles, all or part of which have been published, on condition that these separate articles demonstrate sufficient cohesion in relation to a specific subject.
3. The faculty shall draw up a guideline for the dissertation, with due regard for the provisions of Article 38, paragraph 2. The dissertation must be consistent with this guideline

Given that FGB and FBW had formulated their own, somewhat different guidelines, a common guideline for FGB should be formulated. The faculty board proposes to follow the NFU guidelines:

NFU guidelines:

An approved manuscript contains at least 3 to 5 papers, of which 2 to 3 are published or accepted with the PhD student as first author, and of which at least 2 are or will be published in journals with a medium to high impact factor in the research field of the discipline.

Comment

The final approval of a PhD thesis is an individual decision of the doctoral committee. The current guideline intends to provide a lower limit, taking into account the diversity between disciplines. It also provides an indication for what is considered reasonable and helps to prevent unintended inflation of the requirements for a PhD thesis

In addition, the dissertation should contain an authorship statement for each paper, according to the guidelines of the discipline (e.g., APA or ICMJE).

These guidelines will take effect for dissertations prepared on the basis of TSPs submitted after January 1, 2016.

Promotors may submit a proposal to deviate from this guideline for an individual dissertation to the dean, as chair of the doctoral committee.

4. In accordance with Article 27, paragraph 2 of the VU University Amsterdam Management Regulations, the dissertation may not contain anything that is *contra Deum aut bonos mores*, against God or good morals.

5. If the dissertation consists of a collection of articles as referred to in the second paragraph, then the required coherence between the articles is to be made explicit in an introductory and/or concluding chapter.

6. If the dissertation consists of a collection of articles as referred to in the second paragraph, then the PhD candidate's contribution to each article should be adequately demonstrated