

# Some Methodological Remarks on Resource Allocation (Peer Learning III)

Prof. Dr. Frank Ziegele



Important theoretical aspect: consistency responsibility for tasks and funds has to be ensured

### Financial responsibilities



Dean is allowed to distribute funds internally



Allocation of financial decision rights in the faculty

- Decisions on funding should follow the responsibility for tasks
- Financial responsibility strengthens "ownership", responsibility for products
- If budget follows decentral responsibility for tasks, administrative realization remains central: internal markets, service level agreements, payments (e.g. library, IT)



## Dean is allowed to distribute funds internally

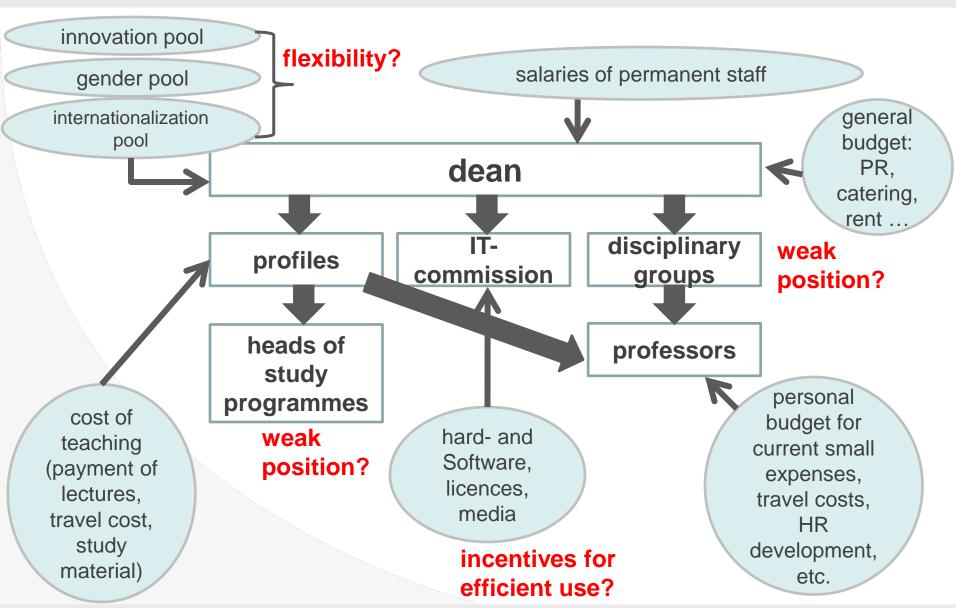


Allocation of financial decision rights in the faculty

- Tasks justifying central pools for deans: innovation, matching funds for external income, general goals (e.g. internationalization), flexible response to urgent needs (e.g. work peaks), overhead functions (e.g. IT)
- Advantages of central funds: flexibility, support for strategies, critical masses – but: central information deficit, danger for autonomy, inflation of application procedures (external + internal)

## Example: my faculty in Osnabrück



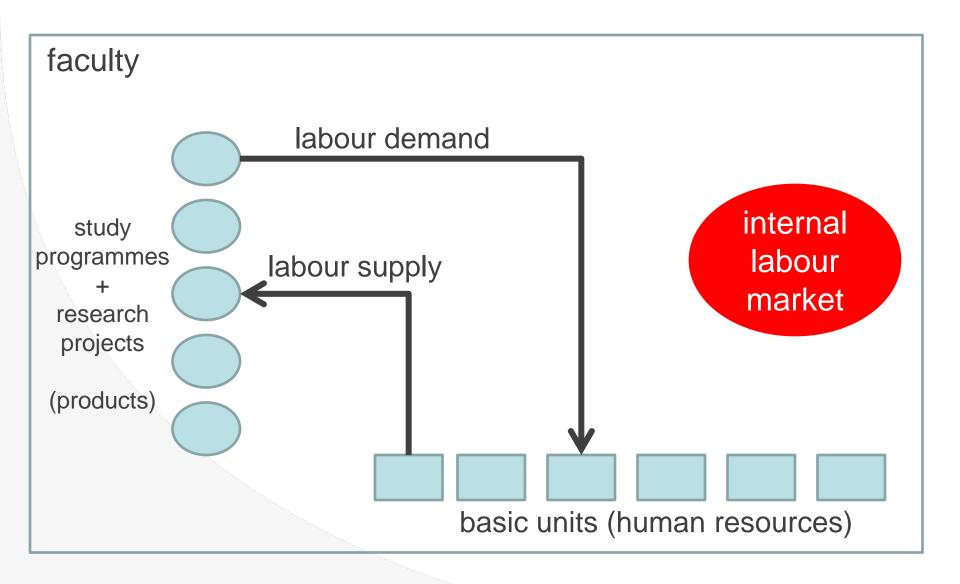




Funding models depend heavily on organizational structures

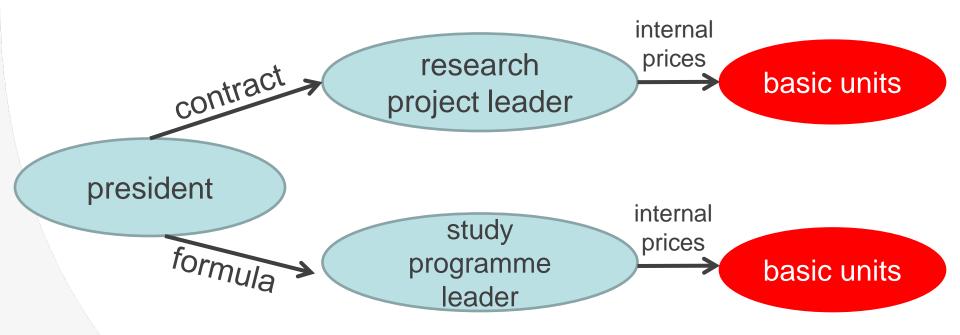
## **Example University Amsterdam**





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- Variations: internal prices incl./excl. HR development and administration overhead
- Dean: market regulator, intervention if markets are not balanced, prevent financial deficits of basic units
- Weak dean?



Important cultural aspect:
disciplinary cultures have to
be taken into account in the
design of allocation
instruments

## Example: formula FU Berlin, faculty philosophy and humanities



education 45 %	qualitative aspects 10 %	2-10 points according to student evaluation of courses	
	quantitative aspects 35 %	<ul><li>1-5 points according to number of participants and exams in courses</li><li>1-10 points for master thesis,</li><li>Ph.D. thesis</li></ul>	
research 45 %	publications 20 %	2-25 points for articles, books	
	third party funds 20 %	2-75 points according to external income	
	memberships 5 %	2-10 points for membership in external boards (organizations, organization of conferences)	
administration 10 %		1-10 points for membership in internal committees, dean	

## Example: formula TU Berlin, faculty mathematics and natural sciences



Criteria	Weight
staff (number of professors + scientists, weight for expensive disciplines)	1,5
externally financed staff (number of employees)	0,5
number of exams	0,3 (experimental: 0,4)
Number of students (weight for expensive disciplines)	0,02



Performance-/goal-oriented instruments (formula, target agreements) imply complex design questions, example target agreement

## Basic ideas of contract management



- Management by objectives, enhance relevance of strategies
- All actors on all levels have goals, need for coordination (e.g. appointment, university vs. faculty strategy)
- Goals and their realization have to be transparent and measurable
- Agreements on goals create legitimization for funding

## Basic ideas of contract management



- Give promises on future performance and receive money for innovations in advance
- Agree on multi-period financial stability

 Enable profile-oriented performance measurement and reward successes

 Give dialogue and negotiation between different levels of academic system a formal structure



## How does a contract/target agreement look like?

Example TU Munich, physics department (quite simple, but shows features)

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAT MUNICHEN



Zielvereinbarung zwischen der Fakultät Physik und

#### der Hochschulleitung der TU München

Präambel

Der wellerseite Littenseit ist Engeleit sinden Forgeständen, welchen die des habite Hygis genetissen, wie den GEL Getten mit Ein des Littenseitschaftig der Getten Geter Weiserhalt zu ein zu dem stellen GEL der dem Weiserhalt zu ein zu dem spession zu der Produktionen gese Forderbetratung der Facheltat Hygist hereicken, wu derfünden, welchen der Schweisbert zu genome der Einzelund einzug der Bereicken, zur Zeitrenseitung der Schweisbert der der Gettenseitung der Schweisbert der der Gettenseitung der Gettenseitung der Schweisbert der Gettenseitung der Gettenseitung der Schweisbert der Gettenseitung de

Struttlehe manfolgenden Vereinbarungen steher naver der i Verhella is, ibb die neuwendigen batscheidungen zur Einzichung der neuen Studiengliese getroffen werden.

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#### Gegenstand und Ziele der Vereinbarung

20d dieser Vereinberung ist den disserballe Lückburg des Zeid der Stanzuten en der 1EM, und weier durch von eine Kreit von interfacieller Samilier gange und durch Verkessenung der Erremationalitierung, und der Lätzliche Projekt. Davis der Schreiten der Schreiten der TOM derzit altibe Malina traut entgegruppsteite verden.

Die Jekukil Plyck, auch den lensten Monten eine Ro Lo von Strikturg ofbefreue in Leiter und Furschreg delte fest Johnsondern und der nich unternetzielt Bedgesteltnesel Defeit bei den Studenterellen und untgegleigt, des zu Belanze dieser Zielbereichnerung mit der Hechtschaft kinnig und in Einklang mit dem Betreichlereichner beder zu weden nichten.

Als Higgion's der Blot Gite neuman Diskoss im worder, zur Verbesserung der Strakeur in der Lehre die tollgenden Mele festgelegt, die Gegenstrug dieser Vereinbarung sein sellen:

- Er höhung der Studienaufängerzahlen in der Fakultät Physik durch attraktive nose Studiens since.
- Genteinsune Stadiengänge und Stärkwag der Verbindung der Naturwissenseinafen in Garelang mit den Life-Seitzue Fächern in Weilsensteglage, sonie Stärkung des Profils Biotechnologie an der TUM.

## Minimum requirements



- Contract as written document, agreements between organizational units / persons from different levels of the university system
- Contract as published document with a certain degree of publicity on contents
- Fixed and multi-period time horizon (usually 2-5 years)
- Central unit promises money / support, decentral unit promises performance (contribution from two sides to common goals)

## Minimum requirements



- Contract has to be consistent with strategies, specify general strategic goals for a certain unit and period
- At least two people have to sign, personal responsibility
- It is not just writing a document, but also a dialogue process, relationship as partnership
- Definition of measurable success criteria, implementation of controlling mechanisms
- Contracts linked with incentives and sanctions for goal attainment





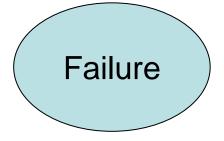
No real priorities, list all kinds of activities, write what you do anyway



Solution

Focus on 2-4 priorities, mention central goals but say "pick out what is important for you"





Intention to steer with goals,
but in contracts goals are not
described precisely or
the realization of certain measures
is used as success criteria



Solution

Rules of the game: quantification/ specification of goals, measures/activities can be mentioned but are no success criteria





Contract creates new inflexibility, no in-period reflection on goals



Solution

Yearly discussions, flexibility, incl. reflection on objectives (dynamic environment)





If contracts are used in connection with innovation finance (and heterogeneous performance indicators): problem of comparative assessment of quality



Solution

Leadership, transparent criteria, support by expert group, vote of the "extended rectorate" (rectorate+deans)

## Some aspects of "good practice" in contract management



- Fix central strategic goals, but decentral decision on weights, priorities, operationalization, additional goals
- Give a structure for document:

general	indicator	goal	time	contribution
description	(qual./quant.)	value	horizon	to central
				strategy

Central unit not allowed to suggest measures

## Some aspects of "good practice" in contract management



- Clear description of negotiation process, enough time for dialogue
- Clear schedule (limited time, but enough time for internal discussions in decentral unit)
- Financial support by innovation pool
- Include status quo analysis in contract
- Test if clear measurement of all objectives is possible
- Allow flexibility during period
- Clarify financial incentives / sanctions (reward future goals in advance and reward performance ex-post)
- Fix reporting duties (keep it lean and dialogue oriented)

## Example for right level of goal description





Internationalization



Number of foreign students enhanced by 5%



In new innovative study programme 20% of students come from abroad



Advertising, partnerships, internet, ...