



Protestantse Theologische **Universiteit**

# **Dissertation protocol**

## **Protocol of a public meeting of the Doctoral Dissertation Board of the Protestant Theological University, on the occasion of a doctorate ceremony.**

1. The order of the cortege is:
  1. beadle
  2. rector
  3. professors (the thesis supervisor followed by the opponents, guest professors if any, and finally the other professors)
  4. the Ph.D. candidate and assistants
2. The professors stand behind their chairs, the rector behind the chair in the middle. All remain standing until after the academy-prayer. The Ph.D. candidate and assistants stand behind and next to the lectern.
3. The rector and the male professors take off their berets. Female professors leave their berets on.

The rector addresses the audience as follows:

### **I open this public meeting of the Doctoral Dissertation Board of the Protestant Theological University with a prayer:**

**Merciful God, clothed with wisdom and splendour, source of joy and light, we pray you: grant us wisdom and insight, through Jesus Christ, in whom all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.  
Amen.**

Everybody takes a seat. The Ph.D. student stands behind the lectern.

4. The rector puts on his beret and says:

**The Doctoral Dissertation Board grants you, ..... the opportunity to defend your doctoral thesis with the accompanying propositions in this public ceremony. I invite the first opponent, professor ..... to lead off the discussion.**
5. The opponents address the Ph.D. student as 'esteemed candidate'. The opponents are addressed as: 'esteemed opponent', 'very learned opponent' or 'highly learned opponent'.
6. 6 Forty-five minutes after the start of the session the beadle enters and says:  
hora est
7. The rector says: **the Doctoral Dissertation Board has heard your defence and will retire for deliberation. The session is adjourned.**

8. The cortege leaves the room in the order described under 1. The Ph.D. student and the assistants stay in the Aula.
9. The Board holds its deliberations in the Exam Room. The degree certificate is signed by the rector and the thesis supervisor. The Album is signed by the rector and the thesis supervisor(s).
10. The cortege, in the order described above, re-enters the meeting room. The thesis supervisor carries the degree certificate and the rector the Album and the pen.
11. The professors are seated behind the table: the Ph.D. student and the assistants stand before the lectern.
12. The rector speaks:

**The session is resumed. Esteemed candidate, the Doctoral Dissertation Board has taken note of your doctoral thesis and has heard your defence. The Board has decided to confer upon you the degree of doctor of theology ( where appropriate adding the adjudication of 'cum laude'). I now ask the thesis supervisor, ....., to bestow this dignity on you in the customary manner.**

13. The thesis supervisor rises. The Ph.D. student and the assistants face the thesis supervisor. The supervisor reads out the dissertation form and hands over the degree certificate. And subsequently expresses the laudation.

**By the power vested in us by law, and in accordance with the decision of the Doctoral Dissertation Board here present, I confer on you, ....., the degree of doctor of theology, including all rights and duties associated with this by law and custom with regard to science, church and society. As evidence of this, I present to you the degree certificate, signed by the rector and thesis supervisor and bearing the seal of the university.**

After the degree certificate has been handed over the assistants can take their seats again. The new doctor and his assistants stands before the lectern.

14. The rector congratulates the new doctor on behalf of the board, **'Very learned Madam / Sir, on behalf of the Doctoral Dissertation Board I also congratulate you on the dignity that you have acquired.'** The rector invites the doctor to sign the Album.

15. The rector takes off his beret and says:

**I will now close this session with the doxology. I ask you to stand.**

**To the almighty God, through whose light we see light, be the glory forever and ever, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The cortege (beadle, the Ph.D. candidate and assistants, the rector, the thesis supervisors and the other professors go to the lounge. The relatives are invited to follow the cortege.