

Challenges in the transition from programme to institutional accreditation

ECA-NVAO Seminar

**Institutional and Programme Reviews:
Towards New Combinations**

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Agenda

- OTH Regensburg, German Technical UAS
- Change process: from programme accreditation to institutional (system) accreditation
- New internal process for study programme accreditation
- Established boards: tasks, challenges and experience
- Conclusion

East Bavaria

Area: approx. 20,000 km²

History of Regensburg

Year 90 AD: first roman settlement

1136: construction of the “Stone Bridge”

2006: UNESCO world heritage

Economy

Full employment

Headquarters / major subsidiaries of several companies

- BMW
- Continental
- Infineon
- Krones
- OSRAM
- MR (Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen)

General information

Population: 160,000 (thereof 32,000 students)

3 IHE (Uni R, **OTH R**, HfKM R)



Students

- 11.000 students
- 3.400 first-year students
- 2.100 graduates/year

Teachers and staff members

- Professors: 225
- Teaching fellows: 30
- Research associates: 120
- Part-time lecturers: 400
- Administrative staff: 320

Academic programmes

- 28 Bachelor
- 19 Master



Programme accreditation until 2015

- 24 programme accreditation procedures with 66 study programmes
- 5 different agencies
- Average external costs per programme: 5.300 €

Internal accreditation since 2015

- 6 internal accreditation procedures with 16 study programmes
- Average external costs per programme: 800 €
- Additional Resources: 1 internal QM staff member



What have been the main factors to switch to institutional (system) accreditation at OTH Regensburg?

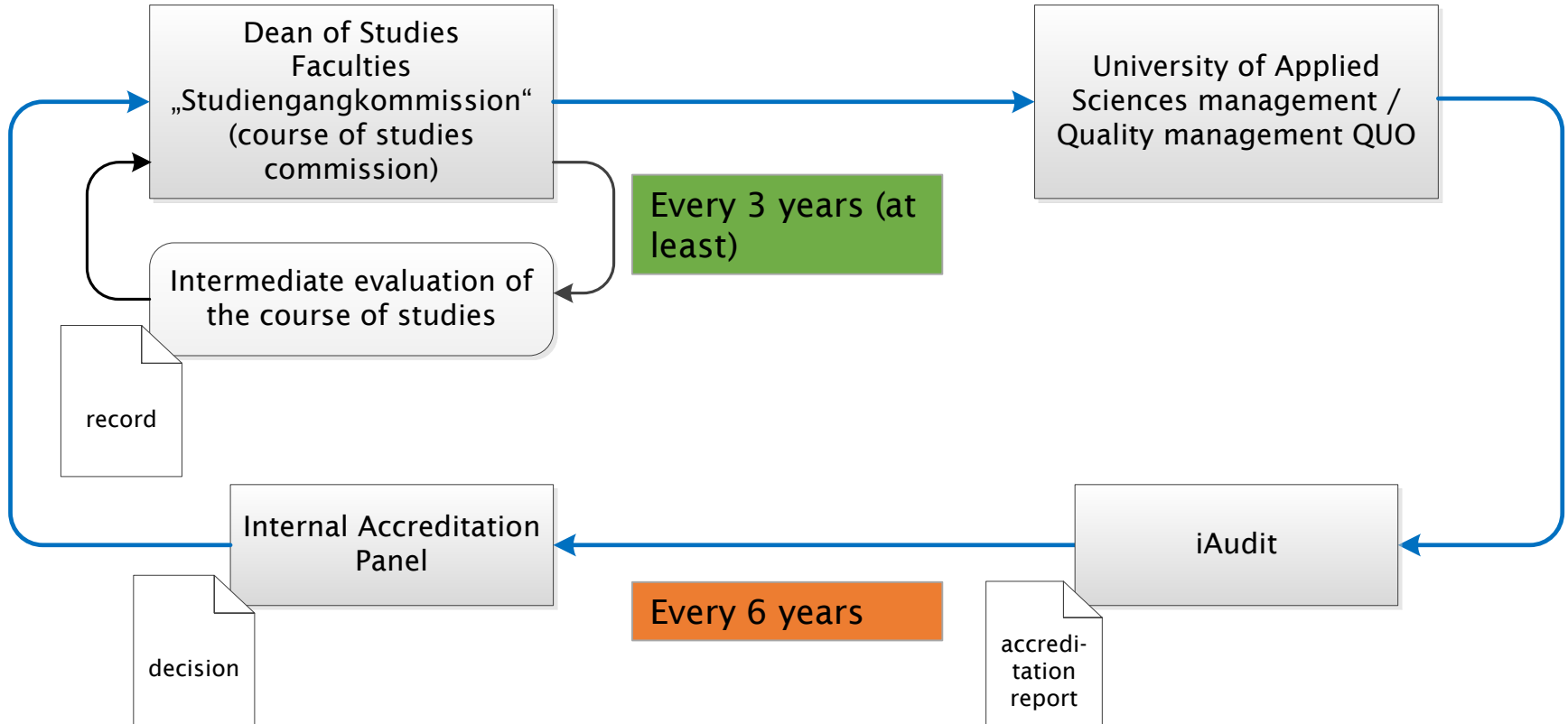
- Increased university self-government
- Consideration of specific u-requirements possible
- Sanitised public image of the university
- Intensified linking to internal strategies and development processes
- Hope for more sustainability of QM-processes
- Distinctly increased flexibility within the QM-organisation and processes
- Reduced formal inputs for the faculties
- Reduced external costs after reaching steady state

Project group: working team of about 25 people

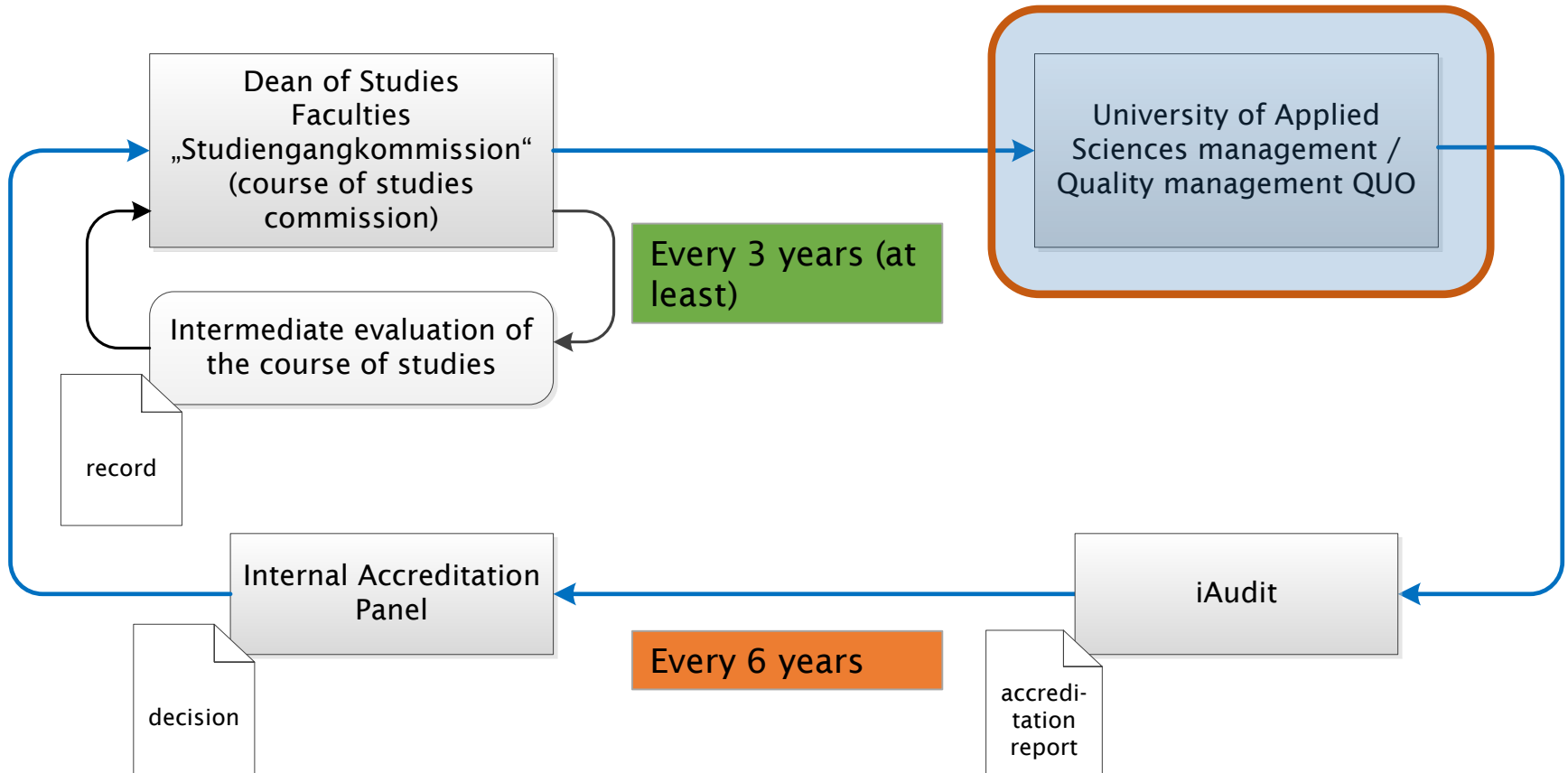
- QM function owners of faculties: study dean, faculty assistants
- Student representatives
- QM staff (in charge of statistics, evaluations, processes, organisation iSA process)
- Services (administration, foreign office, career service)

Result after 10 meetings and 2 years periode:

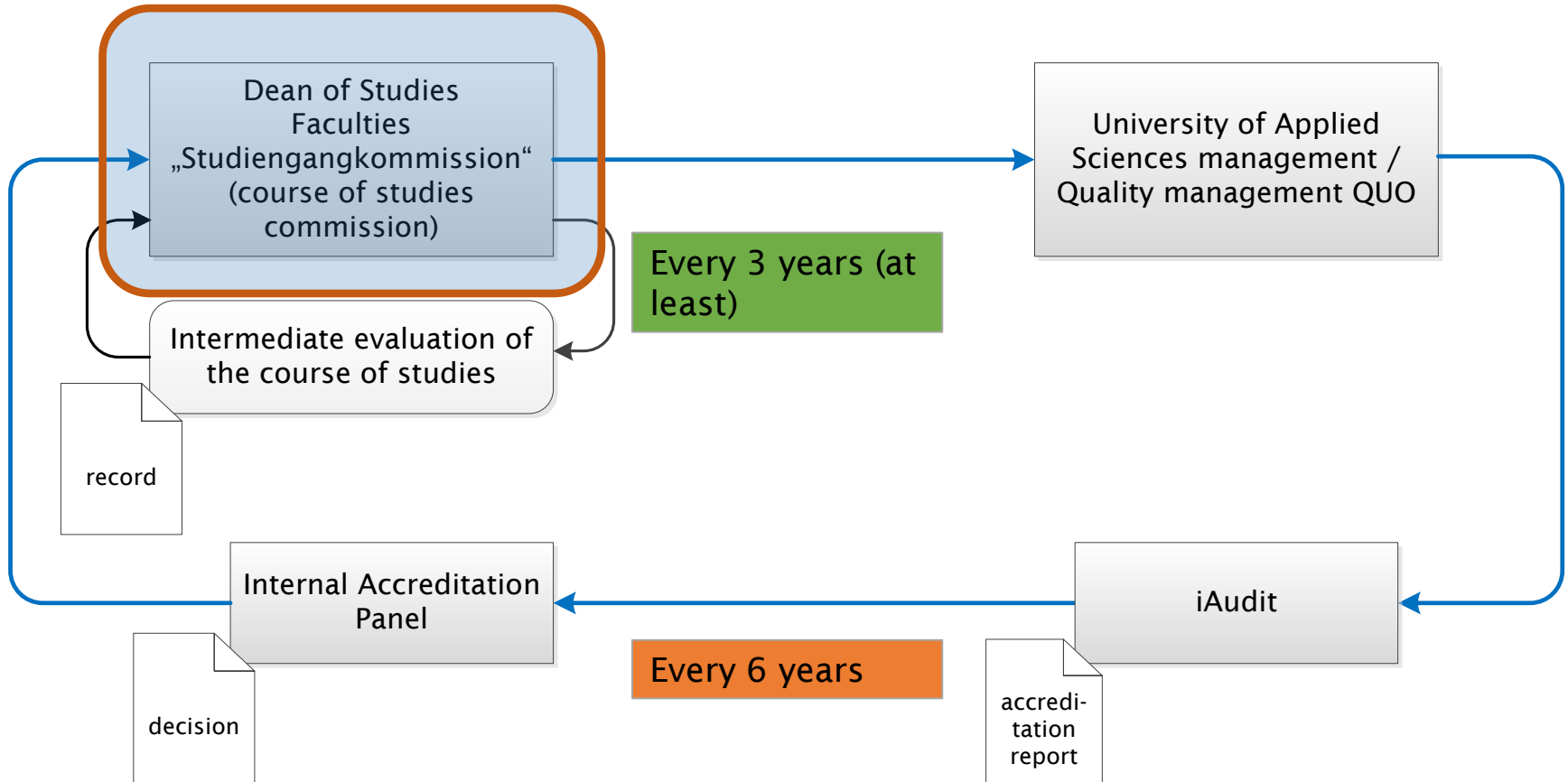
- Definition of the iSA process (internal process for awarding the seal of German accreditation council)
- System accreditation in Sep. 2017 by AQAS



Quality management and
process organisation



Course of studies commission



Task:

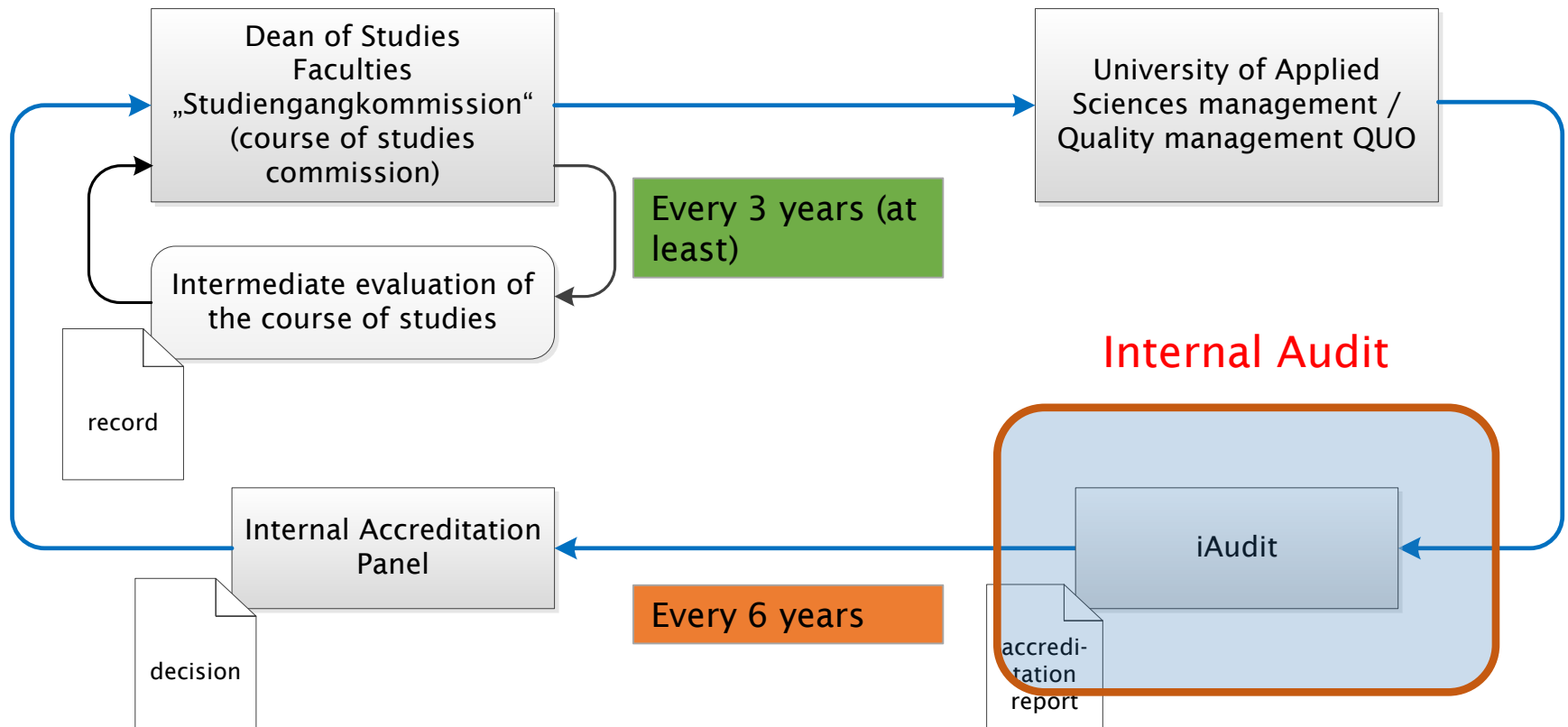
- Continuous development of study programmes
- Inclusion of all status groups within the university including representatives of professional practice and Alumni

Challenge

- Partially a new commission → process to establish itself
- Responsibility lies with the faculties → QM group has no direct responsibility

Experience

- Initial difficulties depending on faculty
- Adjustment with annual survey



Task:

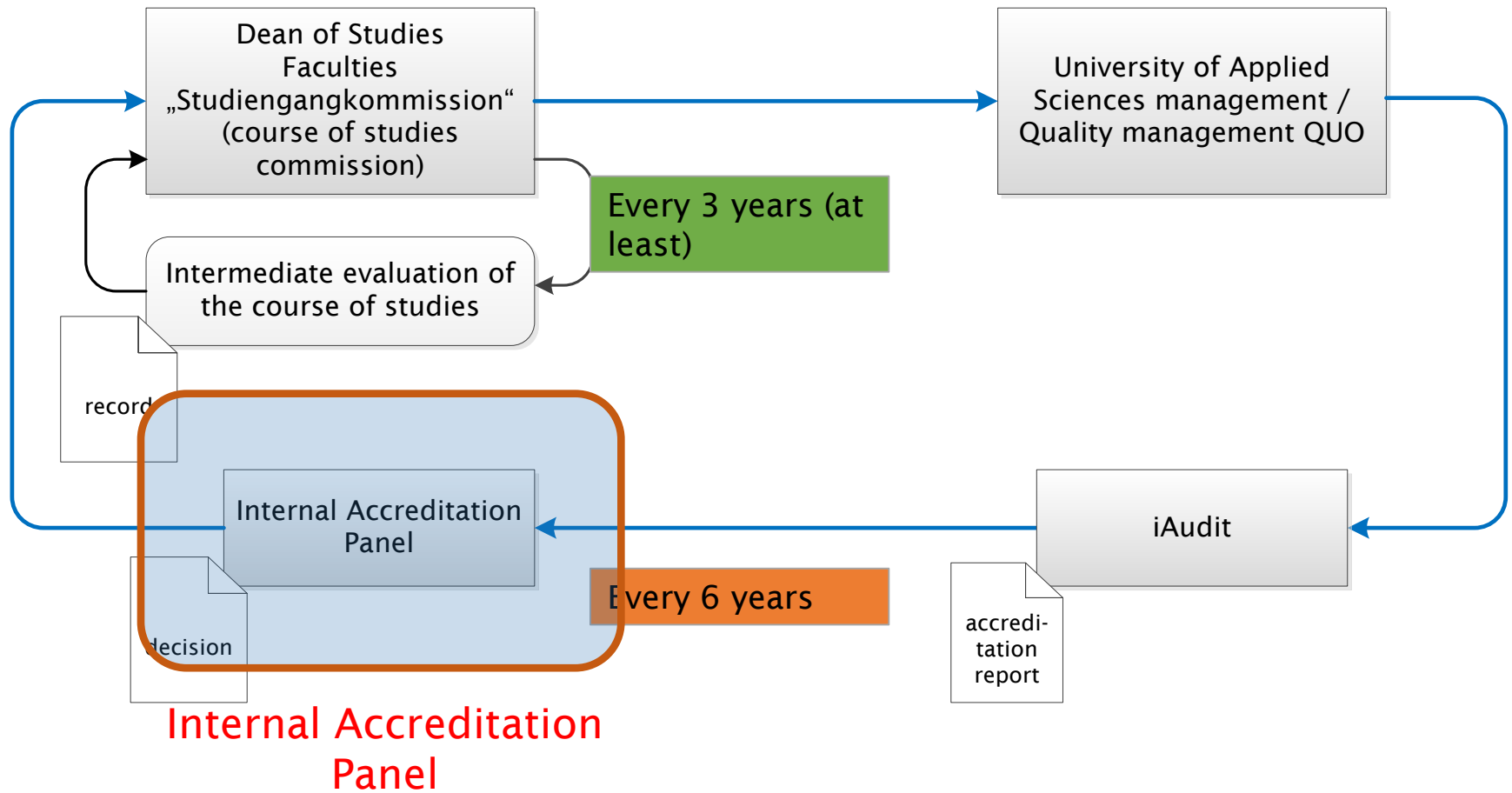
- Expert group for internal Audit
- Group consist of mostly external experts (objectivity), inclusion of all status groups within the university including representative of professional practice,
- Procedure: onsite visit, questioning of diverse status groups

Challenge

- Considerable effort for expert selection, drawing up of documentation, realisation and documenting of results for iAudit by central QM

Experience

- Reduced formal inputs for the faculties
- Consideration of specific u-requirements possible (flexibility)



Task:

- Decision based on accreditation report
- Timely decision on transparent basis of decision-making (accreditation report)
- Conclusion for fulfilment of obligations

Challenge

- Consists of internal university members of all status groups (partially with terms of office), every panel member has a proxy to ensure impartiality

Experience

- Considerable effort for realisation and documenting of results at least in initial phase
- Consideration of specific u-requirements (flexibility)

Conclusion - transition from programme to institutional (system) accreditation

- Overall responsibility has to lie with university management
- Consent of (almost) all function owners for change decision
- Existing internal QM system has to be adjusted and further developed through recommendations of a project group
- Chances of the internal QM system have to be transparently documented
- Processes and documents are consistent and apply for the whole university
- University's understanding for QM is strengthened
- Quality management is lived and continuously developed
- Requirement for additional central staff members and professional expertise

Thank you for your attention!

