

S A G V

GERMANISTENVERBAND IM SÜDLICHEN ARIKA

ASSOCIATION FOR GERMAN STUDIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONSTITUTION

(As amended on 23 April 2021)

1. NAME

The Association shall be styled the ASSOCIATION FOR GERMAN STUDIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (Germanistenverband im südlichen Afrika) and came into existence on the first day of May 1966 as the SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR GERMAN STUDIES (Südafrikanischer Germanistenverband).

2. CORPORATE BODY

The Association shall be an entity entirely separate from its members, shall continue to exist as such notwithstanding the loss of any members, and shall for all purposes have perpetual succession. No member shall have any rights in the property of the Association, the said property vesting in the Association, which shall have the capacity to own property and be vested with rights apart from its members, and to incur obligations, and which shall sue and be sued in its own name.

3. OBJECTS

The objects of the Association shall be the furtherance of the study of and research in German language and literature, by one or more or all of the following steps: national and international co-operation, affiliation to international associations for German studies, the support of research projects, the encouragement of personal contacts, the holding of conferences, meetings, discussions and enquiries, the publication of year-books, journals and other documentary material and the taking of such other steps as may from time to time be considered desirable. The Association shall be entitled to do all such things as may be necessary or desirable or incidental in order to achieve any of these objects. The Association supports within the framework of its objectives the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948 (resolution of the UN General Assembly, UN-Doc. 217/A(III))”.

4. MEMBERSHIP

(a) The following shall be eligible for membership of the Association:

(i) a professor or lecturer or holder of some other teaching post in German language or literature at any university in Southern Africa or worldwide, whether on the full- or part-time, or the permanent or temporary staff thereof;

- (ii) a teacher of German language or literature at any Government or provincial or private school or college in Southern Africa or worldwide, whether on the full- or part-time, or the permanent or temporary staff thereof;
- (iii) any post-graduate student, whether full-time or part-time, who has received an academic degree with German as a main subject;
- (iv) any person who in the past has satisfied the requirements set out in subparagraph (i), (ii), or (iii) above, or who in some other manner has displayed an interest in the furtherance of the study of and research in German language and/or literature.
- (v) local representatives of German institutions such as DAAD or Goethe Institut will be regarded as institutional members so that changes in personal representation of that institution do not affect the status of the membership.

(b) Every eligible person wishing to become a member of the Association shall make application to be admitted to membership in such manner as shall be decided by the Executive Committee, which shall have the unfettered discretion to decide whether he or she shall be admitted to membership.

(c) No person shall be admitted to membership until he or she has paid such subscriptions as are laid down in terms of this Constitution.

(d) Membership of the Association shall be terminated on the death of a member, or on his resignation by letter addressed to the Secretary or his ceasing in any way to be eligible for membership.

5. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

(a) The Executive Committee shall have the power to invite persons to become honorary members of the Association by virtue of their distinguished service in the furtherance of the study of and research in German language or literature, whether in Southern Africa or elsewhere.

(b) No person under the age of 65, who is eligible for membership of the Association in terms of Clauses 4. (a)(i), (ii), or (iii) hereof, shall be invited to become an honorary member.

(c) A person who accepts an invitation to become an honorary member of the Association shall not be entitled to any voting rights or be eligible for election to the Executive Committee, but in all other respects shall be entitled to full privileges of membership.

6. GENERAL MEETING OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

(a) A General Meeting of all members of the Association shall take place at least every second year during the congress or at a time to be determined by the Executive Committee. Written notice of the meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to all members at least three weeks before the appointed date.

(b) For the General Meeting 25% of the total number of members – albeit personally present or by proxy – shall constitute a quorum. No member shall be eligible to vote at a General Meeting or to be elected to any office while his subscription payments are in arrears.

(c) The following matters shall be dealt with at a General Meeting:

- (i) Reading and approval of the minutes of the previous General Meeting or Extraordinary Meeting;
- (ii) matters arising from the minutes;
- (iii) report of President and/or Secretary about activities of the Association since the last meeting;
- (iv) reports of the Editors of *Acta Germanica* and *eDeutschunterricht im südlichen Afrika*;
- (v) presentation of audited financial reports;
- (vi) election of members of the Executive Committee and office bearers for the following period of office (cf. 6.(d));
- (vii) proposals and recommendations to the incoming committee(s);
- (viii) appointment of an auditor for the following financial year/years;
- (ix) decision about date and locality for the next congress.

Note: The report referred to in (iii), (iv) and (v) above shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing not later than on the day of the beginning of a congress.

(d) The election of the Executive Committee:

A person's name shall not appear on a voting paper for election as an office bearer unless he or she has been proposed by one member of the Association and seconded by another member of the Association, and has given his consent to his nomination.

The election shall take place as follows:

- (i) The members present shall decide by show of hands which method of election (vide Par. 9. (d) shall be followed);
- (ii) the President is elected;
- (iii) the Vice-President is elected;
- (iv) four additional members are elected in a single ballot;
[The Executive Committee shall designate from amongst themselves who shall fill the posts of Secretary, Vice-Secretary and Treasurer.
The President has the casting vote in case of dissension.];]
- (v) The Editor, *Acta Germanica*, is elected;
- (vi) 3 Co-Editors, *Acta Germanica*, are elected;
- (vii) the Editor *eDUSA*, is elected;
- (viii) 3 Co-Editors, *eDUSA*, are elected;
- (ix) the Teachers Representative is elected.

The new President and the new Executive Committee shall take office at the end of the congress during which they are elected.

7. *Acta Germanica*

(a) An Editorial Committee shall be formed consisting of no more than four members in whose hands the edition of the yearbook ACTA GERMANICA shall lie. The Editorial Committee shall consist of the Editor and three Co-Editors.

The yearbook *Acta Germanica* shall be a research publication of a high standard. Therefore, the Editorial Advisory Board Committee should consist of distinguished specialists of international reputation. The Editor of said journal shall receive manuscripts for publication and act as Editor-in-charge. The Editor shall, in consultation with the Editorial Committee, see

to it that each manuscript is refereed by at least two specialists in the respective field of study. Double blind peer review shall be used in all cases.

The Editor shall prepare the manuscripts for publication, he or she shall represent the Editorial Committee towards the publishers in all technical and financial matters and shall be responsible to the General Meeting of all members of the Association. He or she shall supervise the distribution and sales promotion of the edition, and he or she shall apply for and administer, in conjunction with the Treasurer, any financial subsidies for the edition.

(b) In all matters regarding the acceptance of contributions the Editorial Committee shall act jointly and be jointly and severally liable under South African and International Law. The Editorial Committee shall have power to make its own rules. All decisions of the Editorial Committee, including the making and amendment of its rules, shall be taken by a majority of the total members of the Committee, who shall be approached by the Editor by, telephone, e-mail or other means of communication, or in person. In the case of a draw, the Editor shall have a casting vote. In cases where a member of the Editorial Committee is the contributor he/she shall, in accordance with common practice, recuse him/herself. In the event of the contribution being rejected by the Editorial Committee it shall be returned to the author with or without stating reasons for the refusal and with or without proposals for possible amendments. The Editorial Committee shall be responsible to the General Meeting of all members of the Association.

(c) The Editorial Committee shall be elected in terms of Par. 6. (c)(v) - (vi) of this Constitution.

(d) The Editorial Committee shall hold office for a term of four years. Each member of the Editorial Committee shall be eligible for re-election. (e) All members of the Editorial Committee shall, ex officio, be members of the Executive Committee of the Association for German Studies in southern Africa. (f) All members of the Association shall have access to each issue, either by receiving a free print copy or through access to a free electronic copy. The prices for additional copies for members and those sold to the public will depend on the general state of the market.

8. *eDUSA*

(a) Name: *eDUSA (eDeutschunterricht im südlichen Afrika)*

(b) Objects: This publication is an online journal. Its aim is to further the study of German language and literature and focus on new, relevant and modern methods and didactics and methodology in the learning and teaching of German and focus on new, relevant and modern methods, didactics and methodology in the learning and teaching of German by promoting:

(i) matters concerning teaching and learning as discussed in scholarly articles;

(ii) an interchange of ideas about teaching methods and aids:

(iii) the interpretation and discussion of prescribed works;

(iv) reviewing teaching manuals, school editions of text books, etc.;

(v) publishing information about: vacant posts, conferences of interest to German scholars, bursaries and grants available, etc.

See layout of *eDUSA*

(c) Mode of publication: A publication in the form of an online journal at least once annually.

(d) Distribution: (i) The publication shall be hosted on the Website of the Association. (ii) Back numbers are to be archived on the Website.

(e) Editorial Committee: The Editorial Committee shall consist of one Editor and three Co-Editors and shall be voted into office for four consecutive years at a General Meeting of the Association in terms of Par. 6. (c) (vii) - (viii) of this Constitution. The Editor shall – with such assistance as is necessary from the co-editors – request contributions, prepare the manuscripts and supervise the distribution of the edition. The Editorial Committee shall be responsible to the General Meeting of all members of the Association. Each member of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election. The Editor of *eDUSA* shall, *ex officio*, be a member of the Executive Committee of the Association. A casual vacancy among the office bearers shall be filled by the Editor in consultation with the President and the Secretary of the Association. Such an appointment is to be confirmed by the following General Meeting.

(f) Finances: The Executive Committee of the Association shall bear the responsibility for all financial transactions and expenses incurred in the publication of *eDUSA*.

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The management of the Association shall be vested in an Executive Committee, ‘consisting of the following office bearers: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Vice-Secretary, a Treasurer, one Additional Member, one Teacher’s Representative, and – *ex officio* – the Editor and Co-Editors of ACTA GERMANICA and the Editor of *eDUSA*.

(b) The Executive Committee, on behalf of the Association, shall have the following powers:

- (i) to open and operate accounts in Registered Banks;
- (ii) to acquire by purchase or otherwise, and to hire any movable or immovable property; to sell, let, mortgage and otherwise deal with or dispose of the Association’s movable and immovable property;
- (iii) to accept donations;
- (iv) to employ staff and to determine their remuneration and other conditions of service;
- (v) to decide whether an application for membership shall be accepted or not;
- (vi) to determine from time to time the amount of membership subscriptions;
- (vii) to administer all membership subscriptions, donations and grants, bequests and other capital and income belonging to the Association;
- (viii) such other powers as are necessary or desirable or incidental in order to fulfil the objects of the Association.

(c) The Executive Committee shall hold office for a term of four years. Each office-bearer shall be eligible for re-election, provided that no President or Vice-President shall be eligible for re-election for a third successive term of office.

(d) The office-bearers shall be elected at four-yearly intervals by the members of the Association from among their lot.

(e) Any casual vacancy among office-bearers shall be filled by the remaining members of the Executive Committee from among the members of the Association for the remaining period of office.

(f) The Executive Committee shall have power to make its own rules. All decisions of the Executive Committee, including the making and amendment of its rules, shall be taken by a

majority of the total members of the Committee, who shall be approached by the Secretary or the Vice-Secretary by e-mail or other means of communication or in person. In the case of equality of votes, the President shall have a casting vote.

(g) The Executive Committee shall discuss matters in connection with every congress by email and shall, as a matter of course, deal with the agenda of the next General Meeting and all matters relating to it. It shall cause Minutes to be kept of its decisions and shall transmit by email copies thereof to each member of the Committee.

10. FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

(a) All financial transaction of the Association shall be executed by the Treasurer and one other member of the Executive Committee. (b) The financial year of the Association shall be the period of twelve months ending on the last day of December of every year. (c) The accounts of the Association shall be audited at least once a year by a registered public accountant or auditor, appointed by the General Meeting of all Members (vide 6 (c) (viii)).

11. FAILURE TO TRANSMIT DOCUMENTS

Accidental failure or omission on the part of the Executive Committee or any of its members to transmit any voting paper or other document to any member of the Association or any member of the Executive Committee entitled thereto, shall not invalidate any proceedings.

12. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

A resolution to amend the Constitution of the SAGV may be proposed by no fewer than five members of the Association.

(a) Such proposed resolution shall either (i) be put before members of the Association by the Executive Committee for e-mail-vote, allowing between two and three weeks to cast a vote, and to be carried requires a two-thirds majority of such members as cast a vote, or (iii) the General Meeting of the Association shall have the power to amend the Constitution with a two-thirds majority of the members present at the meeting (including votes by proxy).

(b) No amendment to the Constitution in terms of Par. 12. (a) shall again be amended unless a period of two years has elapsed since the introduction of the original amendment. The interval between two General Meetings shall be considered, in terms of this proposal, as equal to the period of two years.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

A proposal to dissolve the Association may be submitted by no fewer than five of its Members. Such proposal shall be put before members of the Association by the Executive Committee for e-mail vote, allowing between two and three weeks to cast a vote, and to be carried, requires a two-thirds majority of the total number of members of the Association. The funds and assets of the Association, after payment of all creditors, shall, upon dissolution of the Association, go to such society, association or institution as the Executive Committee shall decide.