

Revision of the SIEF Bylaws

The Board proposes to the General Assembly (in Göttingen, 28 March 2017) the following revisions to the bylaws of the society:

Proposition I

Present **Article 7:** The membership fees are decided by the General Assembly. They should be paid by general members as well as by all participating members of SIEF Working Groups. The fee must be paid no later than 1st of March every year to the SIEF secretariat. Working Groups shall submit lists of its members to the secretariat.

Revised **Article 7:** The membership fees are decided by the Executive Board. Members must pay the fee no later than the 1st of March every year to the SIEF secretariat. Membership lapses if the fee is not paid.

Proposed change to Article 7: a) Authority to decide the membership fees is moved from the General Assembly to the Executive Board, which the General Assembly entrusts with the charge of running the society and making operational decisions, including on the society's budget; b) Reference to "all participating members of SIEF Working Groups" is dropped here; it is superfluous as only SIEF members can be members of SIEF Working Groups; c) the requirement for Working Groups to submit lists of its members to the secretariat is dropped from this article, as all items related to the Working Groups are united in a revised Article 13; d) a new last sentence is added, to the effect that "Membership lapses if the fee is not paid", which in effect is moved from the present Article 13 (which otherwise deals with Working Groups), which reads "Members who have not paid during two years will be expelled." The sentence is also rephrased from its present form in Article 13 to reflect actual practice; members are not currently expelled if they have not paid their dues, however their membership in the organization lapses.

Proposition II

Present **Art 8:** The organisational bodies of the Society shall include: (a) the General Assembly, (b) the Executive Board, (c) scholarly Working Groups. The office-holders of the Society shall be the President, an Executive Vice-President, a Vice-President, and 6-9 Board members at large who constitute together the Executive Board. All office-holders of the Society shall be elected by the General Assembly.

Revised **Art 8:** The organisational bodies of the Society shall include: (a) the General Assembly, (b) the Executive Board, (c) scholarly Working Groups. The office-holders of the Society shall be the President, an Executive Vice-President, a Vice-President (i.e. the Presidency), and 6-9 Board members at large who constitute together the Executive Board. All office-holders of the Society shall be elected by the General Assembly.

Proposed change to Article 8: To add parenthetically a reference to the Presidency, "(i.e. the Presidency)", a term that refers collectively to the President, Executive Vice-

President, and Vice-President and distinguishes them from Board members at large. This term is used later, in Art. 11, where it helps to define how term limits apply to different members of the Executive Board.

Proposition III

Turn around the order of the present articles 7 and 8. The latter defines the organisational bodies of the Society, while the former assigns particular roles to some of those bodies; they make better sense in the reverse order.

Proposition IV

Present **Article 9:** The General Assembly shall meet in connection with each congress of the Society. All members present may vote. The duties of the General Assembly shall be: (1) to elect for the period until the next General Assembly the President, the Vice-Presidents, and the members of the Executive Board, (2) to approve the accounts of the financial position of the Society (3) to give advice on time, place and topic of the next congress, (4) to set new membership fees, (5) to amend the bylaws, (6) to decide any other matter laid before it by the president and/or the Executive Board. The Executive Board may also refer any of the duties above to an online vote of all SIEF members between its congresses. In such cases, the decisions made by members in an online vote shall have the same standing as the decisions of the General Assembly at the society's congress.

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Proposed change to Article 9: delete point 4 (to set new membership fees) in keeping with revision to Article 7.

Proposition V

Present **Article 10:** Elections at the General Assembly will be held by show of hands. Nominations for the Executive Board of the Society, proposed and seconded by members of the Society and with the consent of the person nominated, should be received in written form by the Presidency at least 48 hours before the General Assembly convenes. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall be elected by the Executive Board from among their number.

Revised **Article 10:** Elections at the General Assembly will be held by show of hands. Nominations for the President and the Vice-Presidents, and Executive Board Members of the Society, proposed and seconded by members of the Society and with the consent of the person nominated, should be received in written form by the Presidency at least 48 hours before the General Assembly convenes.

Proposed change to Article 10: Nominations for the President and Vice-Presidents is enumerated separately from those for Executive Board Members in the second sentence. The last sentence is dropped to make clear that it is the General Assembly, and not the Executive Board, that elects the President and Vice-Presidents. This revision is in keeping with actual practice and it eliminates a contradiction within the bylaws, caused by the term limits set in Article 11, which binds elected members to a maximum of two terms in office as executive board members and two terms in office as President or Vice-President (except for the Executive Vice-President, who is exempt from term limits).

Proposition VI

Present **Article 11:** The Executive Board consists of the President, the Executive Vice-president, the Vice-president, the 6-9 members elected by the General Assembly. All Board members, including the President and the Vice-President are bound to a maximum of two terms. The Executive Vice-President, charged with secretarial affairs, can serve for more than two terms in the same position. One term is considered to be the period from one congress to the next. The 6-9 elected members should represent different regions of Europe as well as different schools and traditions of European ethnology. At least one of the members should be on the Board or presidency of one of SIEF's Working Groups. The Executive Board is the main organisational body of the Society. In between the congresses, the Board is responsible for the whole - administrative and scholarly - activity of the Society. The Executive Board shall prepare the meetings of the General Assembly and report about its activities to the Assembly.

Revised **Article 11:** The Executive Board consists of the President, the Executive Vice-president and the Vice-president, who together constitute the Presidency, and 6-9 General Board members, all of them elected by the General Assembly. Members of the Executive Board may serve no more than two terms in either section, i.e. the Presidency or as General Board members. However, the Executive Vice-President, charged with secretarial affairs, can serve for more than two terms in the same position. One term is considered to be the period from one congress to the next. The Executive Board should represent different regions of Europe as well as different schools and traditions of ethnology and folklore. At least one of the members should be on the Board or presidency of one of SIEF's Working Groups. The Executive Board is the main organisational body of the Society. In between the congresses, the Board is responsible for the whole – administrative and scholarly - activity of the Society. The Executive Board shall prepare the meetings of the General Assembly and report about its activities to the Assembly.

Proposed change to Article 11: a) The first two sentences are revised in order to clarify how the term limits apply (in keeping with current practice), i.e. that members can serve for no more than two terms on the executive board as General Board

Members, but that they may then serve in the Presidency; however, they are also bound to an upper limit of two terms in the Presidency, whether they serve as President or as Vice-President. No term limits apply, however, to the office of the Executive Vice-President, but that remains unchanged from the present article 11; b) in addition, the requirement that "The 6-9 elected members should represent different regions of Europe as well as different schools and traditions of European ethnology" is expanded to apply to all members of the Executive Board as a whole, including also the Presidency: "The Executive Board should represent different regions of Europe as well as different schools and traditions of ethnology and folklore."

Proposition VII

Present **Article 13**: Each Working Group appoints a member as a liaison person with the SIEF Board. Each Working Group must have a recognisable structure with a Board, regulations, periodical assemblies, yearly reports to the Board, a membership list and keep their records, which have to be submitted to the SIEF secretariat when they cease activities. If a Working Group is approved the new Working Group members will become paying members of SIEF. Members who have not paid during two years will be expelled.

Revised **Article 13**: Each Working Group must have a recognizable structure with a Working Group Board, regulations, and a membership list, which shall be submitted to the SIEF secretariat. Working Groups must organize periodical assemblies and provide yearly reports to the Executive Board. In addition, they must keep their records and submit them to the SIEF secretariat when they cease activities. The Working Groups are regulated by the statutes adopted by the SIEF Executive Board.

Proposed change to Article 13: a) drop the first sentence concerning the appointment of "liaison person" to communicate between Working Groups and the SIEF Executive Board; the chairs of the Working Groups in effect play this role, and appointing a particular liaison is superfluous; b) move the last sentence "Members who have not paid during two years will be expelled" to Article 7, which deals with membership fees, and rephrase such that instead of "expelling" members, reference is made to the expiration of membership; c) reference is made in the last sentence to the Statutes for Working Groups adopted by the SIEF Executive Board - this reflects current practice and grounds the statutes in the bylaws; d) other revisions here are not substantive, but seek to bring more clarity to the phrasing of this article.

Proposition VIII

Present **Article 17**: The congress of the Society should be held at least every three years. The organisation of the congress shall be entrusted to a local organising committee consisting of local members, the president, vice-presidents and 1-2 members of the executive board, as well as the secretariat of the Society.

Revised **Article 17**: The congress of the Society is to be held every two years; it shall be held at least every three years. The organisation of the congress shall be entrusted

to a local organising committee. The Executive Board appoints the Scientific Committee consisting of members of the local committee and members of the SIEF executive board.

Proposed change to Article 13:a) To reflect current practice, according to which the SIEF international congress is a biennial event and not a triennial event as it once was, while still allowing the Executive Board some flexibility should that be needed under unusual circumstances, the first sentence, "The congress of the Society should be held at least every three years", is here revised to: "The congress of the Society is to be held every two years; it shall be held at least every three years"; b) To distinguish between the local organising committee for the congress, on the one hand, and the scientific committee for the congress on the other hand: the scientific committee consists of members of the local organising committee AND of members of the society's executive board. This is in keeping with current practice.

Proposition IX

Present **Article 20:** These new Bylaws are effective as of September 12, 2014.

Revised **Article 20:** These Bylaws are effective as of March 28, 2017.

Proposed change to Article 13: To reflect the date of the General Assembly in Göttingen at which the board proposes these revisions.