

The Society for Women in Natural Sciences

Constitution of The Society for Women in Natural Sciences (WiNS)

1. Legal Basis

The Society for Women in Natural Sciences (WiNS) is an organization according to Art. 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Law (Schweizerischen Zivilgesetzbuches, ZGB).

Article 3 of the Swiss Equality Act (Bundesgesetz über die Gleichstellung von Frau und Mann), stipulates clearly that adequate measures to achieve real equality shall not constitute discrimination: "Angemessene Massnahmen zur Verwirklichung der tatsächlichen Gleichstellung stellen keine Diskriminierung dar."

The board and all members of WiNS are not liable with their private belongings.

2. Mission Statement

WiNS focuses on encouraging women working in the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences (DCHAB) at ETH Zürich to stay in science. The society is composed of female students and scientific staff in DCHAB.

WiNS is a networking platform for women working in DCHAB. Networking is defined as both social and scientific internal events within DCHAB and social and scientific external events with possible future employers from industry and other commercial and non-commercial entities. WiNS promotes the interests of women working in DCHAB and promotes a scientifically and socially constructive environment for women. WiNS is religiously neutral.

3. Membership

The members of WiNS consist of all the female scientific staff of DCHAB who are subscribed to the WiNS mailing list. The board of WiNS will grant exceptions upon request by an individual. The GA can grant honorary memberships to persons who have shown extraordinary merit. It can also exclude members, giving detailed reasoning.

4. Organs

The organs of WiNS are the General Assembly (GA) and the board.

4.1. General Assembly (GA)

The GA includes all members of WiNS and is the highest authority of the society. There are ordinary and special General Assemblies. The GA is responsible for the activities of the society. It supervises the work of the board.

The GA has the following tasks and rights:

a) It elects the president and the board members.

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- b) It elects a financial controller.
- c) It approves or disapproves the annual budget and expenditures.
- d) It absolves the board for the passed financial year.
- e) It appoints members and heads of commissions and defines the scope and aim of their work.
- f) It is the highest instance in all questions regarding the society.
- g) Amendments to the constitution.
- h) Termination of the society.

The ordinary GA meets at least once a year to deal with the following:

- a) Report from the board regarding the activities of WiNS.
- b) If needed: Reports of the commissions.
- c) Absolve the board.
- d) Election of the president and board and votes.
- e) Other business, which can be determined by the board or asked for by any member by written request at least two weeks before the GA.
- f) Miscellaneous.

The notification of the date of the date of the GA must be sent to all members at least two weeks in advance, including the provisional agenda. The notification of a special GA can be requested by the majority of the board or by 20 % of all members. The agenda has to be sent to all members by the board at least 2 weeks prior to the special GA. The president (or if absent a member of the board) is the chairman of the GA. The GA is public. Only members of WiNS have the right to vote and eligibility in questions regarding the society. Every member has the right to propose motions. Motions for changes in the constitution have to be proposed to the board at least three weeks in advance of a GA, and to all members at least two weeks in advance of a GA.

4.2. Board

The board is the executive organ of the society. It is composed of the president, up to two vice-presidents, the treasurer and additional board members. The WiNS board must be composed of a president and a treasurer. Vice-president/s and additional board members are decided upon at the General Assembly.

All members of WiNS are eligible to be part of the board. All board members are elected once a year. If possible, there should be a board member representative of all five institutes of DCHAB. The GA can replace board members, also during a period of office. Re-election is possible.

The president represents WiNS. The president and an additional member of the board can together give legally valid signatures.

The board is bound to fulfil the decisions of the GA. In addition, the board can make its own decisions based on the outcomes from the GA. A majority of the

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present board members is necessary for a decision. Each decision is written down into a report.

Board members have the right to get reimbursed for expenses linked to their duties upon application to the board.

4.3. Commissions

For the study of specific questions or for the carrying out of specific tasks, the GA can appoint or terminate commissions at any time. They work under the supervision of a board member.

5. Finances

The regular income of WiNS consists of funds raised from sponsors. Membership fees are decided at the GA. The possible minimum amount can be 0 CHF. The financial year starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st of the calendar year. A financial controller is elected at the GA and he/she carries out the review of the financial accounts. WiNS has the right, within the framework of its constitution and the guidelines of the ETH, to find other sources of income. The society cannot acquire debts.

6. Financial review

The financial controller cannot be part of the board. Their time of office is one year. Re-election is possible. The financial controller checks the annual expenditures and reports the analysis to the GA.

7. Liability

There is no liability to members or to the board.

8. Amendments to the Constitution, Termination

8.1. Amendments to the Constitution

For an amendment to the constitution to be valid, a majority of two thirds of the members present at the GA is needed.

8.2. Termination

The termination of the society can be decided by a majority of two thirds of its members. This has to be announced in advance together with the notification of the GA. In case of termination, the remaining revenue of the society goes to a society with a similar mission (i.e. the promotion of women in science), which will be chosen by the GA.

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9. Final information

This constitution of The Society for Women in Natural Sciences comes into force on March 11th, 2014.

Zürich, March 7th, 2014.