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Statute
of the Swiss Conference of Rectors of Schools for Teacher Education (SCTE)

I. GENERAL

Art. 1 *Name*

Under the name, "Swiss Conference of Rectors of Schools for Teacher Education" (SCTE), the rectors of the cantonal and inter-cantonal Schools of Teacher Education are uniting in an inter-cantonal academic conference with headquarters in Bern, according to Art. 23 of the statute of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) of March 2, 1995.

Art. 2 *Goals and Duties*

The SCTE

a. Representing the Schools of Teacher Education (Paedagogische Hochschulen) as well as institutions in the tertiary area with a comparable mandate and thus the interests of teacher education in the execution and further development of the EDK recommendations for teacher education of October 26, 1995 regarding political authorities, pedagogical, social, cultural, and economic organizations as well as the public.
   It is a partner to the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) and the Swiss Conference of the Universities of Applied Sciences (KFH),
b. Promoting coordination, establishment, and the further development of the Schools of Teacher Education and supports their integration into the higher education system,
c. Constituting a national platform for the exchange of information and experience by the chief executives of Schools of Teacher Education,
d. Supporting inter-cantonal coordination and cooperation in teacher education at all levels and, in so doing, takes the sensitivity and special features of the various language regions into account,
e. Providing for cooperation in the area of quality management,
f. Advising the EDK on all issues of teacher education, works out positions, undertakes representation domestically and abroad, and fulfills responsibilities of the EDK,
g. Promoting the development and implementation of higher education didactics to ensure future-oriented teacher education,
h. Supporting the training and continuing education of lecturers as well as the mobility of teachers and students,
i. Assuming its share of the responsibility for maintaining the image of the profession and its perception by the public,
j. Promoting contacts and the exchange of information with teacher education institutions abroad,
k. Shall take a public position on professional issues, which concern the coordination among the institutions of higher learning, [1)]
l. Supporting the reciprocal crediting of academic achievements at higher education institutions, and
m. Cooperating with other organizations that support the education system.

[1)] Amendment from 10 November 2004; effective 8 April 2005

Art. 3 *Members of the Conference*

[1] The rectors (operational directors) of the Schools of Teacher Education are by virtue of their offices voting members of the SCTE.
[2] If a canton has two Schools of Teacher Education, their rectors each have half a vote.
[3] If a university conducts teacher education in whole or in part, it appoints a person from the chief executive level as a member of the SCTE. The general membership controls the right to vote with a two-thirds majority of all members, in analogous application of paragraphs 1 and 2.
[4] The rectors from other recognized teacher education institutions with higher education status may be accepted into the general membership with a two-thirds majority of all the members. This body controls the right to vote in analogous application of paragraphs 1 and 2.
[5] The members of the SCTE exercise their office personally.

II. ORGANIZATION

Art. 4 *Bodies*

The bodies of the SCTE are:
a. the General Membership,
b. the Executive Board, and
c. the Secretariat.

A. General Membership

Art. 5 *Organization*

[1] The general membership meets at least three times per year. It is convened by the President of the SCTE. One-fourth of the members may request a special meeting.
[2] The President and the Vice-President each represent different language regions.
[3] The General Secretary of the Conference as well as representatives of the EDK Secretariat participates in general membership sessions with a consultative voice. They have the right to present matters for business.
[4] The general membership has a quorum when the majority of its members are present. It makes its decisions with a simple majority of the members present. The president votes as well. He or she has the deciding vote in case of a tied vote. Changes in the statute require two-thirds of the votes.
[5] In exceptional circumstances decisions may be reached by means of correspondence.

Art. 6 *Duties*

The general membership in particular is responsible for
a. handling the business that is brought before it by the Executive Board,
b. deciding the program of activities,
c. approving the budget and the accounts to the attention of the Board of the swiss universities of applied sciences of the EDK, [2)]
d. approving the annual report,
e. electing the executive board, the president and the vice-president of the Conference,
f. deciding the business sent to the Conference for comment,
g. deciding about the acceptance of new members and, in so doing, determining the right to vote,
h. deciding about the appointment of commissions and the standing working groups and defining their responsibilities (non-members of the SCTE may take a seat on these working instruments of the Conference),
i. electing the General Secretary, and
j. deciding on changes in the statutes for the attention of the EDK Executive Board.

[2)] Amendment from 10 November 2004; effective 8 April 2005

B. Executive Board

Art. 7 *Organization*

[1] The Executive Board consists of five members, who are elected to a term off two years. Re-election is possible. French Switzerland and Ticino are entitled to two seats.
[2] The Executive Board constitutes itself. It is presided over by the President, or in case of impediment, by the Vice-President of the SCTE. He or she convenes the Executive Board as the occasion demands. Three members of the Executive Board may request the convening of a special session.
[3] The Executive Board has a quorum, if the majority of the members are present. It makes its decisions with the simple majority of members present. The President does not vote. He or she has the deciding vote in case of a tied vote.
[4] In exceptional circumstances decisions may be reached by means of correspondence.
[5] The general secretary of the Conference as well as representatives of the EDK Secretariat participates in general membership sessions with a consultative voice. They have the right to put forward business for discussion.

Art. 8 *Duties*

The Executive Board is responsible for
a. conducting the business of the Conference,
b. deciding about the appointment of non-standing working as well as expert groups and defining their responsibilities (non-members of the SCTE may take a seat on these working instruments of the Conference),
c. selecting the staff of the Secretariat, and
d. performing all duties or make all decisions that are not explicitly allotted to the general membership.

C. Secretariat

Art. 9 *Secretariat*

The Secretariat of the SCTE has its headquarters in Bern. It is managed in consultation with and with the administrative support of the EDK Secretariat and in cooperation with the Secretariats of the Swiss Conference for the Fachhochschulen (KFH) and the Swiss Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS).

III. FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 10 *Financing*

[1] The SCTE is financed by the sponsors of the Schools for Teacher Education, consistent with the population numbers of the cantons participating in the respective Schools for Teacher Education.
[2] The EDK Executive Board controls the financial payments of the members according to article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4.
[3] The EDK participates in the expenditures, in particular through infrastructure payments.
[4] The SCTE acts independently within the scope of its approved budget.

Art. 11 *Interim Provisions*

The respective project directors from cantons and regions, who are in the act of establishing Schools for Teacher Education, whose rectors have not yet been elected or are not yet in office, are members of the SCTE.

Art. 12 *Entry into Effect*

This statute takes effect with its approval by the participants at the assembly on 18 January 2002 and upon approval by the Executive Board of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) on 3 May 2002.

Bern, 18 January 2002

Swiss Conference of Rectors of Schools for Teacher Education (SCTE)

President pro tem	Secretary pro tem
Andrea Jecklin	Alexandre Etienne

Approved by the EDK board of directors on 3 May 2002
Amendments approved by the EDK board of directors on 8 April 2005