



SGKM
Schweizerische Gesellschaft
für Kommunikations-
und Medienwissenschaft

SSCM
Société suisse des sciences
de la communication
et des médias

SSCM
Società svizzera di scienze
della comunicazione
e dei media

SACM
Swiss Association
of Communication and
Media Research


Member of the Swiss Academy
of Humanities and Social Sciences
www.sagw.ch

Statutes

(The English version is a translation of the German original document. The German original document of the statutes is the legally valid version.)

I. Principles

Article 1 Status

1. The Association known as "Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research (SACM) / Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Kommunikations- und Medienwissenschaft (SGKM)/ Société suisse des sciences de la communication et des médias (SSCM)/ Società svizzera di scienze della comunicazione e dei media (SSCM)/ Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research (SACM)" was established in accordance with Article 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code.
2. SACM is a politically-neutral, non-denominational, non-profit organization.
3. SACM is a member of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (Schweizerischen Akademie der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften - SAGW).

Article 2 Seat

SACM has its seat at the President's place of work.

Article 3 Aims

1. SACM is concerned with the scientific analyses of public communication with a primarily social sciences bias.
2. SACM specifically aims to:
 - a. promote and strengthen teaching and research in the fields of communication and media science in Switzerland;
 - b. protect the common interests of Swiss communication and media science in the face of political and scientific authorities and institutions;
 - c. make the position of communication and media science publicly visible;
 - d. spread communication and media scientific knowledge through own events and publications;
 - e. take charge over common research projects;
 - f. exchange information about work schemes, research projects and research results, and
 - g. collaborate with institutions and organizations of related special fields and the industry.

II. Membership

Article 4 Principles

1. All persons of legal age who are interested in communication and media science and have a relation to Switzerland may become a member of SACM.
2. Legal entities or public institutions which are Swiss or active in Switzerland and which support the Association's aims can join SACM by applying for collective group membership. Collective group members designate three persons who will observe the rights and duties as members.
3. Entities from universities or universities of applied sciences can join SACM as institutional members. The payment of a basic fee allows employees of the entity to apply for membership at half the amount of the normal membership fee; full-time lecturers and professors pay three quarters of the amount.
4. Students pay half the normal membership fees.
5. Meritorious members can be named honorary members by the Executive Board. They are exempt from membership fees.

Article 5 Admission

1. The Board of Directors makes decisions regarding membership applications.
2. If an application is denied, the person or institution concerned may seek a recourse at the General Assembly.

Article 6 Termination

1. Membership is terminated in the event of death or voluntary withdrawal.
2. Withdrawal is possible by submitting a simple, written statement by 1 October at the end of the respective calendar year.
3. Members who repeatedly fail to pay fees or violate the statutes or resolutions of SACM may be excluded by the Board of Directors.
4. In the event of an expulsion, the concerned person may appeal to the General Assembly.

III. Finances

Article 7 Funding

1. Financial funding of SACM is made up of:
 - a. the Association's capital;
 - b. the annual membership fees;
 - c. subsidies from the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (Schweizerischen Akademie der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften - SAGW);
 - d. donations, bequests and gifts;
 - e. proceeds from the sale of publications, conventions and courses;
 - f. interest yield.

Article 8 Obligations

1. All income and assets may only be used to promote the aims of the Association.
2. The Association property is solely liable for debt incurred by SACM.

IV. Association Body

Article 9 Structure

1. SACMA is comprised of the following bodies:
 - a. the General Assembly;
 - b. the Executive Board;
 - c. the Board of Directors;
 - d. the Auditors;
 - e. the Council of Lecturers.

Article 10 Procedure

1. The same rules of procedure apply to all bodies with the exception of the Auditors.
2. Within the bodies, minutes are taken for all negotiations and proceedings. The Executive Secretary is responsible for the minutes.
3. Provided that no other motion has been made, voting is carried out by open ballot. A majority of valid voters is required for a decision. In the event of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.
4. Provided that no other motion has been made, elections are carried out by secret ballot. The absolute majority applies for the first ballot and the relative majority applies for the second ballot. In the event of a tie vote, the President settles the decision by lot.

Article 11 The General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the highest body of SACM.
2. It is obliged to:
 - a. determine the statutes and their revision;
 - b. elect the Executive Board, the Board of Directors and auditors;
 - c. approve the annual report, the annual accounts and the audit report;
 - d. determine the membership fee;
 - e. approve the activity program and the budget;
 - f. pass basic resolutions;
 - g. treat motions made by members;
 - h. treat recourses against acceptance and exclusion decisions made by the Board of Directors .
3. The General Assembly is open to all members.

4. The statutory General Assembly is held once a year within the first half of the calendar year. Extraordinary General Assemblies are held at the order of the Board of Directors or the Executive Board, by request of the Auditors or one fifth of the members. The Board of Directors shall call a General Assembly no less than ten days before the assembly date. The meeting agenda shall be enclosed with the invitation.

Article 12 The Executive Board

1. The Executive Board is comprised of Board of Directors and a maximum of twelve other members. When forming the board, science and experience, universal and applied research as well as region are to be taken into consideration.
2. Its members are elected to a four-year term at the General Assembly. They may be re-elected twice.
3. It meets at least twice annually. The President of SACM presides over the meetings.
The Executive Board is obliged to:
 - a. determine publication and event policy concepts, representation of interests and public relations work;
 - b. appoint the Editorial Board of the journal;
 - c. decide on policy papers;
 - d. rule on expenditure decisions which exceed the amounts fixed for the Board of Directors;
 - e. pass motions for the attention of the General Assembly;
 - f. elect permanent delegates for Swiss and international scientific bodies of experts.

Article 13 The Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors is comprised of six members, namely the President, the Vice-President, the Executive Secretary, the Treasurer and the two Editors of the journal. It is the executive body of SACM.
2. Its members are elected to a four-year term at the general meeting. They may be re-elected once.
3. Professors of Swiss universities and colleges are eligible to be elected President.
4. The President is responsible for the early recognition of problems, encourages discussions and acts on behalf of SACM externally.
5. The Vice-President supports the President in securing the interests of SACM.
6. The Executive Secretary is in charge of administrative duties, takes the minutes and co-signs official documents with the President.
7. The Treasurer manages SACM finances.
8. The two Editors – together with two representatives from the Faculty of Communication Sciences at the University of Lugano – are in charge of the editorial concerns of the journal "Studies in Communication Sciences" (SComS).
9. The Board of Directors meets at regular intervals.
10. The Board of Directors is obliged to:
 - a. manage the current duties;
 - b. decide on the admission and exclusion of members;
 - c. arrange for the organization of conventions;
 - d. define expenditure decisions within the framework of the amounts laid out by the Executive Board;
 - e. ensure – together with the Faculty of Communication Sciences at the University of Lugano – the publication of the journal "Studies in Communication Sciences" (SComS);
 - f. prepare the duties of the Executive Board and the General Assembly;
 - g. protect the interests of SACM externally.
11. In looking for solutions to concrete problems, the Board of Directors may set up work groups comprised of SACM members.

Article 14 The Auditors

1. The General Assembly elects two Auditors from among SACM members. It may also entrust this task to juristic or natural persons outside of SACM.
2. The Auditors check the annual accounts and bring forward a written proposal to the General Assembly whether a justification should be issued.

Article 15 The Council of Lecturers

1. The Council of Lecturers is comprised of professors and other lecturers in the area of communication and media science who teach at Swiss universities and universities of applied sciences and are members of SACM. Lecturers are all permanent employed workers with a central obligation in teaching.
2. It meets once annually. The President of SACM presides over the meetings.

3. The Council of Lecturers is obliged to:
 - a. discuss common questions regarding teaching, research, services and encouragement of young talent;
 - b. ensure the information flow regarding changes in curriculum and teaching methods;
 - c. coordinate between institutes and promote bilateral and multilateral collaboration;
 - d. ensure student exchange and mutual recognition of proof of performance;
 - e. to relate to SACM the concerns for the representation of interests of this subject in the face of political and scientific authorities.
4. The President of SACM gives a report to the Executive Board on the activities of the Council of Lecturers.

V. Revision, Dissolution and Effective Date

Article 16 Statutes revision

1. The statutes may only be revised by the General Assembly if the revision is on the agenda and members have received written notice of the motions 20 days prior.
2. The revision of statutes requires a two-thirds majority of the members present.

Article 17 Dissolution

1. SACM can only be dissolved by the General Assembly if the dissolution is on the agenda and members have received written notice of the motion 30 days prior.
2. Dissolution requires a three-quarter majority of the members present.
3. SACM assets are to be remitted to institutes with similar aims. All contributions of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (Schweizerischen Akademie für Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften - SAGW) are to be restored.
4. If 25 members request it not later than one month after the General Assembly agenda has been sent out, a strike ballot must be presented to the members on the motion to dissolve. Approval of dissolution requires a majority of voters.

Article 18 Effective date

These statutes supersede the statutes of April 11, 2003. They were approved by the General Assembly on April 3, 2008 and came into immediate effect on that date.

President: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Siegert, Ececutive Secretary: Dr. Karin Puehringer