

Explanations of the changes in the Statutes

Together with the University of St.Gallen, HSG Alumni is committed to the promotion of lifelong learning and the creation of an HSG community. These efforts are being formalised in the context of the revision of the University Act and the University Statutes and also require a fundamental adaptation of our Statutes, which were last amended on 17 May 2018.

This report explains the essential changes. Mere editorial adjustments of provisions will not be treated in detail below. The article numbers refer to the articles of the revised Statutes.

A. Membership

The Statutes now distinguish between three membership categories: “active members”, “community members” and “honorary members” (Art. 5(1)).

Community membership is a kind of “free membership” without any further obligations, but with the advantage of already being linked up with HSG Alumni during a degree course and retaining ties to the University through HSG Alumni after graduation. In this way, we would already like to involve all the students enrolled at the University of St.Gallen without their having to pay a membership fee, and later keep in contact with the graduates who are not able to opt for active membership yet without their having to make an active contribution. Community membership enables current and former students to be members unless they waive this membership (Art. 5(4)). Since there are no obligations (Art. 5(5)), it is assumed that the association will retain more persons, which is conducive to the attainment of its objects. Community members do not have a vote (Art. 5(5)).

Students are already able to profit from HSG Alumni’s services now without the membership required for this being regulated. Through the new division between categories, students can be granted community membership.

As before, **active members** will be graduates of the University of St.Gallen who have joined the association and are actively involved in HSG Alumni and make use of our services. Active members are paying members who have the vote and make an active contribution to the advancement of the association’s objects (Arts. 17(1), 5(2)). The membership fee is determined annually by the General Meeting (Art. 17(1)). Active membership is the equivalent of membership in accordance with the currently applicable Statutes. What is new is that not all the graduates of other universities can join if they were enrolled at the HSG. The new regulations explicitly refer to exchange students who have studied at the HSG for at least one semester and have obtained a degree from their home university (Art. 5(3(3))). The Executive Board can also stipulate a longer minimum study period or grant active membership to further individuals (Art. 5(3(3 and 5))). The intention is to grant membership especially to people who have particular ties to the University of St.Gallen.

The Executive Board can grant community membership to further categories of persons (Art. 5(4)).

The new Statutes also provide that **honorary members** can be appointed. This is done by the General Meeting. Their status will be regulated by the Executive Board (Art. 5(6)).

B. Means for the attainment of the association's object

To attain its object, HSG Alumni may now be able to hold shares in companies and found companies (Art. 4(2)). This is being done already and will now be explicitly regulated.

C. Resignation

Membership will expire through resignation, expulsion or death (Art. 6(1)). Resignation of a changeover from active membership to community membership is intended to be possible by declaration submitted by e-mail at any time (Art. 6(2 and 3)). These regulations facilitate the administrative implementation of changes from active membership to community membership if someone fails to pay the annual membership fee and thus also the adaptation of the use of services.

D. Organisation of the association

The association can organise itself in subgroups (chapters, clubs or national organisations) (Art. 7). The regulation of this will be incumbent on the Executive Board. The Executive Board regulates the organisation of the association in subgroups, issues regulations for this purpose, including the regulation of competencies (Art. 11(2(9))). The Executive Board also appoints the functionaries of the subgroup and can also dismiss them (Art. 11(2(10))). This is already being done in this way and will now be regulated explicitly by the Statutes.

E. General Meeting

As the number of members has grown a great deal by now, the threshold for convening an Extraordinary General Meeting will be raised from 100 to 500 voting members (Art. 9(2)). To date, the invitation, the tabling of motions and the conduct of the General Meeting have not been regulated explicitly. Now, it will be possible for invitations to be sent by e-mail, and a period of 15 days has been set (Art. 9(4)).

Also, the General Meeting can take place through suitable technical platforms (Art. 9(6)). It would be equally admissible to make decisions by video conference and by circular resolution via letter post, e-mail or online survey (Art. 10(4)). The clear regulations simplify and extend the options for the General Meeting.

F. Executive Board

The number of board members has been made more flexible (Art. 11(1)). In addition, board meetings can also be conducted virtually through suitable technical platforms or by telephone. Decisions regarding motions can then also be made by circular resolution via letter post or e-mail (Art. 11(3)).

G. Services provided by the association

The provision of services to members has been enshrined in the Statutes (Art. 18(1)). The use of services provided by the association may be subject to payment and/or reserved for active members. Details will be regulated by the Executive Board. (Art. 18(2)).

H. Data protection

The treatment of personal data was not regulated in the currently applicable Statutes. This is an important prerequisite for the gathering of data of enrolled students and graduates of the University of St.Gallen. For this purpose, additional detailed regulations for the treatment of personal data will be laid down in Data Processing Regulations (Art. 19(1)), which will also be adopted by the General Meeting. This is intended to create complete transparency about the processing of personal data by HSG Alumni.

A central point is the authorisation to pass on member data to the University of St.Gallen (Art. 19(2)). Members' contact data are accessible to other members unless a member has objected to this publication (Art. 19(3)). The public publication of members' contact data or disclosing member data for commercial purposes requires the consent of the members concerned (Art. 19(4)). Communication with members is conducted by e-mail or other electronic means of communication. Members make their current e-mail address available for this purpose (Art. 19(5)). The inclusion of data protection in the Statutes will guarantee that the data will be processed legitimately.