

## Minutes NACS 41st General Assembly, 21.9.19 – Gothenburg – Sweden.

### 1. Opening:

- a) The president of NACS Tore Holte Follestad opened the meeting.

### 2. The General Assembly chose Sigga Dögg and Tiina Vilponen as secretaries.

### 3. The General Assembly chose Thore Langfeldt and Suzann Larsdotter as adjusters, Maria Carola-Bure and Hanna Möllås as tellers.

### 4. Approval of the agenda

The president of NACS asked the possibility to add the Danish Sexological Association (DSS) application of membership to the agenda.

Tellers counted the votes:

- a) Adding the application to the agenda: 68 for, 3 against, 5 abstain
- b) Comment: We yet do not have a procedure, suggesting to postpone next NACS General Assembly.
- c) Approved adding the application to the agenda.

### 5. Approval of the minutes 2018

- a) Comment: The DACS do not have a new gender identity clinic, but the government has.
- b) Approved.

### 6. Welcome address by the president of NACS. Tore Holte Follestad and the swedish co-president Lennie Lindberg changed the order.

- a) The president welcomed everybody. He thanked the board and those who founded NACS.

### 7. Welcome address from SFS

- a) Lennie Lindberg welcomed the general assembly by Swedish and English and told about the productive work of the Board and support for the new statutes. There had been concerns related to representation and democracy, but with the new amendment the situation is resolved.

### 8. Comments on the reports from the national societies

- a) Comment: The Honorary Norwegians commented not having receiving AGM documents.

Answer: The president replied to them in Norwegian.

- b) Reports approved.

### 9. and 10. Reports from the authorization committees

- a) NACSAC: chair Knut Hermstad read a report, shared the number of the new authorized people and told about the changes in the criteria (see attachment). He also addressed the need for a new web page.

- b) Knut Hermstad commented on the absence of the report from NACSES. There was no possibility to access the archive of the NACSES report for the previous chair of the committee has not released them.



## 11. Revision of the Statutes:

- a) The president of NACS and the SFS vice chair had an introductory to explain the need for new statutes (see attachment).
- b) They explained why Finland is the country that NACS will be registered in: the board wants the NACS to be registered in a EU country due to the possibility to apply for funding and grants within the EU.
- c) They explained the order to discuss the versions of statutes: Statutes number 1 is the current version, statutes number 2 are the new statutes that were emailed prior to the AGM, statutes number 3 are the amendments done by the board.
- d) Comment: the speaker thanked the board.
- e) Comment: Some honorary Norwegian members did not have the statutes, and they were emailed to them.
- f) Comment: thank you for the work done by the board and the need for professional organization that is registered. It is important to protect the title of sexologists.
- g) The president showed the list of what good will follow when NACS is registered (see attachment)
- h) Lennie Lindberg presented the amendment to the statutes (version 3).

### PARAGRAPH 1

- Comment: We should change the name because of research and education in the field of sexology.
- Comment: NACS should focus on the clinical aspect of sexology and not change the name.
- Comment: NACS should change the name in order to promote the diversity and multidisiplinary of sexology but keep the abbreviation NACS to remember history.

### PARAGRAPH 2

- Comment: the proposed change in the regional expansion is welcomed as well as more professionals and associations.
- Comment: a question about the position statement mentioned in the aims.
- Answer: male circumcision document from 2013 was given as an example.

### PARAGRAPH 3

- Comment: should NACS allow individual members.
- Answer: see paragraph 6.

### PARAGRAPH 4

- Comment: in relation to paragraph 1, a member saw the web pages of the national association and realized that not all of them have the word clinical in the title.



- Comment: there have not been an annual fees up to this point.

#### PARAGRAPH 5

- Comment: a question related to the criteria of what is seen as reputable organization.  
Answer: the board will discuss and suggest a criteria.
- Comment: do we have a membership committee to deal with who are eligible and who are not.
- Answer: send the proposal in writing.

#### PARAGRAPH 6

- Comment: should we take out the word membership for businesses and individuals because they have no member benefits such as voting rights.
- Answer: send the proposal in writing.

#### PARAGRAPH 7

- Comment: we should not change the statutes just to decide on the AGM.
- Answer: we need to accept it or we do not have an AGM next year.

#### PARAGRAPH 8

- Comment: should there be 7 members in addition to the board due the workload.
- Answer: the presidency of the national board is not tied to being on the NACS board. It is independent but each national board elects or proposes the candidate for the NACS board.

#### PARAGRAPH 9

- Comment: national board should not be able to pull out a board member - board of NACS need a protection from the national associations to avoid potential conflict. Answer: send a written proposal.
- Comment: AGM should chose board positions.

#### PARAGRAPH 10

- No comments.

#### PARAGRAPH 11

- Comment: each paragraph need to be evaluated next years, how many representatives there will be in each committee from each national association because the number is now uneven.

#### PARAGRAPH 12 / Amendments

- No comment.

#### APPENDIX 1

- No comments.

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#### Statutes number 4 (Suggestions from AGM)

- Removal of the word membership from the paragraph 6
- Clarification on paragraph 9: the board will replace the board member representatives within the board

### VOTING

- ❖ If 3/4 of Assembly says yes, it will be passed
- ❖ 78 persons present, 59 votes needed to pass the statutes
- ❖ Procedural comment on the voting process: can we vote for statutes 2 on a whole and then vote for amendments (statutes 3) instead of going through each paragraph of statutes 3. Answer: statutes number 3 is what we are voting on.
- ❖ Comment: vote first for the version that was sent (version 2), and then vote for all the amendments together (versions 3 and 4)
- ❖ Vote for procedural change: voting for using statutes number 2. Voting result: in favor big majority, 1 no opinion. Result: approved.

- ❖ VOTING on Statutes number 2 WITH THE CHANGES ALSO FROM THE AUDIENCE (Statutes 3 + 4)

PARAGRAPH 1: NOT approved the new name; YES - approved to registration in Helsinki

PARAGRAPH 2 *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 3 *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 4 *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 5 *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 6 *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 7 *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 8 *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 9 *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 10 + 11 App (new – auth. committee)

Comment: There needs to be a balance in the numbers of the representatives in the committees.

Comment: There needs to be a bylaw, about implementation of the work of the committees. AGM amended Statues 4 and added the wording to: "Each country has one vote" *App*

PARAGRAPH 12 the new addition *Approved*

PARAGRAPH 13 - added as a separate paragraph at AGM due to the reason that the authorization committee paragraph (paragraph 11) stands alone - *Approved*

Appendix 1 (Fees and votes) *Approved*

Votes for whole new statutes (Statutes no.4) - *Approved*

### **13. NACS web-page – short update**

Paul Korrovits, board member of NACS, told about the revision of the new web page. The web page has great importance to the members and members will be sent a questionnaire via Google form to clarify what information and function they think the website should contain.

### **13. The Curriculum Task Force**

Veera Uusoksa, the chair of the new group gave a short introduction on the matter. The next meeting will be this year November. The group start to collect material from each training organization from all training organizations.

### **14. Action Plan 2019-2020**

#### **Mission, Vision, and Values**

Based on the Statutes (9/2019) the aim of the Association is to promote scientific and professional exchange and practical cooperation in sexology. The Association maintains and strengthens its members proficiency in the field of sexology. It upholds high standard of professional ethics and is committed to the Declaration of Sexual Rights (WAS, 2014). All member associations follow to the Position Statements and Principles agreed by NACS. The Association is independent, and is not bound to any religious, political and ideological party.

#### **Action Plan 2019-2020**

##### **Executing the new Statutes**

The Association will concentrate its resources mainly on implementing the Statutes. In accordance with the new Statutes the Board will form Membership Committee, Ethics Committee and Authorization Committee, and together with the Committee members will compose the code of conduct for all the Committees.

##### **Curriculum Reform**

The Curriculum Task Force will be appointed by the Board, and start its work in order to evaluate and update the curriculum and also the authorization guidelines. The draft for the new curriculum and authorizations will be presented for the General Assembly in 2020.

##### **Board Meetings**

The Board continues its monthly online meetings, and will schedule one meeting for 2019-2020 in a NACS country decided by the Board members. The Board will manage the official responsibilities of NACS, and will actively support and monitor the work of the Committees and Curriculum Task Force.

##### **Web Page update**



Within the year NACS will renew its web page. The web page (nacs.eu) will serve NACS members, media, and general public. The content of the web page will be carefully drafted in consideration with the member association's needs, focusing on up to date information.

### **Finance**

Membership fees will be used to fund the renewal of the NACS web page and for the Association's necessary expenses such as registrar fees, and travel costs for one board meeting before the next General Assembly.

### **Networking**

The Board will open a social media channel for updates, and create an e-Newsletter to be sent out for members three times a year.

No comments and adopted.

### **15. Next NACS Conference in Denmark**

EFS representative Esben Esther Pirelli Benestad welcomed all to the next NACS-EFS 2020 in Ålborg.

### **16. NACS meeting in Iceland in 2021**

Or in Estonia, it seems to be unclear in what order conferences are to be held.

### **17. Any other business**

a) Elsa Almås presented on behalf of WAS a lack of financial resources in WAS, membership benefits and proposes becoming individual members of WAS.

b) The new Danish Association (DSS). There is a discussion how to continue with the Danish Association application. Discussion on should there be a handling of the application this year.

Comment: Application should be handled next year in accordance with new NACS Statutes

Answer: Assembly votes on handling the associations application. *Approved.*

Gabriela Rehfeld presents the association on behalf of board of DSS, see attachment.

Voting: For the acceptance of the Danish Sexological Association in NACS. *Approved.*

### **Ending of the meeting 11:50**

Date: 200309

Suzann Larsdotter

Date: 21.3.2020

Thore Langfeldt

Attachments:

1. Revised statutes

# Statutes

## Nordic Association for Clinical Sexology

### Document history

- Confirmed by the Annual General Meeting, September 17, 1999, in Grimstad, Norway
- English version confirmed by the Annual General Meeting in Visby, Sweden, September 14, 2001.
- Chapters 2, 3, 5 changed and former chapter 9 deleted by the Extraordinary General Meeting in Tallinn, Estonia October 16, 2010
- Draft for restructuring the organization, August 2018
- Version 2.0 by the task force, October 2018
- Amended by the task force, April 2019
- Last edits, minor amendments by Tommi Paalanen and Tiina Vilponen, July 2019
- Adopted AGM Gothenburg September 21, 2019.

### Definitions

- **General Assembly:** The highest decision-making body of the Association. The ordinary General Assembly meets annually before the end of October and confirms annual statements, action plans, budgets, financial statements and amendments to the statutes.
- **Executive Board:** The executive body of the Association, which includes the officials, the Treasures and the General Secretary. The Board drafts all official documents and directs to work of Committees. The Board consists of the delegates from the six national associations.
- **President:** The representative of the Association, who will lead the work of the Board. Elected by the Board.
- **Annual Conference or Annual Meeting:** The Conference of NACS, which will be organized annually in different countries within the regions. The General Assembly is traditionally held during the conference

## Statues Nordic Association of Clinical Sexology

### §1 Name of the association



The name of the Association is the Nordic Association for Clinical Sexology, abbreviation NACS. The Association is registered in Helsinki, Finland.

## **§2 Aim and values**

The aim of the Association is to promote scientific and professional exchange and practical cooperation in sexology in Nordic and Baltic regions.

The Association and all of its members commit to the WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights, NACS Ethical Guidelines and all NACS position statements in all sexological practice including research, training, education, medicine, counseling, therapy and other professional sexological work.

## **§3 Organization**

The Association is a cooperation organization in the fields of sexology, sexual health and sexuality research in Nordic and Baltic regions.

The Association has the following membership categories

1. **National Associations:** The six national associations of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden form the board of the association, and hold voting powers in the General Assembly. The full names of the national associations are listed below (§4).
2. **Professional Organizations:** Professional organizations eligible for membership (see §5) form the Advisory Committee of the Association. The Advisory Committee holds voting powers in the General Assembly, prepares proposals, statements and documents, takes part in strategic planning, and implements decisions of the Association.
3. **Supporting Members:** Supporters of the Association can take part in organizing the conferences of the Association.

## **§4 Membership: National Associations**

The founding members of NACS and other Nordic National Associations in sexology for the membership category: National Associations. The National Associations are

- Danish Association for Clinical Sexology,
- Estonian Academic Society of Sexology,
- Finnish Association for Sexology,
- Icelandic Sexology Association,
- Norwegian Society for Clinical Sexology, and
- Swedish Association for Sexology.

The national associations will pay annual fees to NACS according to their size category.

## **§5 Membership: Professional Organizations**

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Organizations that follow the aim and values of NACS (§2) may apply for membership. The basic criteria for membership are that the applicant is reputable and established (2 years of continuous activity), and able to provide documentation including statutes, annual statements and member lists (if applicable). The member organizations will pay annual fees to NACS according to their size category.

The applications are approved by the Board for the provisional membership of 1 year, and then approved by the General Assembly for the full membership. If the application is rejected by the Board, the applicant may submit the application for revision to the General Assembly, which will decide on the provisional membership.

The membership can be terminated by the Board in case of misconduct or breach of NACS Statutes or aims and values (§2). The member may file a complaint of the Board's decision to the Ethical Committee of NACS, which examines the case. If the Ethical Committee dismisses the case, the termination of membership will prevail. If the Ethical Committee accepts the complaint, the next General Assembly will decide on the termination of the membership

### **§6 Membership: Supporting Members**

Organizations, businesses and individuals that follow the aim and values of NACS (§2) may apply for supporting membership. The Board is responsible for accepting supporting members and setting the fees for supporting membership tiers.

### **§7 The General Assembly of NACS**

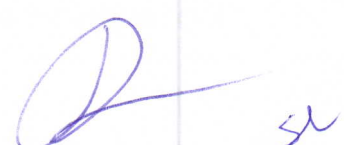
The General Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of the Association. The ordinary General Assembly will be held before the end of November. Invitation and agenda for the General Assembly must be sent to members no later than a month before the General Assembly will be arranged. An Extraordinary General Assembly will be arranged if the Board so decides or if requested by the majority of member organizations. At the General Assembly the member organizations will have votes according to their membership category and the number of their members (see appendix 1).

The General Assembly will elect a Chair, a Secretary and two Tellers and Inspectors for the Assembly. The Secretary will record Minutes of the Assembly, which will be amended and confirmed by the Inspectors and approved by the next General Assembly.

In case of election or a vote, a motion will be carried out by simple majority. Changes to the statutes will be carried out by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority.

The ordinary General Assembly should include the following items in the agenda:

1. Approving the invitation and the agenda
2. Electing the Chair, Secretary and two Tellers and Inspectors for the Assembly
3. Approving the minutes of the previous General Assembly
4. Approving the last year's Accounts, Financial Statement, and an Annual Report
5. Approving the Annual Action Plan, the Budget and membership fees for the upcoming year
6. Decide on membership issues
7. Other matters



## §8 The Executive Board of NACS

The Executive Board of NACS consists of 6 delegates from the national associations. Each national association will appoint a Member of the Board at least a month before the start of a new term.

The term for the Members of the Board is 3 years; the maximum number of sequential terms for an individual is 3 terms (9 years). If decided by the national organization, the member of the board representing that vert country, may be replaced before the end of such a term.

The Board is responsible in creating a Budget and an Annual Action Plan, which will be discussed and approved by the General Assembly. Annually the Board will present an Annual Report and Financial Statement with all accompanying accounting materials to the General Assembly.

## §9 The President of NACS and the Officers

The Board will choose the President of NACS, the Treasurer and the General Secretary among themselves for the term of the Board.

The President is responsible for organizing the work and meetings of the Board and representing the Association.

The tasks of the Treasurer are to manage the finances of the Association, to draft a budget and to prepare financial statements. The tasks of the General Secretary are to manage any day-to-day business of the Association, record Minutes of the Board meetings, and to draft the Annual Action Plan and Annual Report.

## §10 Statutory Committees

The Association has the following statutory committees: Membership Committee, Ethical Committee, and Authorization Committee. All Committees have a Chair and 2-5 members. The Board will appoint the Committee Chairs and approve of the Committee member lists. The term of the Committee Chair and members is 3 years.

The primary tasks of the Committees are:

- **Membership Committee:** The Committee manages membership applications and presents them to the Board, which makes a decision for the provisional membership. The Committee drafts requirements for membership and respective fees for the General Assembly to decide upon. The Committee maintains a registry of the members.
- **Ethical Committee:** The Committee manages complaints of misconduct or breaches of statutes and aims and values of NACS. The committee also examines disputes regarding termination of membership. The committee has an advisory function to the board.
- **Authorization Committee:** The committee consist of all the nationally elected national authorization committee members and manages authorization applications of Sexuality Counsellors, Clinical Sexologists, Sexuality Educators and Sexual Health Promoters, and Sexual Scientists. The Committee maintains the authorization requirements and protocol, and drafts amendments to them for the Board to decide upon. The Committee maintains the registry of authorized persons.

The Committees will have the Terms of Reference, which includes the committee's purpose, tasks, organization, and responsibilities. The Terms of Reference are approved by the Board.

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## §11 Amendment of the Statutes

Amendment of these Statutes will require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the votes cast at the General Assembly. Proposals for amendments must be sent to the members of the membership organizations at least one month before the General Assembly.

## §12 Dissolution of the Association

Dissolution of the Association requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of votes cast at two successive General Assemblies of which the latter has to be the ordinary General Assembly.

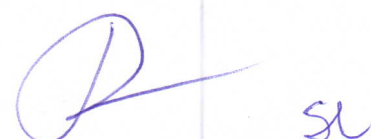
# Appendix 1: Membership fees and votes

Category	Size	Membership fee	Votes (National Associations)	Votes (Professional Organisations)
Institute or foundation	No members	150€	N/A	1
Small association	Up to 50 members	50€	2	1
Medium association	51 – 299 members	200€	4	2
Large association	300 and up	400€	6	3

# Appendix 2: Terms of Reference for the committees

Note

- Tasks of the committee
- Qualification of the Chair and Members
- Protocol of conducting business



- Documentation
- Complaints
- Annual reporting

## References

- WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights
- NACS Ethical Guidelines
- List of NACS Position Statement

### 2.0 Gabriela Rehfeld presentation – DSS:

Thank you for accepting the handling of the application from the Danish Society for sexology hear after DSS, of membership of NACS. I am standing here as a spokesperson today since the board, today represented by Inger Bugge and Philip Keudel, is a consensus board and therefore without a head of board as such. DSS is not an alternative to DACS but should be seen as a mere supplement. DACS is obliged to represent the broader sexology and DSS is founded for members who have a special interest in the affect focused approach in the treatment of sexual dysfunctions in oppose to classical treatment. You can hear more about this after this meeting when Inger and Philip are presenting the principals of the treatment. And as passionate and maybe biased as we are concerning this quite narrow path, we of course wish that we will be able to, through the membership of NACS to ascertain the quality of our treatment and theory. Thank you

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