

# AVETH | Revision of Statutes 2024/25



## Synoptic changes document

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### Context:

This document contains a synoptic overview of the proposed changes to the AVETH statutes. As the German version of the statutes remains legally binding, this document is for consultation purposes only and does not carry legal character. The new English version of the statutes is an improved translation of the revised German version and may differ from the exact wordings found below, which was taken from the 2020 version of the statutes.

At its core, we propose the concept of “Academic Staff Assembly” to replace the General Assembly. With a delegate-based voting system but open to all members with the right to speak and submit proposals, we aim for a wider and more stable representation and thus better quality of decision making and a bigger pool of active members. Additionally, we want to strengthen the ties between DAs and the AVETH board by introducing the DA representative role and inviting DAs to the AVETH board meetings to stay in the information loop. Other changes include 1) explicit articles for the university assembly delegation as a key body of the association, 2) a change in the election scheme of representations, 3) secured financing for the presidency and 4) a specification in how Telejob finances can be used for general purposes of the association. We believe that these changes help to improve the workings of AVETH to represent the interest of scientific staff at ETH.

### Reading guide:

Current statutes [08.10.2020] [**removals in red**]

Proposed new statutes [**changes and additions in blue**]  
*Notes*

## II. Organization

### Art. 44 Bodies of the association

- 1 The bodies of the association are:
  - a. General Assembly
  - b. Board
  - c. Management of Telejob
  - d. Departmental Associations
  - e. Permanent Working Groups
  - f. Representations
  - g. Ballot vote of all members

### II.1 General assembly (GA)

## II. Organization

### Art. 5 Bodies of the association

- 1 The bodies of the association are:
  - a. [Academic Staff Assembly](#)
  - b. Board
  - c. Management of Telejob
  - d. Departmental Associations
  - e. Permanent Working Groups
  - f. [University Assembly Delegation](#)
  - g. Representations
  - h. Ballot vote of all members

#### **Notes**

*The General Assembly is renamed. The University Assembly delegation is explicitly mentioned, as it gets dedicated articles in the statutes.*

### II.1 Academic Staff Assembly (ASA)

#### **Art. 7 Definition**

The Academic Staff Assembly (ASA) is the highest body of the association. It is authorised to decide on all matters concerning AVETH.

#### **Art. 8 Composition**

- 1 All AVETH members are entitled to speak and submit proposals.
- 2 Delegates of the DAs and delegates of the working groups are entitled to vote.
  - a. The Appendix to the statutes regulates the voting key and is approved by the ASA with a two-thirds majority.
  - b. When the number of DAs or Working Groups changes, the ASA revises the Appendix.
  - c. A person can only be a delegate of a DA or a working group.

#### **Art. 7 Carrying out the GA**

- 1 The board is responsible for convening and conducting ordinary as well as extraordinary general assemblies.
- 2 The general assembly is announced and the agenda items are disclosed 14 days ahead of the general assembly.
- 3 The chair of a GA is the responsible of the president. In the case of a co-presidency, the leadership is with the most senior co-presidents if the co-presidency does not reach agreement by unanimity or another arrangement. The chair may be handed over to a third person designated by the GA on the basis of a procedural request.
- 4 The board is responsible for keeping accurate minutes.

#### **Art. 8 Publicity of the GA**

The general assembly is public. The general assembly can decide otherwise.

d. Members of the AVETH board cannot be delegates.

3 Guests are entitled to speak.

#### *Notes*

*Art. 7: There was a lack of definition for the GA before. We propose to explicitly mention that the ASA is the highest body of the association*

*Art. 8: We propose moving from a general assembly with a member-based to a delegate-based voting system. The new "ASA" would still be public and every AVETH members can submit proposals. This change requires an article on composition to clarify the different roles. The voting key is regulated in a separate Appendix.*

#### **Art. 9 Carrying out the ASA**

- 1 The board is responsible for convening ordinary as well as extraordinary [academic staff assemblies](#).
- 2 The [academic staff assembly](#) is announced and the agenda items are disclosed 14 days ahead of the assembly.
- 3 The chair of an ASA is the responsibility of the President. In the case of a co-presidency, the chair is held by the longest-serving co-president unless the co-presidency agrees on a different arrangement by unanimity. Upon procedural request, the chair may be handed over to a third person appointed by the ASA on an item-by-item basis.
- 4 The board is responsible for [the proper keeping of the minutes](#).

#### *Notes*

*The previous paragraph 3 had orthographic errors, and the contents were mistranslated from German. It is clear now that the chair may only be handed over on an item-by-item basis.*

#### **Art. 10 Publicity of the ASA**

The [ASA](#) is public. [Upon procedural request, the ASA](#) can decide otherwise.

#### *Notes*

#### **Art. 9 Agenda items**

The agenda announced prior to the GA are considered temporary. A vote of simple majority at the GA decides the agenda items. Changes to the agenda can be made any time, as long as Art. 40 is upheld.

#### **Art. 10 Ordinary general assembly**

- 1 The GA is adopting “Rules of procedure”. This regulates details of the procedure of the GA. The contents of which must not contradict the statutes. A change to these rules of procedure has the same majority requirement as the revision of statutes.
- 2 Each fiscal year, at least one ordinary GA takes place
- 3 Extraordinary GA can be convened anytime upon request of the board or a minimum of 20 members. Agenda items need to be included in the announcement.
- 4 An extraordinary GA needs to take place no later than 4 weeks after its request.

*As the publicity of the ASA and the possibility to change it is stated explicitly, it should also be explicitly stated that this is to be done with a procedural request.*

#### **Art. 11 Agenda items**

The agenda announced prior to the [ASA](#) is considered temporary. A vote of simple majority at the [ASA](#) decides the agenda items. Changes to the agenda can be made any time, as long as Art. [40] is upheld.

#### **Art. 12 Rules of procedure**

The [ASA](#) is adopting “Rules of procedure”, [which regulate](#) details of the procedure [and](#) the contents of which must not contradict the statutes. A change to these rules of procedure has the same majority requirement as the revision of statutes.

#### **Art. 13 Ordinary [academic staff assembly](#)**

Each fiscal year, one ordinary ASA takes place.

#### **Notes**

*The phrasing “at least one” is misleading as there is no differentiation between an ordinary ASA and an extraordinary ASA convened by the board. By reducing the amount to exactly one it is clear that every year there is an ordinary ASA and any number of additional extraordinary ASAs can be convened to cover more topics. It should be clear that the term “each fiscal year” implies the approval of the financial statement and budget at the ordinary ASA.*

#### **Art. 14 Extraordinary [academic staff assembly](#)**

- 1 An extraordinary [ASA](#) can be convened upon request of the board or a minimum of 20 members. Agenda items need to be included in the announcement.
- 2 An extraordinary [ASA](#) needs to take place no later than 4 weeks after its request [and adhere to Art. 9.](#)

#### **Notes**

#### Art. 11 Duties of the GA

The GA is responsible for all activities of the association. The GA supervises the work of the board. The GA discusses and decides on matters of AVETH as well as requests of members. The following lists common responsibilities:

- Elect the board and decide on the auditors.
- Approve the annual financial statement and the budget.
- Elect the representatives in the committees of ETH.
- Defines rules governing the foundation and work of commissions as well as electing their members and chairs.
- Constitutes the highest level of appeal in all questions regarding votes, elections and memberships.
- Upon a request published along the agenda items, disciplinary actions against a departmental association can be decided including its expulsion from AVETH.
- With a simple majority, new working groups can be founded; with a 2/3 majority existing ones can be dissolved.
- Elect chairs of working groups (honoring Art. 31)

#### Art. 12 Quorum of the GA

A GA which has been properly convened automatically has a quorum.

*The previous Art. 10 "Ordinary general assembly" included the rules of procedure and points about the extraordinary ASA that had nothing to do with the ordinary general assembly. We propose to move both points into separate articles to make this clear.*

#### Art. 15 Duties of the ASA

The ASA is responsible for the activities of the association; it monitors the work of the board. The ASA supervises the work of the board. The ASA discusses and decides on matters of AVETH as well as requests of members. In particular, it has the following tasks:

- Elect the board and decide on the auditors.
- Approve the annual financial statement and the budget.
- Elect the academic staff delegates in the university assembly of ETH.
- Elect the representatives in the committees of ETH.
- Define rules governing the foundation and work of commissions as well as electing their members and chairs.
- Constitute the highest level of appeal in all questions regarding votes, elections and memberships.
- Upon a request published along with the agenda items, decide disciplinary actions against a departmental association including its expulsion from AVETH.
- With a simple majority, found new working groups; with a 2/3 majority dissolve existing ones.
- Elect chairs of working groups (honoring Art. 31)

#### Notes

*Missing and misleading translations from German corrected. Also, harmonise wording and syntax to match with all other points. Add explicit mention of the university assembly delegates.*

#### Art. 16 Quorum of the ASA

An ASA is quorate if at least one third of the delegates are present.

#### Notes

## II.2 Board

### Art. 13 Composition

### Art. 14 Election

### Art. 15 Term of office

### Art. 16 Duties, representations

### Art. 17 Decision making

*To prevent abuse of the highest body of AVETH and with delegates now being elected on the DAs' side, we propose to introduce a quorum. One third of the delegates roughly translates to the equivalent of one delegate per DA and working group.*

## II.2 Board

### Art. 17 Composition

*No changes*

### Art. 18 Election

*No changes*

### Art. 19 Term of office

*No changes*

### Art. 20 Board meetings

DA representatives are invited to the board meetings and are authorized to speak.

#### **Notes**

*In an effort to improve the ties and information flow between AVETH and its DAs, we propose to introduce a new article about board meetings and specifically invite DA representatives to be present. Presence is not mandatory or expected, but at DAs would get all information about ongoing topics and decisions.*

### Art. 21 Duties, representations

#### **Notes**

*Moving the contents of the presidency chairing the board meetings to Art. 20.*

### Art. 22 Decision making

*No changes*

#### **Art. 18 Monetary compensation**

- 1 Members of the board are entitled to monetary compensation of expenses related to their position.
- 2 The GA can decide upon monetary compensation of the board.

#### **Art. 23 Monetary compensation**

- 1 Members of the board are entitled to monetary compensation of expenses related to their position.
- 2 The members of the Presidency are awarded monthly compensation of at least 5% per person or a maximum total of 30% of the standard rate for doctoral students in accordance with the ETH salary ordinance, depending on the financial possibilities of the association. The amount and distribution of the compensation is proposed when the Presidency is elected.

##### **Notes**

*The AVETH Presidency is connected to both the most exposure and management of the association. Awarding these positions a fixed compensation shows appreciation but also introduces expectations. By declaring the amount and distribution at the elections, we prevent any conflict within the Presidency on financial matters and handle things transparently.*

- 3 The board may award compensation to other members for extraordinary tasks. The compensation paid is listed in the annual financial statement and presented at the ASA.

##### **Notes**

*So far, the association doesn't have a sensible way to compensate members for extraordinary work or tasks. By requiring it to be listed and presented at the ASA we prevent abuse. Additionally, DA representatives and Working Group leaders are invited to the board meetings and get all the information on these matters.*

## II.3 Departmental associations (DA)

### Art. 19 Definition

### Art. 20 Bylaws

### Art. 21 Organisation

- 1 As bodies of the DA, a general assembly (Fachvereinsversammlung) and a board need to be present. Details are governed by the DA bylaws.
- 2 The general assembly includes all AVETH members of the DA. It has to take place at least once per year. Additionally, the following can prompt a general assembly, citing the necessary agenda items:
  - 10% of the DA members
  - A majority of the DA board
  - AVETH's GA

## II.3 Departmental associations (DA)

### Art. 24 Definition

*No changes*

### Art. 25 Bylaws

*No changes*

### Art. 26 Organisation

- 1 As bodies of the DA, a general assembly (Fachvereinsversammlung) and a board need to be present. Details are governed by the DA bylaws.
- 2 The general assembly includes all AVETH members of the DA. It has to take place at least once per year. Additionally, the following can prompt a general assembly, citing the necessary agenda items:
  - 10% of the DA members
  - A majority of the DA board
  - AVETH's [ASA](#)
- 3 The general assembly elects the DA delegates for the AVETH Academic Staff Assembly and appoints a DA representative to the AVETH board. After a general assembly, the DA board informs the AVETH Board of the elected delegates and the representative. The DA Board may appoint delegates ad interim in the event of vacancies and informs the AVETH Board of any changes.

#### **Notes**

*Moving to a delegate-based system and mentioning DA representatives in the AVETH board meetings, this is the article that would require DAs to elect these positions and inform AVETH about any changes. DAs would need to adapt their bylaws accordingly. AVETH would provide support in formulating these changes.*



## II.5 Telejob

### Art. 26 Defintion

### Art. 27 Composition of the executive board

### Art. 28 Responsibilities of the executive board

### Art. 29 Obligations of the board

## II.5 Telejob

### Art. 31 Defintion

*No changes*

### Art. 32 Composition of the executive board

*No changes*

### Art. 33 Responsibilities of the executive board

*No changes*

### Art. 34 Obligations of the board

*No changes*

### Art. 35 Finances

- 1 The use of Telejob funds to support AVETH activities is permitted on a case-by-case basis and requires prior discussion and approval by both the Telejob and AVETH boards.

#### **Notes**

*It makes sense for AVETH to leave the possibility open to access Telejob funds for extraordinary projects.*

## II.6 Working groups

### Art. 30 Goals

### Art. 31 Composition

- 1 Working groups are composed of members of the academic staff
- 2 Every working group proposes a leader for election by the GA
- 3 If a working group affects financial business, the working group elects its own treasurer
- 4 It is possible for the leader and the treasurer to be the same person

### Art. 33 Relation to AVETH

## II.6 Working groups

### Art. 36 Goals

*No changes*

### Art. 37 Composition

- 1 Working groups are composed of members of the academic staff
- 2 Every working group proposes a leader for election by the [ASA](#)
- 3 If a working group [conducts financial transactions](#), the working group elects its own treasurer
- 4 It is possible for the leader and the treasurer to be the same person

### Art. 39 Relation to AVETH

*No changes*

## II.7 University Assembly

### Art. 40 Definition

- 1 The association sends a delegation to the University Assembly to represent the interests of the academic staff.
  - a. The delegation is composed of five regular delegates and two deputy delegates
  - b. The delegates must be members of the academic staff at ETH.

### Art. 41 Election

- 1 The delegates are elected by the ASA.

### Art. 42 Election of committee representatives

- 1 The delegates nominated as representatives for the regular and extended committee of the university assembly must be elected unanimously by the AVETH Presidency and the other delegates of the university assembly.

### Art. 43 Term of office

- 1 The delegates are elected for the duration of one year.
- 2 The ASA may deselect and replace delegates during their term of office.

### Art. 44 Vacancy

- 1 Vacant positions within the delegation can be filled by the AVETH board ad interim and need to be confirmed by the ASA.

### Art. 45 Duty to report

- 1 The delegation reports on their activity to the Board on an ongoing basis and to the ASA at regular and extraordinary assemblies.

### Notes

*The university assembly is one of the most important contact points between the university levels. It makes sense for AVETH to define the proceedings more explicitly and thus ensure continuity and continuous exchange.*

## II.7 Representations

### Art. 34 Definition

- 1 AVETH can delegate representatives in order to maintain AVETH's interests in other organizations.

### Art. 35 Election

- 1 The GA elects representatives of the academic staff. The representatives must be academic staff at ETH.

### Art. 36 Vacancies

- 1 Vacant positions can be filled via elections within the AVETH board. **ad interim. Representatives need to be confirmed by the next GA. For representations not listed here, the board can elect representatives.**

## III. Rights and duties of members

### Art. 38 Rights of the members

- 1 Every member has the right to vote in elections (ger. Wahlen) and petitions (ger. Anträge)
- 2 **Every member has the right to submit petitions to the GA.**
- 3 Members have the right to referendums and initiatives.
- 4 Members have the right to call for an extraordinary GA.

[...]

## II.8 Representations

### Art. 46 Definition

- 1 AVETH can delegate representatives in order to maintain AVETH's interests in other organizations.

### Art. 47 Election

- 1 **The Presidency proposes appointments and changes in the representatives of the committees, which must be approved by the Board.**
- 2 The representatives must be academic staff at ETH.

#### Notes

*Representations are the extended arm in terms of executive work in the different committees and organizations. By moving the selection and election of these to the Presidency, we aim for a bigger continuity and consistency in their work and thus bigger impacts. The vacancy article can thus be shortened, as their selection and election are clearly stated.*

## III. Rights and duties of members

### Art. 50 Rights of the members

- 1 Every member has the right to vote in **the ballot vote**.
- 2 Members have the right to referendums and initiatives.
- 3 Members have the right to call for an extraordinary **ASA**.

#### Notes

*With the change to the ASA, we rephrase the voting right to be limited to the ballot vote. We also remove the mentioning of the right to submit petitions to the ASA as it is mentioned both in the ASA article as well as in the subsequent article specifying petitions to the ASA.*

[...]

# AVETH | Revision of Statutes 2024/25



## Statutes Appendix

**Version:** 11.03.2025 / AF

### **Art. 1 Definition**

- 1 This appendix regulates the voting key and is approved by the ASA with a two-thirds majority.

### **Art. 2 Composition**

- 1 The delegates of the DAs are made up of 1 permanent delegate per DA and 25 additional delegates, distributed among the DAs in proportion to the number of academic staff represented by them.
- 2 The delegates of the working groups are made up of 3 permanent delegates per working group.
- 3 The minimum share of the Working Group Delegates must be 35%

### **Notes**

*The exact form and contents are not final. As PSA and VAC are both situated at D-CHAB but the official statistics for number of scientific staff members is on the department level, the ratio of members will be used to distribute the represented people into the two DAs.*

11.03.2025

Department Associations								
DA	Department	Members	Represented <sup>1)</sup>	Fixed	Variable	Rest	Rounded	Total
AAA	D-ARCH		343.4	1	1.297	0.30	1	2
ASB	D-BAUG		493.1	1	1.862	0.86	2	3
VMB	D-BSSE		248.3	1	0.938	0.94	1	2
VMI	D-INFK		590.1	1	2.229	0.23	2	3
VMITET	D-ITET		609.7	1	2.303	0.30	2	3
AVMAVT	D-MAVT		652.5	1	2.464	0.46	2	3
SAM	D-MATL		166.2	1	0.628	0.63	1	2
AMB	D-BIOL		439.5	1	1.660	0.66	2	3
PSA	D-CHAB		594	1	2.243	0.24	2	3
VAC	D-CHAB		0	1	0.000	0.00	0	1
VMM	D-MATH		244.3	1	0.923	0.92	1	2
AMP	D-PHYS		486.4	1	1.837	0.84	2	3
VAME	D-EAPS		263.4	1	0.995	0.99	1	2
VMUSYS	D-USYS		554	1	2.092	0.09	2	3
HAS	D-HEST		433.6	1	1.637	0.64	2	3
sScSt@MTEC	D-MTEC		249.4	1	0.942	0.94	1	2
ASST	D-GESS		252	1	0.952	0.95	1	2
	Ausserdep.		133.7					
AsETH	Singapore		?					
Sum	17	0	6619.9	17	25	10.00	DA TOTAL	42

WG%	36%
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### 1) Source

2023, FTE

<b>Delegates</b>	<b>66</b>
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