

Draft for the Constitution of the EBSLG – Version 2013

1 – Name of the Association

- (a) The Association shall be called the European Business Schools Librarians' Group (EBSLG).
- (b) The office of the Association will be the address of the institution to which the Secretary of the group is affiliated.
- (c) The Association is initiated for an indefinite period of time.

2 – Purpose of the Association

- (a) To provide a pan-European forum for discussion, and for the exchange of ideas and information on topics of interest to the members of the group.
- (b) To promote a network of co-operation and assistance throughout European business school libraries.

3 – Membership of the Association

- (a) Membership is open to the senior professional library representative of the business school library, or in cases where no separately constituted business library exists, to the librarian in the university library who holds chief responsibility for the business collections and services.
- (b) The library must serve a top tier European graduate business school or, when no business school exists, serve a top tier graduate programme such as Masters, MBA or PhD programme in business and management.
- (c) Top tier will be defined as one of the leading business schools or programmes in the country in which the school or university is located. Accreditation by EQUIS, AACSB and/or AMBA is a good indication of the quality of the school.
- (d) Institutions with economic programmes but without proper business programmes are not eligible for membership.
- (e) Each institution shall be represented by one person only.
- (f) The Association will seek representation from as many European countries as possible, but with no one country representation exceeding 20% of the total membership. A "country" shall be defined as an individual member of the United Nations.
- (g) English will be used in the Association as the common language for speaking and writing. The library representative shall have sufficient English so that he/she is able to actively participate in the Association's activities.
- (h) Members must commit to being active within the Association by participating in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Regional Meetings.
- (i) In addition to this, members can be active by:
 - participating in a group project and/or
 - being a member of Council and/or
 - hosting a regional or annual meeting.
- (j) Members shall pay an annual subscription which shall be proposed annually by the Treasurer and validated by the Group at the Annual General Meeting.
- (k) The Group will be divided into three regional groups: the Anglophone, Continental, and Northern European regional groups. Every member will belong to one of the three groups.

4 – Renewal of membership

- (a) Membership of the EBSLG by an institutional representative will not be automatically renewed when a current member leaves the Association. Renewal of membership by a new representative will be conditional on the Council being satisfied that both the applicant and the institution continue to fulfil the membership criteria stipulated in its constitution.
- (b) Where the conditions are deemed to still apply, the Regional Co-ordinator shall contact the successor and invite him/her to participate. Where the conditions are no longer deemed to apply however, the Secretary will inform the applicant and the institution of the decision to withdraw membership.

5 – Termination of membership

A member of the group shall cease to be a member upon any one of the following:

- (a) upon resignation in writing from the member,
- (b) if a member fails to pay the subscription,
- (c) if a member is not present at the AGM in a period of two consecutive years,
- (d) if a member or his/her institution ceases to meet the requirements for membership.

Termination shall be notified in writing.

6 – Application process

- (a) The applicant shall apply to the Secretary, who will acknowledge the application in writing, outline the membership criteria and obligations, and ask the applicant to confirm his/her interest by sending a complete application, including information about the school or university and its library.
- (b) The Secretary shall send the application file to the members of Council, who will decide whether the application can be considered.
- (c) If affirmative, the relevant co-ordinator will invite the applicant to the next regional meeting, where the members will be asked to consider the application. If approved, the applicant will be given the status of Affiliate Member.
- (d) The co-ordinator will inform the Council. The Affiliate will be invited to the next Annual General Meeting and to a second Regional Meeting.
- (e) The Affiliate will be asked to give a presentation about his/her institution and library at the next Regional Meeting. The Regional Group then decides on full membership.
- (f) The Affiliate will then formally become a Full Member of EBSLG at the next Annual General Meeting. The Affiliate will give a presentation about his/her institution and library at the beginning of the business meeting for the whole group and will have full voting rights for the rest of the meeting.

7 – Regional groups

- (a) The group will have three regional groups: the Anglophone group, the Continental group, and the Northern European group.
- (b) Every new member is assigned to a regional group depending on his country. Where the appropriate regional group for a member is not clear, Council will decide to which group the new member will belong.
- (c) The regional group decides on full membership of Affiliates assigned to the regional group.
- (d) Each regional group will have its own activities, projects, and meetings.
- (e) The regional groups will support the organisation of the Annual General Meeting when it takes places in their region.

8 – Officers

- a) There will be a President of the group who shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting. Candidates will be nominated by the regional groups in rotation order. In the event that a candidate is not confirmed, the regional group shall make further nomination until confirmation is achieved. The President shall hold office for a period of three consecutive years.
- b) There will be a Secretary and Treasurer of the group who shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting for a period of three consecutive years.
- c) There will be Regional Group Co-ordinators who shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting by confirmation of a candidate proposed by each of the regional groups. The Co-ordinators shall hold office for a period of three consecutive years.
- d) There will be a Project Coordinator who shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting for a period of three consecutive years.
- e) At the discretion of the Annual General Meeting, there may be such other officers of the group as may be convenient and they shall be appointed by the Council.

9 – Council

- a) The Council shall consist of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Regional Group Co-ordinators and the Project Co-ordinator.
- b) Members of the Council shall be eligible for re-election for one further period.
- c) The office of a member of the Council shall be vacated
 - If he/she ceases to be a member of the Group
 - If he resigns office by notice in writing
 - If requested in writing by all the other members of the Council to resign
- d) The business of the Group shall be managed by the Council. The Council shall have power to make bye-laws or regulations for the organization of the Group and to add to, amend, alter or repeal any bye-laws or regulations. In the case of any conflict between this Constitution and any bye-laws, then the provisions of this Constitution shall prevail.
- e) The Council shall determine the quorum necessary for the transaction of business, meet together, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their business as they think fit unless otherwise determined by a resolution of the Annual General Meeting.
- f) All Council meetings shall be recorded in minutes. The minutes shall be validated by the President and circulated to all members of the Group for inspection.

10 – Meetings

- a) The Group shall hold a Annual General Meeting in every calendar year. The time and place shall be determined by the Group at the last preceding General Meeting.
- b) In most instances, the Annual General Meeting will be organised by each regional group alternatively, and will be hosted by one of the member institution.
- c) Notice of date and place of the Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing to members of the Group not less than ten weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
- d) The agenda of the Annual General Meeting including all draft resolutions shall be given to the members not less than twenty-one days prior to the date of the meeting.
- e) The Council may call an Extraordinary General Meeting, which shall be convened on the request of no less than one third of the members of the Group.

11 – Proceedings at general meetings

- a) No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum will be defined as no less than one third of members who hold voting rights.

- b) The President of the Group will preside as Chairman of any General Meeting.
- c) Resolutions of the General Meeting will be deemed to be passed by an absolute majority vote of the members.
- d) All voting will be decided by a show of hands, unless a resolution for a ballot is carried by a vote of the members.
- e) In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman will be entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- f) Conclusive evidence of the passing of a resolution will be established by the declaration of the Chairman of the meeting that a resolution has been carried by a majority vote and by a corresponding entry in the minutes of the meeting.
- g) If, in the case of an election of persons, no one draws an absolute majority of votes at the first show of hands, the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes will be removed from the election process and a successive show of hands will be called. This process will be repeated until one candidate draws an absolute majority. In the case of a tie between two persons, the decision as to which will be removed from the election will be made by the drawing of lots.
- h) All General Meetings shall be recorded in minutes. The draft minutes shall be circulated to all members and approved at the next General Meeting by those members present at that meeting.

12 – Votes of members

- a) Every member present shall have one vote.
- b) Absent members may authorise the Secretary of the Group to deliver their votes according to their instructions. The authorisation and the instruction shall be submitted in writing.

13 – Accounts and funds

- a) Accounting records shall be kept in respect of:
 - The assets and liabilities of the Group
 - The sums of money received and expended by the Group and the matter in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place
 - All sales and purchases of goods by the Group
- b) The book of accounts shall be kept at the office of the Treasurer and be open for the inspection by members of Council at any time.
- c) Cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other member of the Council. The Group banking account shall be kept by such bank determined by the Council.
- d) At the Annual General Meeting the Council shall present to the Group an income and expenditure account together with a balance sheet.
- e) The Council may appoint a qualified accountant from time to time to carry out an independent examination to ascertain the correctness of the account and balance sheet. The accountant's report shall be read before the Annual General Meeting and shall be open to the inspection of the members of the Group.
- f) The funds of the Group shall be made up of membership subscriptions, donations, and any other sources as may be approved by Council.

14 – Amendments to the constitution

The Group may amend the Constitution at the Annual General Meeting by resolutions passed with a majority of at least three quarters of the votes validly cast.

15– Dissolution of the group

- a) The text of the resolution to dissolve the Group shall be available for inspection at least five days before the Annual General Meeting.
- b) The liquidation of the Association shall be carried out by the Council unless the Annual General Meeting appoints by resolution other liquidators to dissolve the Association.
- c) Disposals of any assets belonging to the Group shall be agreed upon by the Group in its resolution to dissolve the Association.
- d) In the event of liabilities, each member organisation will be liable up to but not exceeding a sum equal to the annual membership fee.