

# Constitution of SoDoC

Entry into force: 01.02.2016

Approved changes: 08.02.2023

## § 1. Name

The name of the organization is “Society of Doctoral Candidates”, abbreviated as “SoDoC” and hereinafter referred to as “SoDoC”. SoDoC was established on 1st February 2016 by a merger of Forum for Doctoral students at UMB (FODOS) and Doktorgradskandidatenes interesseorganisasjon i veterinærmiljøene (DIOV).

## § 2. Principles

SoDoC is an independent, nonpolitical, nonreligious, volunteer, nonprofit, democratic interest organisation for Ph.D. candidates and postdoctoral researchers at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU).

## § 3. Objectives

The purpose of SoDoC is to secure the common interests of doctoral candidates at NMBU, such as:

- Study conditions
- Professional interests
- Economic interests
- Social benefits
- Rights and duties at NMBU
- Research ethics
- Issues regarding science and society
- Social events

## § 4. Governance

The General Assembly (GA) is the supreme decision-making body of SoDoC and consists of all participating members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The AGM is held once a year and is open to all members.

The SoDoC board is the supreme administrative body of SoDoC.

In special circumstances, the SoDoC board can summon extraordinary sessions of the GA to be known as an “Extraordinary General Meeting” if requested by its members or the board itself. A written notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting has to be circulated to all members not less than 14 days prior to the Extraordinary General Meeting. The decisions of the special session shall be limited to matters stated in the request for such a session.

## **§ 5. Membership**

All registered Ph.D. candidates at NMBU are de facto members of SoDoC. There are no membership fees.

All members have the right to:

- a. Participate in the activities of SoDoC
- b. Attend and speak at the AGM
- c. Vote in the AGM

## **§ 6. Composition of the Board**

All members of SoDoC are eligible for the SoDoC Board. The members of the Board should, as far as possible, represent the diversity of the Ph.D. candidates at NMBU. The Board organizes their work freely and shall call for meetings as needed.

The Board is elected for one year by the GA during the AGM according to the rules described in the By-laws.

The Board of SoDoC shall consist of a leader and at least five members.

Minimal composition of the Board:

- a. Leader
- b. Treasurer
- c. Secretary
- d. Head of Academic committee
- e. Head of Social committee
- f. Webmaster
- g. Or other roles that are deemed critical to the functioning of SoDoC and set out in the by-laws.

## **§ 7. Amendments to the Constitution**

The Constitution may be amended by the GA during the AGM.

A written notice of the amendment must be circulated to all members no less than 30 days prior to the AGM.

Amendment of the Constitution may be agreed only by the GA with at least a three quarters (3/4) majority of those present and voting.

## **§ 8. By-laws**

To regulate matters not described in this Constitution, SoDoC has By-laws. The By-laws have to comply with this Constitution. In case of divergence, the Constitution shall override the By-laws.

By-laws may be introduced and/or amended by three quarter majority of those present and voting Board members at a regular Board meeting.

- a. A written notice of a new By-law or amendment must be circulated to all Board members no less than 14 days prior to the Board meeting.
- b. Bylaws may also be amended without prior notice, provided that those present and voting agree unanimously on the new By-law or amendment.