

STS-CH General Assembly

University of Lausanne | February 20, 2014

Protocol

Present

Marc Audétat, Émilie Bovet, Alexandre Camus, Gabriel Dorthe, Olivier Glassey, Alain Kaufmann, Pierre-Nicolas Oberhauser, Vincent Pidoux, Bruno Strasser, Nicholas Stücklin, Dominique Vinck

Excused

Martina Merz, Peter Biniok, Thomas Hengartner

Managers of the meeting

Nicholas Stücklin and Émilie Bovet (STS-CH co-presidents)

Protocol

Pierre-Nicolas Oberhauser

Agenda Items

1. Greetings
2. Protocol of the 2012 General Assembly in Zurich
3. Annual report 2013, welcome of new members
4. Annual accounts
5. Discussion about the board and future members
6. Future events and project proposals
7. New STS-CH website and mailing list
8. Election of board, presidency, and auditors
9. Varia

Documents sent to members in February 2014

1. Invitation to the General Assembly and Agenda
2. Protocol of the 2012 General Assembly
3. Annual report of STS-CH for 2012

1. Greetings

STS-CH co-president Nicholas Stücklin:

- welcomes the present members to the General Assembly;
- specifies that the General Assembly is a joint assembly 2013/2014, as the 2013 GA had been postponed to the Swiss STS meeting February 20-22.

2. Protocol of the 2012 General Assembly in Zurich

Adopted unanimously with two abstentions.

3. Annual report 2013, welcome of new members

Nicholas Stücklin:

- reflects on the changes that have occurred in the composition of the board during 2013 (defection of some members) and welcomes Vincent Pidoux as a new member of the board.
- describes the transformations in the STS-CH website, that is now hosted on the ASSH/SAGW server;
- refers to the workshop organized by P. Gisler and M. Kurath that has taken place at the ETHZ in November 2013;
- indicates that the board has received a request from the Italian scientific journal *TechnoScienze* to establish a map of academic institutes in Switzerland that do research in STS;
- refers to an editorial project headed by a team of Lausanne STS scholars (F. Panese, C. Kraus, V. Pidoux, E. Bovet, N. Stücklin) published in the *Revue d'Anthropologie des Connaissances*.
- asks Marc Audétat to say a few words about the STS seminar.

Marc Audétat:

- wishes that a website would be dedicated to the STS seminar, given that he has received several requests in that sense;
- would like that a more formal basis would be given to the STS seminar in the curricula, offering PhD students to have their participation to the seminar credited (as it is already possible for biology students);
- would like that a more lasting structure could be built around the STS seminar. According to him, the Unil Social and Political Sciences Faculty is the only academic organisation that could possibly give such a structure an institutional basis. The aim of this would be to create an interinstitutional STS centre.

Nicholas Stücklin responds to Marc Audétat. In a similar perspective, Émilie Bovet and himself would like to propose that an interinstitutional STS secretariat be created.

4. Annual accounts

Nicholas Stücklin describes the annual accounts sent by the treasurer Peter Biniok. The association has begun 2014 with about 21'000.- CHF. There has only been one 270.- expense in 2013. There is therefore money to support projects led by members, and Nicholas Stücklin indicates that Peter Biniok's report invites members to put forward project proposals. Aside from the own funds of the STS-CH association, such projects could as well get financial support from the ASSH/SAGW.

Bruno Strasser & Dominique Vinck suggest that practical changes be made in order to offer members the possibility to pay their membership fees at once for more than a year. The General Assembly decides to allow members to pay their membership fees for a three-year period.

The General Assembly approves unanimously the annual accounts.

5. Discussion about the board and future members

Émilie Bovet:

- reflects on the fact that 2013 has been a challenging year for the board. Many positive aspects have to be underlined, among which the organisation of the Swiss STS Meeting 2014 and the success it has encountered. But it is also to be noticed that implication in the association activities has significantly weakened among the German-speaking part of the board. Even if new members have proposed to join the board, it should be made certain that parity between French- and German-speaking members is respected;
- asks whether members attending the General Assembly would like to subscribe as board members, and if they know people that would be interested in joining the board.

Bruno Strasser & Dominique Vinck suggest to reach different researchers working in the field of STS studies that could contact PhD students potentially interested in joining the board.

6. Future events and project proposals

Émilie Bovet:

- indicates again that the board is waiting for members to put forward project proposal;
- emphasises the fact that time should be spent discussing seriously about the creation of a more formal and stable platform dedicated to STS studies, operating at an inter-institutional level.

7. New STS-CH website and mailing list

Émilie Bovet reflects on what has been undertaken to reinvigorate the STS-CH website and mailing list. She thanks Pierre-Nicolas Oberhauser and Michael Posse for their support in this process.

8. Election of board, presidency, and auditors

Émilie Bovet announces the departure of Martina Mertz and Sabine Maasen from the board: both of them now occupy academic positions abroad. In the name of the board, she expresses warm thanks for their dedication and diligent work, and wishes them all the best in their further activities.

Vincent Pidoux, Thomas Hengartner and Peter Biniok renew their candidacy for the board and are unanimously re-elected. Alexandre Camus and Pierre-Nicolas Oberhauser present their candidacy for the board and are unanimously elected by the General Assembly. Emilie Bovet and Nicholas Stücklin are unanimously re-elected as co-presidents, Peter Biniok is unanimously re-elected as auditor of STS-CH.

New composition of the board of STS-CH: *P. Biniok (auditor, Zurich), E. Bovet (co-president, Lausanne), A. Camus (Lausanne), T. Hengartner (Zurich), P.-N. Oberhauser (Lausanne), V. Pidoux (Lausanne), N. Stücklin (co-president, Lausanne).*

9. Varia

None.

Date of protocol: March 12, 2014