Minutes of the 23rd General Assembly of the Swiss Association for Nursing Science, May 16th, 2018 at the University of Applied Sciences St. Gallen, FHSG

Present 39 members entitled to vote

Agenda Items

15:00–17:15 h

1. Welcome
2. Election of Vote Counters
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of the General Assembly in October 19th 2017
5. Documentation:
   a. Annual report of the board (download on the website)
   b. Annual report of all AS* (download on the website)
      *AS= Academic Societies (AFGs)
6. Financial report 2017 (can be ordered via: info@vfp-apsi.ch)
7. Auditor’s statement
8. Budget 2018 (can be ordered via: info@vfp-apsi.ch)
9. Motion to change the AS bylaws
10. Motion to suspend the AS Ethics in Nursing
11. Current information
12. Definite admission of the new members
13. Acclaim of Dr. Alexandra Bernhart-Just and Nicole Zigan
14. Elections:
   a. President
   b. Vice President
   c. Board member
15. Outlook
16. Miscellaneous
1. **Welcome**

Dr. Stefan Kunz opens the event by welcoming the members. He thanks all colleagues that presented their PhD projects and also the professors involved in today’s meeting. He informs the participants that the assembly will take place in English today. However, each participant is motivated to use the language of his or her choice if they want to say something. Important notifications are communicated in both languages (German and French) so that a total transparency can be guaranteed. Annie Oulevey Bachmann will help to translate things if it is needed – we are much obliged.

Dr. Stefan Kunz reads the names of all the registered absentees to the participants: Brigitte Benkert, Madeleine Bernet, Rosmarie Bührer, Sabina De Geest, Gertraud Haberkorn, Luzia Herrmann, Anne Jacquier-Delaloye, Rudolf Joder, Bettina Kuster, Lotti Lauk, Monika Linhart, Dunja Nicca, Carlos Quinto, Yvonne Ribi, Martin Ringer, Petra Schäfer, Petra Schäfer-Keller, Barbara Schmid-Federer, Elisabeth Spichiger, Rosmarie Sprenger, Mark Von der Insel und Peter Wolfensberger.

Today, we were planning to have a farewell of Alexandra Bernhart-Just. She was a member of the board of directors, a very proactive member of our association. She was a founding member and president of the AS acute care. She was a member of the board action group in marketing and a promoter of the nursing initiative (“Pflegeinitiative”). Unfortunately, last year she was diagnosed with a harsh disease. Sadly, yesterday we were confronted with the news that she passed away. Hence, we lost a very vocal and important member of our community. Dr. Stefan Kunz asks the whole congregation to stand up in condolances and give a minute of silence as a tribute to Alexandra Bernhart-Just. The assembly is standing up in silence for a minute.

2. **Election of Vote Counters**

Katja Bohner and Corina Wyler are suggested as vote counters for today’s assembly. Both are elected unanimously by the present members.

A count of all the assembly yielded a total presence of 39 members. They have received a red paper ballot via postal mail. The ones that do not have one with them today are handed out a ballot by Yoshija Walter and Dr. Dalit Jäckel.

Dr. Stefan Kunz explains that only in the case of votes where the ratio is not very clear, a one-by-one count will be demanded.

The attendees are made aware of the fact that there will be photos taken during the session today and they can appear on the website as well as in our communication brochure *VFP/APSI Update*. Those who do not wish to be presented on such media are kindly asked to mention this to Dr. Dalit Jäckel or Yoshija Walter.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Stefan Kunz presents the agenda items and explains that they are identical with the present invitation for the current event. The congregation is asked to give a vote and to show if they agree with the items. All attendees agree with the proposed agenda. After this, the participants are asked if they want to notify an unscheduled, miscellaneous item. None of the participants wishes to raise such an item.

4. **Approval of Minutes of the General Assembly in October 19th 2017**

The minutes of the assembly from October 2017 were made public online on the ANS website. There was also the option to order a copy of the minutes from the office. All attendees are asked whether they have any questions or comments concerning the document. There are no comments in this regard from the members. The assembly accepts the meeting minutes unanimously.
5. Documentation  
a. Annual report of the board

Prof. Dr. Maria Müller Staub was succeeded by Dr. Stefan Kunz as president ad interim of the ANS. After the extraordinary general assembly, Mr. Kunz was accompanied as co-president by Fritz Frauenfelder. This was an ad interim arrangement while the board of directors was looking for a new president. The ANS has now found a new president who will be elected later in this assembly. As such, we are thankful for Mr. Kunz and Mr. Frauenfelder to have been holding the position for the duration of this transition.

On April 27th 2017, the ANS was celebrating its 20th anniversary. Almost 100 guests were present in the restaurant Stella of the university hospital Inselspital in Bern. All our guests received a jubilee publication and Agnes Glaus, Dr. Hildegard Holenstein, Sr. Liliane Juchli, Prof. Dr. Maria Müller Staub, Dr. Rosette Poletti and Elisabeth Rüedi were dignified as new honorary members. Dr. Yvonne Gilli held a keynote presentation and at the end, three former presidents discussed about the past, the present and the future of the association.

In the year 2017, a big percentage of the work for the actualization of the Swiss Research Agenda for Nursing (SRAN Phase III) was done. At the end of 2016, a survey was performed on nursing scientists from the Academic Societies (AS) within the ANS and from other national organizations. In the spring of 2017, the survey was analyzed – all in all, 89 questionnaires have been completed in the German, French and Italian speaking parts of Switzerland. In the first part of the survey, the relevance of the already present SRAN content was evaluated for its fitness for the next 10 years. This analysis was carried out through statistical methods. In the second part, the subjects were asked about new topics for the next SRAN. This part was analyzed with content analytical and descriptive tools. Details about the SRAN study can be found in the latest VFP/PSI Update or in the upcoming SRAN publication.

In the general assembly 2015, a motion from the AS presidents was accepted. This motion proposed the reevaluation of the collaboration of the teams within the ANS. The co-workers within this specific groups belonged in part to the board, the AS and the ANS office. The ANS goals were henceforth revised in 2016 and accepted in the general assembly. Now, in the year 2017 the AS bylaws were intensely scrutinized and new changes were discussed in the board. The new version will be discussed later on today.

In January 2017, the board held a meeting where they issued the strategic planning of the association for the years 2017-2022. The strategy is oriented towards the goals of the ANS and it consists of many sub goals that concretize the ideas on a practical level. There are seven parts to the strategic plan:

- Support of a competent nursing practice with a high quality as well as the transfer of the research results into daily life
- Advancement of national and international connections among nursing scientists
- Create Academic Societies which are actively involved in specific patient groups or nursing topics
- Management of the Swiss Research Agenda for Nursing Science (SRAN)
- Being a partner for political institutions in Switzerland
- Acquiring financial means to achieve these goals
- Management of the ANS

In 2016, the Network for Nursing in Switzerland ("Netzwerk Pflege Schweiz") was created by the ANS, the SBK-ASI, the Swiss Nurse Leaders, and the IG SwissANP. In 2017, the SBK launched a political initiative for more autonomy of the nursing practitioners. The ANS is part of the supporting committee and helps to make the endeavors in this project visible. In May 2017, together with the network, the ANS sent a public letter to the university hospital Inselspital in Bern because of their planned organizational restructuration. In this communication, it was made clear that the current developments where the nursing department is not sufficiently represented ought to be considered worrisomely. As a result thereof, the management of the Inselspital issued a statement where they guaranteed the independency of the nursing facilities under their domain.

As has hitherto been the case, the ANS will also be internationally connected in the future. In 2017, a milestone in this respect was set: a formal meeting with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Pflegewissenschaft (DGP) and the Austrian Gesellschaft für Pflegewissenschaft GesPW took place. There, important topics for the future were discussed.

b. Annual report of all AS

The presidents of the Academic Societies (AS) come to the stage and shortly present their main events in 2017 and key propositions for 2018. We have the AS Education in Nursing (represented by Carole Déletroz), the AS Ethics in Nursing (represented by Ursa Neuhaus & Brigitte Hofer), the AS Women’s Health (represented by Andrea Koblenzer), the AS Nursing in Gerontology (represented by Jeanine Altherr), the AS Cardiovascular Nursing (represented by Nicole Zigan), the AS Nursing in Oncology (represented by Marika Bana), the AS Pediatric Nursing (represented by Chantal Grandjean & Karin Zimmermann), the AS Psychiatric Nursing (represented by Sabine Hahn), the AS Rehabilitation Nursing (represented by Brigitte Seliner), the AS Home Care Nursing (represented by Corina Wyler-Sgier), and the AS Acute Care (represented by Matthias Odenbreit & Katja Bohner).

6. Financial report 2017

Dr. Stefan Kunz invites Dr. Dalit Jäckel to come and present the financial report. She roughly explains the main posts in English. In 2017, it was budgeted to spend 96'498 CHF on staff costs. Eventually, a little less, namely 95'537 CHF was actually used on this booking item. The administration was budgeted to be at 21'704 CHF, while 21'524 CHF was used therefrom. It was planned to pay 18’100 CHF for congresses and events. However, eventually the amount rose to 49’109. The reason for this increase was that there had to be an extraordinary general assembly scheduled. 14’536 CHF was directly transacted to the AS account for their independent use (in the budget, we expected to pay them 17’000 CHF). We received 126’341 CHF from our members for their membership (127’000 CHF was in the budget) and instead of the expected 21’000 CHF, we still received 15’965 CHF as donations. Further revenues generated an income of 37’078 (which was much more than the budgeted 10’240 CHF). Eventually, this results in a minor deficit of 1’322 CHF. Further information can be requested at the ANS office.

7. Auditor’s statement

Our auditors are Ursa Neuhaus and Bernhard Brändli. Ms. Neuhaus comes to the stage to read the auditor’s statement. She declares that the financial account keeping to their knowledge has been done adequately and properly. The text is read in German and in French. At the end, she asks the assembly to grant the board an exemption (Décharge). A show of hands is demanded. The attendees unanimously accept the proposal to grant the board the exemption.

8. Budget 2018

The following table depicts the budget for the expenses and revenues for the upcoming year in comparison with the aforegoing one (in CHF).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Balance 2017</th>
<th>Budget 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Costs</td>
<td>95'537</td>
<td>97'543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>21'524</td>
<td>20'960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR, events</td>
<td>49’109</td>
<td>32’300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocations to AS (AFGs) and other</td>
<td>14’536</td>
<td>17’200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>institutions</td>
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</table>
Stefan asks the assembly if they accept the budget. All members vote yes.

9. Motion to change the AS bylaws

There are printouts available in both German and French so that the attendees may see what points are up for discussion. The proposed changes have been advanced by the workgroup "Collaboration VFP/APSI – Academic societies". After an in-depth discussion, the ANS board and the presidents of the Academic Societies have accepted the proposal. Hence, we present them now to the assembly as a motion to change the bylaws respectively.

Prof. Dr. Maria Müller Staub asks about the last bullet point work program and budget ("Arbeitsprogramm und Budget") in article 3. She asks why this point should not be mentioned anymore. Dr. Dalit Jäckel explains that it is the duty of the board to accept the AS budgets – this is why it should be in the ANS statutes and not in the AS statutes.

One voice issues that it must be gendered correctly. Also, it is being discussed how one wants to proceed if one is interested in several Academic Societies. A debate is held over some technicalities, namely if one could be officially registered in more than one AS. The problem lies in the fact that the money can only be handed to one AS per subject. But factually, the members can work in more than one AS – so, why not register them? If it is only a matter of the system, then the system ought to be remedied in this respect. In the discussion, it becomes evident that the proposition is not quite clear. Hence, the co-president a.i. proposes that the paper is being retracted. The ANS president Stefan Kunz asks the participants to give their vote. All subjects are in favor of accepting the motion and retract the paper.

10. Motion to suspend the AS Ethics in Nursing

The presidents of the Academic Society Ethics in Nursing, Ursa Neuhaus and Brigitte Hofer, have requested to dissolve the AS. It was originally founded in 2008 and it was a highly active group. Over the years, the AS experienced a decrease in the number of their members and thus it became increasingly difficult to achieve the tasks and goals the have. After intense efforts to reactivate the society, it became clear that the combined tasks surpassed the capacity of the individual members. As a result, it appeared sensible to petition for a suspension of the AS this year at the general assembly. Due to the understandable circumstances, the ANS board wholly accepts and supports this conclusion.

The ANS president Stefan Kunz asks the participants to give their vote. All subjects are in favor of accepting the motion.

Revenues

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Balance 2017</th>
<th>Budget 2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership revenues</td>
<td>126'341</td>
<td>129'500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>15'965</td>
<td>15'500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further revenues</td>
<td>37'078</td>
<td>10'080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>179'384</strong></td>
<td><strong>155'080</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stefan asks the assembly if they accept the budget. All members vote yes.
The board of directors congratulates and thanks the AS presidents and its members for all their good and industrious work. Dr. Dalit Jäckel and Dr. Stefan Kunz hand them some flowers.

11. Current information

Fritz Frauenfelder is asked to explain the current dynamics around the regulation of APN Swiss. The taskforce APN has been created so that nursing institutions could work together in their lobbying endeavors and to integrate the APN role in the GesBG (“Gesundheitsberufegesetz”). The collaboration did not seem to bear fruit and hence it was discussed how the established network could still be used for its negotiated pursuits. It was decided to work on the APN rules in a separate project. In the beginning of the year, the BAG asked the ANS to help with the bachelors and master competences for the new GesBG. A similar request came from the Institute for Nursing Science at the University of Basel.

Dr. Stefan Kunz talks about the language groups we have in the ANS. The ANS is working hard to be accessible not only the German part of the country but also to the French and Italian speaking regions. Hence, we have a Group Romandie and a Gruppo Ticinese so that the association can take roots in those areas. In order to make it easier for all participants regardless of their native language, we increasingly employ the English language in our common events.

Nicole Zigan comes to the stage and explains the current developments in the SRAN project. She highlights the past occurrences and the last steps in the next few weeks. Last year, three working groups have met in order to fashion the most relevant topics in a manner that can be used for the agenda’s purposes. The project will end in summer 2018 with online comments and adaptations. There will be a print and online version of the final SRAN update.

Dr. Dalit Jäckel shows an image of the new website that will be published soon this year. Next week, Yoshiha Walter and Dalit Jäckel will have a crash course in how to use the new systems. The current homepage of the ANS is now rather old and our office has pushed the venture to initiate a redesign which will come along with the change of our current webhost. The board has accepted this project and it has been financed with the ANS budget, contributions from the Academic Societies and additional donations. This year, we will be able to launch the new homepage. The main page has a huge image and not all the members are not terribly happy with it. The board will reconsider the image decision. All members are welcome to send us their suggestion (to info@vfp-api.ch) from Shutterstock within three weeks after the general assembly.

In 2017, the general assembly has demanded that the board will re-activate the committee of patrons. It has existed for a long time but was not active ever since the start of the association. Now, it has been reactivated and furnished with new members that may be helpful for lobbying goals and the political advancement of the association. Currently, meetings are taking place where the patrons can indicate to the president and the board what political stances they would suggest. So far, Rudolf Joder and Prof. em. Dr. Daniel Scheidegger have been present the next scheduled visits are with Christine Egerszegi, Dr. rer. pol. Heinz Locher, and Dr. med. Carlos Quinto.

Stefan Kunz explains that in 2017, we had some success in the sponsoring field. Our target was originally to find a main sponsor but this proved to be very difficult because all the large institutions told us that they had to think about cost cuts. Hence, it was discussed to find several smaller sponsors. All in all, last year, 9'046 CHF were gathered as sponsoring revenues. Also, in 2018, we have already acquired some sponsors. Since the new homepage is coming along, it is our goal to publish some sponsors on our homepage to generate further sources of income.

12. Definite admission of the new members

The assembly is then asked to accept the new members of the association. They are: Esther Bättig, Christine Boivin Mariller, Filomena Bologna, Katharina Bosshart, Delphine Bouton, Maryline Bovero, Seraina Brooks, Katharina Büchi, Regula Buder, Rosmarie Bührer-Landolt, Susan Danubio, Anne de Graaf, Mauro Deganello, Carole Déjérez, Gafner Dinah, Christian Eissler, Andrea Barbara Eissler, Katri Eskola, Patricia Fischer, Linda Frei, Béatrice Madeleine Gähler-Schwab, Maria Gasser, Catherine Gassmann, Audrey Genolet, Anne Gerber, Gesche Gleichner, Anna Götz, Uta Grosse, Christine Hoarau, Sonja Höhn, Jutta Ilhe, Claudia Imbery, Miriam Kesseli, Christina Klarke, Andrea Kobleder, Sabine Koffer, Anja Kröner, Hanspeter Künzle, Kristina Levine, Monika Linhart, Jessica Naf, Nicole Rey...
The new institutional members are: DEASS SUPSI, Spitex Stadt Luzern, Spital Thun, Forum für medizinische Fortbildung FomF, HESAV - Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud, EPI WohnWerk, Spitex Seeland AG.

The assembly unanimously accepts the listed people and institutions as new members.

The changes in the membership numbers are as follows:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education up to Bachelor in Nursing</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Education Master/Licentiate/PhD</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>+24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Members</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>+4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Members</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>+6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrons Committee</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>+7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>+33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. Acclaim of Nicole Zigan

Nicole Zigan has been a member of the board of directors in the ANS and today she will bid farewell to this position.

She was a proactive and continuous support in the board and she stemmed a huge work in the SRAN. She was also always there for us in the board as a member in the board panel. She has been in the board for 8 years. She will still be in charge for the SRAN and its related work. Dr. Stefan Kunz thanks her for all the hard work and gives her some flowers. The assembly applauds her. Nicole Zigan thanks the congregation. She says that it was of course a huge work load that she stemmed but it was also good that she was not alone. The assembly applauds her a second time.

14. Elections
   a. President

Dr. Stefan Kunz and Fritz Frauenfelder have been co-presidents a.i. in the past year. We are delighted to announce that Prof. Dr. Iren Bischofberger has volunteered to be a candidate for the next round of the presidency of the ANS. Fritz Frauenfelder asks her to come to the stage and presents herself. She explains how she came to be asked to run as a candidate for this presidency and also that her first motivation stands with the populations we serve as nursing scientists. Nursing science is now in its adult years and hence it is time to play on an adult level. She is an adamant vocal spokeswoman for debates if she is allowed the stage. She will start as president in October after her big project for the Swiss Health Professions ends. She is also a board member of the SAMW which creates a great collaboration between the medical and the nursing sciences in Switzerland. Fritz Frauenfelder asks the assembly to give their vote if they are in favor for electing Prof. Dr. Iren Bischofberger as a new president. All members of the assembly vote to elect her as the new president of the ANS. The assembly applauds her to the new post.
b. Vice president

The former co-president a.i. Stefan Kunz has now given his consent to act as vice president for the association – he will still stay a board member. Fritz Frauenfelder asks the congregation to give their vote if they are in favor of this proposition. All members of the assembly vote to elect Dr. Stefan Kunz as the new vice president of the ANS. The assembly applauds him to the new post.

c. Board member

There is now an open position for the membership in the board of directors. Carole Déletroz has applied to be a candidate for the new position. Carole Déletroz stands up and presents herself. She is a lecturer in HESAV. She started a PhD in Quebec (Canada) and will thus leave Switzerland in one year. But after this, she will be back with her involvement in the board. The current board recommends Ms. Déletroz to the assembly as a new member of the board. Fritz Frauenfelder asks the assembly to give their vote if they are in favor of voting her into the board. All attendees are in favor of the motion. The assembly applauds her to the new position.

Prof. Dr. Dunja Nicca has already been a member of the board. She is now upholding her candidacy to be reelected for the position. Fritz Frauenfelder asks the assembly to give their vote if they are in favor of voting her into the board again. All attendees are in favor of the motion. The assembly applauds her for remaining in the position.

15. Outlook

Dr. Stefan Kunz informs the attendees that in 2018, the new website will go live. The last modifications are now being made and soon, the team at the ANS office is being briefed how the systems will work. The new website will be profitable both for the ANS as well as for the Academic Societies.

Our members have filled out a questionnaire about their satisfaction of the association’s means of communication. In the upcoming months, the results of this survey will be communicated with our members.

In our efforts to recruit more students into the ANS, the office and the board have decided to initiate a promotion. This promo consists of a free admission to the symposium of the AS gerontological nursing for all students who register as new members of the ANS until the event takes place in September 2018.

These are the save the dates for upcoming events:

- 27.3.2019: Symposium Rehabilitation Care (Zurich)
- Fall 2019: Evening Event Academic Society Psychiatric Nursing

16. Miscellaneous

None.

Closure of the General Assembly: 5:15 pm

Next General Assembly: 24th June 2019, Kalaidos FH Gesundheit Zürich
For the minutes May 16th 2018

Yoshija Walter, Assistant Manager ..................

Dr. Stefan Kunz, chair of the VFP/APS1 ..................

Generalversammlung 2018/Protokoll/16.05.2018