

UNESCO Chair in Bioethics

International Forum of Teachers

Statutes

The Steering Committee of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics discussed, decided and announced the establishment of the Chair's International Forum of Teachers in its Annual Meeting that was held on the 18 November, 2013, in Naples, Italy.

Article 1: The Forum

- a. The International Forum of Teachers (referred to hereinafter as the "IFT") will be part of the Education Department of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics.
- b. IFT will consist of teachers that have been admitted pursuant to the requirements of these Statutes.
- c. English is the working language of IFT.
- d. The office of IFT shall be located in the country of residence of the Director.

Article 2: Aims

- a. The aim of the IFT is to form and activate an organ that will function as a mechanism for the realization of the objectives and activities of the IFT.
- b. To collect, unite, involve and activate teachers of bioethics, ethics and medical law.
- c. To promote and advance the study, discussion and teaching of bioethics, ethics and medical law.
- d. To address any matters that involve issues of bioethics, ethics or medical law.

Article 3: Activities

The IFT will pursue its aims by, inter alia:

- a. Promoting and advancing synergies and co-operation among its members;
- b. Facilitating exchange of experience and information of programs and projects;
- c. Developing and distributing educational programs and materials;
- d. Initiating and organizing meetings;
- e. Initiating and organizing courses and seminars;
- f. Initiating and encouraging compilation, publication and translation of professional materials;
- g. Establishing committees to deal with specific issues;
- h. Pursuing other means harmonious with the aims of IFT.

Article 4: Membership

- a. Membership of IFT shall be open to all who have graduated from a university or equivalent academic institution, who are or were involved in teaching of bioethics, ethics or medical law, and who are interested in the fulfillment of the aims of IFT.
- b. An application for membership + a CV shall be addressed to the Director. The Director will verify that the application complies with Article 4(a) and will refer it to the President.
- c. The decision to admit a teacher to the IFT is made by the President and the Director.
- d. The refusal of membership shall be decided by the Council.

- e. The Steering Committee is entitled to bestow honorary membership.
- f. The Steering Committee is entitled to bestow Senior Membership titles.
- g. Membership shall terminate upon resignation, expulsion decided by the Council or death.
- h. A register of membership shall be kept under the authority of the Director.
- i. Members of the IFT shall be entitled, inter alia, to:
 - 1. Attend and vote in person at the Assembly;
 - 2. Stand for election to the Council;
 - 3. Be appointed to IFT committees;
 - 4. Enjoy specific benefits, rights and reduced fees available only to members of the IFT
- j. The Assembly is entitled to decide about the imposition of dues.

Article 5: Structure

The organs of the IFT shall be the Assembly, the Council, the President, the Director, the Steering Committee and the committees.

Article 6: The Assembly

- a. The Assembly shall be made up of currently members of the IFT. Each member shall have one vote. A member's vote shall be cast only in person.
- b. Extraordinary meetings of the Assembly may be convened by the Council or the Steering Committee.
- c. The Assembly shall meet ordinarily on the occasion of the world congress of the Chair.
- d. The agenda of the Assembly shall include the reports of the President, the Director, and the Chairperson of the Council, the election of the President, the Director, the members of the Council and the Steering Committee. The agenda will include the determination of membership dues and additional issues as proposed by a member of the Steering Committee.
- e. All decisions from the Assembly will be made with absolute majority of the valid votes. The President has a casting vote.

Article 7: The Council

- a. The Council shall consist of not more than thirty members.
- b. The Assembly shall elect members of the Council for a two-year period. Members of the Council shall be eligible for no more than two successive re-elections.
- c. Candidatures for the Council shall be addressed to the Director at least three months before the commencement of the next world congress.
- d. The Council will prepare the Assembly. The Council will carry out the resolutions of the Assembly. The Council will develop activities with a view to realizing the IFT's aims.
- e. The Council may delegate any of its powers to the Steering Committee.

Article 8: The Steering Committee

- a. The Steering Committee shall consist of the President, the Director and additional three members.
- b. The Steering Committee shall run the daily management of the IFT. The Steering Committee through the Director shall inform the members of the IFT activities, provide them with advice on request, and assist them when possible.

Article 9: The President

- a. The President shall be eligible for re-election as long as he or she is ready to do so.
- b. The President shall convene and chair the meetings of the Assembly, the Council and the Steering Committee. In the absence of the President the chair will be taken by the Director, and in the absence of the later by a member of the Steering Committee.

Article 10: The Director

- a. The Director shall be eligible for re-election as long as he or she is ready to do so.
- b. The Director shall take minutes of the proceedings of the various meetings, issue notices to the members, and conduct correspondence. The Director shall submit periodic report on activities to the Council.
- c. The Director shall exercise the day-to-day management of the IFT, as well as powers delegated by the Council and the Steering Committee.

Article 11: Amendment of the Statutes

All of the articles of these statutes may be amended by approval of the Assembly by a resolution adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present.

Article 12: Dissolution

The IFT will be dissolved through:

- a. A decision made by the Assembly.
- b. The complete absence of members.
- c. A decision made by the Head of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics.

.