

Administrator: The Board

Date: 2022-03-06

Reg. no.: O412-3/2122

## Measures to ensure an accessible opinion structure

### Proposition 3

#### Draft decision

The Board proposes to the General Assembly

**that** in SFS Statute, chapter 11, to change “Changes to governing documents” to “Governing documents”

**that** in SFS Statute, chapter 11, to add section 2 Document hierarchy and make consequential amendments with the following text:

item 1. Documents on which the General Assembly decides are arranged according to

the hierarchy below:

#### **1. Charter**

The Charter is SFS's internal framework that regulates its activities.

#### **2. Opinion programme**

The opinion programme is SFS's ideological and political platform. The programme is revised every three years.

#### **3. Operational plan and budget**

Operational plan and budget are the primary governing documents for the day-to-day activities.

#### **4. Directive**

Directive is an assignment for the Board, Auditors or Election Committee.

item 2. Other governing documents are placed under the above hierarchy.

item 3. Documents decided by the Board are arranged according to the below hierarchy:

#### **1. Policy**

Policy documents specify SFS's organisational aspirations and values.

## **2. Rules of procedure**

Rules of procedure set assignments and work for the organisation's units.

## **3. Instruction**

Instructions give tangible shape to policies' aspirations in relation to the practical activities. The Board can delegate instructions in special cases.

**that** in SFS Charter, chapter 8, section 1, item 3, to remove the sentence “The Board may delegate to  
the group itself to create its own rules of procedure that the Board considers to be most suitable.

**that** in SFS Statute, chapter 11, section 2, item 1, “The Board may make editorial changes in the documents the General Assembly adopts.” to “After consultation with the Operational Auditors, the Board may make editorial changes in the documents that the General Assembly adopts”

**that** in SFS Statute, chapter 11, section 2, to remove item 2: Such changes must be approved by the Auditors and shall be reported to the member unions.

**that** the Board is commissioned to execute the changes in the opinion structure.

## Covering letter

SFS's opinion documents are perceived by many student unions to be unnecessarily difficult to understand and to navigate in. The problems have often revolved around where certain policies belong (for example, whether it is in the Programme of Principles, a position or perhaps a statement), but also how the decision hierarchy is structured and which documents are decided where.

The Board was therefore given the task of continuing to simplify SFS's opinion structure. This year's Board has identified the need for a supplement in the Charter to indicate the document hierarchy, i.e. how documents relate to each other, how opinions should be prioritised, as well as a brief description of what the document type contains. The proposal has taken existing formulations into consideration and the supplements are formulated without repetition.

The different documents are of major importance for SFS as a basis to enable actual policy to be amended and executed. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we have a structure for the policies that is open, comprehensible and relevant. The Board proposes to the General Assembly that an individual opinion document is produced as an amalgamation of current positions and the Programme of Principles; that principles and policies are collected for a clearer purpose. At the same time, we propose a three-year cycle for revision of the document to ensure that our opinions have a solid basis in the political discussions. The Board's vision for this is an expanded opportunity for the member unions to influence SFS's opinions and it will hopefully contribute to more mutual processes. It is also the Board's ambition that the amalgamation of the Programme of Principles and the positions will lead to it being simpler for member unions and individual students, as well as other organisations, to access SFS's policies and principles.

If the General Assembly approves the proposition, the Board will commence the major task of implementing the decision prior to next year's General Assembly. Until then, the current documents will apply.

The Board's working group for review of the opinion structure noted the great importance of also clarifying and stipulating documents decided on by bodies other than the General Assembly. The proposal consequently also includes a document hierarchy for decisions made by the Board where we clarify what a policy, rules of procedure and structure are, and how they are managed.

The Board also proposes clarifications surrounding the Operational Auditors' participation in revision of governing documents and a clearer responsibility for the Board in relation to working groups, networks and committees.