

## Rules and Regulations of the Finno-Ugrian Society

Approved at the annual meeting of the Society on the 2 of December 2007

1 § The name of the Society shall be the *Suomalais-Ugrilainen Seura*, located in Helsinki. The unofficial names of the Society in different languages include the following: North Saami *Suoma-Ugralaš Searvi*, Estonian *Soome-Ugri Selts*, Hungarian *Finn-Ugor Társaság*, Swedish *Finsk-Ugriska Sällskapet*, French *Société Finno-Ougrienne*, German *Finnisch-Ugrische Gesellschaft*, English *Finno-Ugrian Society*, Russian *Финно-Угорское Общество* and Latin *Societas Fenno-Ugrica*.

2 § The goal of the Society shall be to promote research into the languages, cultures and history of the Uralic and Altaic peoples.

3 § In order to achieve this goal the Society

3.1 shall commission researchers to conduct field and archive work among these peoples, as well as to other locations in which the necessary materials for studies of this kind are available;

3.2 shall support individuals and groups who, on their own initiative, conduct scientific research and collection of data relevant to the Society's fields of interest;

3.3 shall offer support in the form of grants necessary for the preparation and publication of scientific research and the collection of research material relevant to the aforementioned fields;

3.4 shall publish and have printed scientific literature that is both directly or indirectly pertinent to its fields of interest, and supervise the storage and marketing of this literature;

3.5 shall, by means of its publications, participate in the exchange of scientific literature, and ensure the availability of the literature so acquired;

3.6 shall maintain an archive and other collections when necessary, and ensure that these are made available for the use of researchers;

3.7 shall arrange meetings and organise presentations and discussions to promote the investigation and advancement of current scientific issues.

4 § Any individual of good repute may be chosen or nominated, regardless of nationality or citizenship, for membership of the Society. Legal persons may also be accepted as patron members. Members shall be

4.1 *honorary members*, individuals invited or chosen because they are internationally recognised leading experts in Finno-Ugrian studies, or have otherwise greatly contributed to the advancement of the Society's objectives;

4.2 *associate members*, individuals invited from outside of Finland, who are renowned scholars in those fields of research associated with the Society;

4.3 *patron members*, both natural and legal persons who have supported the activities of the Society through donations;

4.4 *general members*, individuals who pay a membership fee as regulated at the appropriate Annual General Meeting.

Those who have paid their membership fees or became members of the Society according to earlier rules shall retain their membership according to the regulations then in force.

5 § Honorary and associate members shall be chosen on the basis of written nominations presented at the November general meeting. Honorary and associate members shall not be subject to fees of any kind. Patron members shall be approved at general meetings according to the recommendation of the Council, general members at the nomination of any member present provided that the nominee has paid the membership fee. If the nomination for general membership is not approved, the membership fee will be reimbursed. Any call for the removal of a Society member must be deferred until the subsequent meeting of the Society, where the motion may be approved only by a two-thirds majority of the members present. Otherwise, the motion will be rejected and not entered into the minutes of the meeting.

6 § The funds of the Society are

6.1 the *initial funds*, which consist of all accumulated non-deducted membership fees, the capital sum of which shall be retained without reductions;

6.2 the *general funds*, to which the annual surplus for each fiscal year shall be transferred and which shall be the primary source for covering possible deficits;

6.3 the *special funds*, which have been or shall be formed from donations specially designated for that purpose or funds designated for special purposes and whose management, accumulation and deployment are regulated by the conditions governing each fund.

7 § The Society's accounts shall be closed each calendar year. At the general meeting in March, the accounts shall be presented and the auditor's report on accounts and administration presented, the financial statement shall be approved and a decision made concerning exemption from liability. The financial statement shall then be published in the Society's periodical *Journal de la Société Finno-Ougrienne*.

8 § The officers of the Society shall be the President, First and Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Commissioner.

The *President* shall supervise the Society's activities, represent the Society at the highest level, convene meetings of the Council and chair these as well as other meetings, with the exception of those cases in which the President is deemed incapable.

The *First Vice President* and, in the case of his or her absence, the *Second Vice President*, shall, when necessary, take over the duties of the President.

The *Secretary* shall be responsible for the Society's correspondence, compile the annual report, arrange the meetings, take minutes at the meetings of the Council, oversee publishing, and, where needed, direct other activities of the Society.

The *Treasurer* shall be responsible for the Society's financial affairs: the Treasurer shall keep the accounts, manage grants and donations made to the Society, receivables and membership fees, and also the investment of the Society's funds.

The *Librarian* shall oversee the storage, sales and exchange of the Society's publications and also make other literary resources available.

The *Commissioner* shall seek to procure new general members for the Society and shall be the advocate of the Society among the general public, take minutes at meetings of the Society and, where necessary, assists the Secretary and oversee those archive materials located in other institutions.

In addition to those offices mentioned above, the Council may engage other functionaries or experts to perform temporary or regular tasks for the Society. The Society may appoint special representatives to oversee its interests in various places, both in Finland and abroad.

9 § Issues concerning the Society's activities shall will be dealt with by the Council, which shall act as the executive body, consisting of the President, both Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and three auxiliary members. The Council shall have a quorum if the President or one of the Vice Presidents and four other members are present.

10 § The Society's authorised signatories shall be the President and Vice Presidents either two of them together or one of them together with either the Secretary or Treasurer.

11 § The Society shall convene for general meetings, extraordinary meetings and the Annual General Meeting. The Commissioner shall take the minutes at the meetings or the Secretary, in her or his absence. Issues on the agenda shall be resolved by open vote, unless at least two members demand a secret ballot, with a simple majority or in the case of a tie lots shall be drawn. The removal of members, amendments to the rules or the disbanding of the Society, however, shall require a majority as stipulated separately in these rules.

12 § General meetings shall take place during the periods September to November and January to May on the third Friday of each month unless special circumstances necessitate the moving of a meeting to some other time. Meeting dates shall be approved by the Council, which shall also set dates for extraordinary meetings. At the meetings, lectures shall be held, proposals for accepting new general and patron members shall be made and motions calling for the removal of members shall be resolved. In addition to the aforementioned, the meetings in March and November shall consider any other matters mentioned herein.

13 § The Annual General Meeting shall take place on the birthday of Matthias Alexander Castrén, December 2nd, or, in the event of an obstacle, on some other day in December. The annual meeting shall be opened by the President or a Vice President with a speech or presentation, after which the annual report compiled by the Secretary, and the Treasurer's annual budgetary statement on costs and expenditure shall be delivered. The Annual General Meeting shall also consider the selection of new honorary and associate members based on the written recommendations made at the November general meeting, and shall select Society functionaries and deputy members of the Council until the next Annual General Meeting, as well as two auditors and their assistants to audit the accounts for the next calendar year. Furthermore, the budget shall be approved for the next fiscal year, the size of membership fees established and proposals for amending the rules shall be resolved.

14 § Notification of general meetings shall be made on the Society's web pages no later than three days in advance. Notification of extraordinary meetings and the Annual General Meeting, if it is to be held on any day other than December 2nd, shall be made twice, with an interval of one week, with the second announcement being made in *Helsingin Sanomat* no later than one day prior to the meeting.

15 § Any proposals for amending these rules shall be made at a general meeting of the Society, no later than the November meeting, in order that if possible the proposal might be considered and resolved at the next Annual General Meeting. In such a case

the announcement for both meetings shall specifically mention that a motion for amending the rules shall be proposed. The amendment shall be considered approved only if supported by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present.

16 § If a motion is made to disband the Society, the procedure shall be the same as for amendments to the rules. Should the Society be disbanded, the funds shall be utilised towards the advancement of the Society's interests as designated in the meeting of the Society. In event of disbandment, care must be taken to ensure that those funds designated for special purposes shall be managed and deployed as as originally intended by the initiator of the fund.

Finno-Ugrian Society, P.O. Box 320 (Mariankatu 7 A), FI-00171 Helsinki; telephone +358 (0)9 662 149, and fax +358 (0)9 698 8249.