

SIRA – Swiss Informatics Research Association

Statutes

Article 1. Name, Seat and Legal Status

- 1.1 SIRA (Swiss Informatics Research Association) is the name of a non-profit, science-oriented association according to article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code.
- 1.2 SIRA is a special interest group of the Swiss Informatics Society (SI). Its seat is at the seat of SI.
- 1.3 This text is intended to be gender-neutral. All terms referred to (president, person, member, etc.) refer to all genders.

Article 2. Purpose

- 2.1 SIRA promotes teaching and research in informatics and its related disciplines in Swiss universities.
- 2.2 The term “Swiss universities” includes universities and universities of applied sciences based in Switzerland as well as the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology.
- 2.3 SIRA promotes the common interests of informatics at Swiss universities through coordination and cooperation in teaching, research and services.
- 2.4 SIRA represents informatics at Swiss universities towards political authorities, economic, social and cultural institutions, and towards the public.
- 2.5 SIRA cooperates internationally, particularly with relevant informatics associations of other countries and with other research promoting bodies).

Article 3. Membership

- 3.1 For the purposes of these statutes, an “informatics department” is understood to consist of all informatics professors (including emeriti), lecturers and their employees of a Swiss university offering a B.Sc., M.Sc., or an equivalent degree in informatics. The SIRA Board recognizes and publishes the current list of the informatics departments.
- 3.2 SIRA members are professors and full-time or part-time lecturers of informatics departments whose annual fee is paid. Each informatics department is responsible for determining the list of SIRA members and communicating this list annually to the SIRA Board.

Article 4. Organisational Units

- 4.1 The organisational units of SIRA are:
 - the SIRA Conference
 - the SIRA Board
 - the auditors
- 4.2 Minutes will be taken of all decisions of SIRA’s organisational units.

Article 5. SIRA Conference

- 5.1 The SIRA Conference is the supreme authority of SIRA. The SIRA Conference convenes annually in a regular session. The SIRA Board or 10% of the SIRA membership may request an extraordinary session to be convened.
- 5.2 The SIRA Conference comprises all heads of informatics departments in Switzerland. If a university offers several B.Sc., M.Sc., or equivalent informatics degrees, the responsible units of this university will determine the head who will represent them at the SIRA Conference.
- 5.3
- a. Each informatics department has one vote at the SIRA Conference, to be held by the head of the department. The head of the department may appoint another SIRA member as the department's acting representative for all SIRA matters.
 - b. If a department head or acting SIRA representative of a department cannot participate in a SIRA Conference, they may send another SIRA member from the department as a substitute to that SIRA Conference, and bestow the right to vote for the department temporarily on that member.
 - c. The appointment of acting representatives or substitutes must be announced to the SIRA president prior to the beginning of the SIRA Conference.
 - d. Members of the SIRA Board (including the president) who are not representing their departments as heads, acting representatives or substitutes have a vote in the SIRA Conference ex officio.
 - e. Except for the cases mentioned in Article 5.3 a. and 5.3 b., any transfer of voting rights in the SIRA Conference is explicitly forbidden.
- 5.4 The invitation to a SIRA Conference is to be distributed together with the agenda at least thirty days in advance. If this condition is fulfilled, then decisions of the SIRA Conference are binding. The SIRA Conference takes decisions by simple majority of those voting. Amendments to the Statutes require a two-thirds majority of those voting with yes, no, or abstention. Elections and decisions are held by open vote.
- 5.5 The SIRA Conference elects the SIRA Board and the SIRA president.
- 5.6 The SIRA Conference approves the annual report and accounts of the previous fiscal year as well as the SIRA budget and membership dues for the following fiscal year, on consultation with the SI Board. The SIRA Conference decides on changes to the SIRA Statutes and any other matters of business that are submitted to it by the SIRA Board or 10% of the SIRA membership. Any proposed amendments to the SIRA Statutes must be listed in the invitation.
- 5.7 In lieu of a physical meeting of the SIRA Conference, the SIRA Board may decide to hold the SIRA Conference as an online or a hybrid (physical and online) meeting. The form of the meeting is communicated with the invitation. The SIRA Board ensures that the voting rights and the votes of online participants are recorded properly.
- The SIRA Board may further request a decision of the SIRA Conference by letter or suitable electronic means from the SIRA members who have a vote

in the SIRA Conference. In this case, at least 10 days must fall between the delivery of voting materials and the deadline for submitting ballots.

Article 6. SIRA Board

- 6.1 The SIRA Board consists of the president and 2 to 5 further SIRA members. Their term of office is two years. The president may be re-elected for at most one additional term.
- 6.2 The SIRA Board directs SIRA and represents it to the public. The Board carries out the decisions of the SIRA Conference and is responsible to it for carrying out SIRA business. The Board determines the date on which member lists are due, according to Article 3.2. It shall decide on all matters that are not expressly the responsibility of the SIRA Conference.
- 6.3 The SIRA Board takes decisions by an absolute majority of its members.
- 6.4 The SIRA Board may appoint ongoing committees as well as working groups and delegates, and may engage the services of experts.

Article 6a. Auditors

- 6a.1 The SIRA accounts are audited by the SI Auditors. They report to the SIRA Conference.

Art.7. Finances and Liabilities

- 7.1 SIRA finances its activities and covers its expenses according to an annual budget namely from membership fees, revenues from events, and from contributions and donations.
- 7.2 The informatics departments contribute fees for their members to the SI and to SIRA. The SIRA fee is set by the SIRA Conference. The SI fee is determined by the SI regulations. SIRA members and informatics departments have no further financial obligation to SIRA, nor may any SIRA assets be distributed to them.
- 7.3 The SIRA fiscal year coincides with the calendar year.

Article 8. Amendments and dissolution of SIRA

- 8.1 Amendments to the SIRA Statutes can be requested by the Board or by 10% of the SIRA membership.
- 8.2 The dissolution of SIRA may be decided in the same way as amendments to the Statutes. In such an event, all net assets will revert to the SI.

Article 9. Transitional arrangements

- 9.1 The present Statutes were approved by the SARIT Administrative Assembly on 15 March 2012 in Berne and came into force immediately. The name SIRA – “Swiss Informatics Research Association” – was decided in a separate vote.
- 9.2 They replace the Statutes of SARIT – “Swiss Association for Research in Information Technology” – from 17 March 1998 with amendments from 2 April 2003 and 8 October 2009. SARIT's predecessor was the “Schweizerische Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Informatik und ihrer Anwendungen”, established 19 December 1989.

Revision History

- 2012-03-15 Statutes approved and released
- 2017-12-04 Article 6.1 changed – approved by the 2017 SIRA Conference
- 2019-11-22 Articles 1.3, 5.3, 5.7, 5.8, and 6.2 changed; footnote to Article 6.1 removed – approved by the 2019 SIRA Conference
- 2024-10-23 Article 5.4 amended (removing an ambiguity about how to count votes); Article 5.7 amended (allowing hybrid or online SIRA Conferences) – approved in a decision by (electronic) letter according to Article 5.7