

Constitution of the South Australian Philosophy in Education Association (SAPEA)

1. NAME

The Name of the Association shall be “South Australian Philosophy in Education Association”.

2. DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution (unless the context otherwise requires), the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively attributed to them below:

- “Association” or “SAPEA” means South Australian Philosophy in Education Association.
- “Member” means any individual, group or institution affiliated with SAPEA.
- “Executive” means the Executive committee of SAPEA.
- “AGM” means the Annual General Meeting of SAPEA.
- “FAPSA” means the Federation of Asia-Pacific Philosophy in Schools Associations.
- “EdSA” means Educators South Australia.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Association’s aims are:

- a) to assist Members to develop and promote philosophy in education by maintaining a network of communication, collaboration, and cooperation among educators, parents and others who are committed to the fostering of critical, creative and caring thinking,
- b) to inspire and encourage individuals to practise and acquire independent skills in reasoning and thinking reflectively, critically, and creatively,
- c) to support individuals to be intellectually motivated, effective thinkers who engage sound judgement.

The Association’s objectives are:

- a) to promote communities of inquiry or other appropriate methods in education to analyse and discuss philosophical issues and concepts, and develop the disposition for ethical action,
- b) to promote and explain philosophy in educational settings to executives, educators, parents, and students and to identify places for philosophy in educational settings,
- c) to provide training and continuing support for educators,
- d) to develop suitable resources for educators,

- e) to promote the production, adaptation and dissemination of curriculum materials suitable for introducing philosophical concepts and methodology in educational settings,
- f) to establish a network of communication among all persons involved in philosophy in education,
- g) to conduct and encourage continued research in the theory and practice of philosophy in education,
- h) to maintain, in appropriate categories, lists of educators of philosophy in education, philosophers and other interested persons,
- i) to provide fora for discussion,
- j) to seek support and approval for philosophy in education from all institutions operating in the field of education whether private or public, with particular emphasis on matters of state and national interest,
- k) to liaise with Members and organise meetings and conferences at a state level and to facilitate the exchange of information among Members,
- l) to operate as a non-profit organisation designed to facilitate the educational aims and objectives of the Association.

4. POWERS

SAPEA may, for the purposes of pursuing or carrying out any or all of its aims and objectives, by resolution of a general meeting seek incorporation, hold and dispose of real or personal property, enter into contracts, receive and make gifts, act as trustee, be a beneficiary, and perform all such acts in the law as are required or are incidental to such legal functions. SAPEA may levy an appropriate membership fee upon its Members.

5. MEMBERS

Members are individuals, groups or institutions who have joined SAPEA. Memberships are renewable annually for a fee to be determined by the Executive. The benefits of membership are to include access to resources stored on the SAPEA website, discounts to attend SAPEA workshops, events and conferences, and other discounts and advantages that SAPEA may secure from time to time.

6. PATRONS

At any Annual General Meeting, such Patron or Patrons as are considered appropriate may be elected.

7. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

7.1 The AGM

- a) The AGM is the supreme decision-making body of SAPEA and its decisions are binding on the Executive.

- b) The AGM is constituted by the Executive and at least one other SAPEA member.
- c) The Association shall meet once a year for the AGM and at other times as the AGM or the Executive shall determine by resolution, and in any event not later than 6 months after the expiration of any Financial Year.
- d) A quorum shall consist of at least three Executive members and one SAPEA Member.
- e) The decision of the SAPEA AGM will be those reached by a majority of those present at a meeting called after due notice has been given to all Members. The Chair of the meeting will have only a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.

7.2 The Executive

- a) The Executive shall consist of a Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist, FAPSA Council Representative, and EdSA Representative.
- b) It is the responsibility of the Executive to run the routine, day-to-day affairs of SAPEA within the policies of, and in accordance with the decisions of, the AGM. Whenever non-routine and controversial issues arise it is the responsibility of the Chair of the Executive or nominee to contact the Executive and to act on the advice of the majority of the Executive. If this is not possible due to the urgency of the matter, then it is the responsibility of the Chair of the Executive to make whichever decision is in the closest accord with the policies of SAPEA and is believed by the Chair of the Executive to be the decision most likely to have received the support of the majority of the Executive. It is to be communicated to the Executive as soon as possible and, if not acceptable to the majority, modified as much as possible to accord with a resolution passed by a majority of members of the Executive.
- c) The Members to constitute the Executive will be chosen each year by the AGM. The particular persons to occupy the various offices of the Executive will be chosen by the Members present at the AGM.
- d) The Executive shall have power to change the membership of the Executive provided that a majority of Executive members are persuaded that just cause exists for a change and that the membership of the Executive continue to conform to the requirements of 7.2 (a).
- e) The decisions of the Executive will be those reached by a majority of the members present at a meeting called after due notice has been given to all members of the Executive. The Chair of Executive will only have a casting vote.

7.3 Non-Executive Office Bearers

- a) The Association will appoint a Public Officer (who may also be a member of the Executive) to act as the central contact for the Association. The Public Officer is responsible for signing of any forms lodged with the Office of Consumer and Business Services.

8. DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Chair shall be responsible for:

- Calling meetings of the Executive as often as business may require.
- Acting as the Chair at meetings or appointing a proxy to so act.
- Acting as spokesperson for the Association.

The Deputy Chair shall be responsible for:

- Working with the Chair to discuss SAPEA business as needed.
- Acting as the Chair at meetings when the Chair is unavailable to do so.
- Acting as spokesperson for the Association when the Chair is unavailable.

The Secretary shall be responsible for:

- Maintaining a register of Members of the Association.
- Conducting the correspondence of the Association and filing copies of correspondence.
- Making arrangement for and keeping a record of meetings.
- Sending notices of meetings and reports to Executive and SAPEA Members as appropriate.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for:

- Keeping accurate accounts of all monies received and paid by the Association and proper records of the Association assets and liabilities.
- Issuing receipts for subscriptions and other monies he or she may receive in behalf of the Association and paying all such monies into the Association's savings accounts.
- Paying accounts on behalf of the Association, as approved by the Executive committee.
- Preparing a statement of receipts and expenditure and a balance sheet for presentation at the AGM.

The Archivist shall be responsible for:

- Managing the physical resources of the Association library.
- Managing the digital resources of the Association.
- Managing the electronic presence of the Association.

The FAPSA Council Representative shall be responsible for:

- Attending the FAPSA AGM when held and representing SAPEA at the national level on the FAPSA Council.
- Voting on behalf of the Association at FAPSA Council meetings.
- Reporting to the Executive on decisions reached by the FAPSA Council.

The EdSA Representative shall be responsible for:

- Attending EdSA meetings when held and representing SAPEA at the state level at EdSA meetings.
- Voting on behalf of the Association at EdSA meetings.
- Reporting to the Executive on decisions reached by EdSA.

9. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may only be amended at an AGM or at a Special General Meeting of the Association. Notice of the proposed amendment(s) must be received by the Secretary at least one month before the Association meeting and must be forwarded by the Secretary to the Executive and SAPEA members, to arrive at least a fortnight before the Association meeting.

These rules may be amended by a resolution passed by two-thirds majority of SAPEA members present at any Annual General Meeting at which notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given or at a Special General Meeting convened for such purpose.

10. DISSOLUTION

- a) The Association shall be dissolved in the event of membership of less than three Members or upon the vote of a three-fourths majority of SAPEA Members present at a Special General Meeting convened to consider such a question.
- b) Upon resolution being passed in accordance with paragraph (a) of this rule, all assets and funds of the Association on hand shall after the payment of all expenses and liabilities be handed over to such registered or exempted charity or charities as a simple majority of the representatives of SAPEA Members at the Special General Meeting so convened or as a subsequent Special General Meeting may decide.

11. INCOME AND PROPERTY

The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the aims and objectives of the Association stated in Clause 3, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members or relatives of members of the Association, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officer or servant of the Association for any service actually rendered to the Association or reasonable and proper rental for premises let

by any members of the Association provided that no remuneration shall be paid to officers or servants who are members of the Executive.

Amended 27/8/2026