

# SATE AGM

## Schaffhausen

### 24th November 2023



## Minutes

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**Present:** Craig Brand, Marie-Claude Guerry, Sandra Gut, Kaspar Kolb, Hansueli Müller, Orlaith Nellen, Maja Ruef, Matt Rüegger, Rekik Scholler-Mekonnen, Franziska Tobler, Lynn Williams

**Apologies:** Daryl Babcock, Véronique Clément, Barbara Müller, Véronique Vouilloz

**Venue:** KAMMGARN WEST, Baumgartenstrasse 23, 8200 Schaffhausen

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- 1. MINUTES:** Last year's minutes are gratefully received and approved.
- 2. ANNUAL REPORT:** Our outgoing president, Christine Mach (CM), shares the annual report.
- 3. MEMBERSHIP:** Hansueli Müller (HM) reports that over the past year, we have lost 10 members and gained 8 new ones, resulting in a total of 228 members. 70% of these are members of both SATE and the VSG. For interest, we might note that the German equivalent organisation, the VSDL has 93% of members who are also in the VSG, and HM urges us to see if we can get more members to also join the VSG.
- 4. FINANCES:** HM shares that we made a small profit this year; mostly because no face-to-face committee meetings took place, saving expenditure on travel and refreshments. The November course of last year brought in a profit. Total overall income from membership fees is dropping and will fall still further because the VSG has introduced a 15 CHF administration fee per person for those who are not VSG members. We as SATE should, therefore, consider taking on this administrative task ourselves, and keep in mind our overall commitment to increasing membership numbers and generating more membership fees. The auditors – Franziska Tobler (FT) and Sandra Gut (SG) – report that the accounts have been properly kept, that they confirm the figures, and that the accounts are overall in a healthy state. Thank you to Hansueli, Sandra and Franziska for all your efforts!
- 5. FAREWELL KASPAR:** We thank Kaspar for his many years of dedication as SATE delegate to the VSG and hand over a thank you card and token of our appreciation on behalf of the organisation.
- 6. FAREWELL CHRISTINE:** Christine is leaving after several years of service on the committee, including the role of president. Thanks, Christine, on behalf of everyone, for all your hard work. We hope you like our card and gift!
- 7. ELECTIONS:** CM introduces this agenda item. Craig Brand, a colleague from KS Limmattal, stands for election as new delegate to take over from KK and is unanimously welcomed into the role.

Marie-Claude Guerry (MCG) [Marie-Claude Guerry / Aimé Steinlen 5 / 1004 Lausanne], a long-standing committee member assumes the role of president, with unanimous support, as CM is stepping down. The committee members are collectively re-elected for a further term.

8. **RAHMENLEHRPLAN / PLAN D'ETUDES CADRE:** Christine shares an update on the ongoing curricular revisions. In this second round of revisions, we have worked on giving feedback on both the general and English-specific sections after conducting a member survey. In this connection MCG and Lynn Williams (LW) formulated propositions on various ideas which were discussed in the committee. The feedback gathered in the resulting questionnaire was consolidated into a document to be submitted mid-December. Outstanding issues to be resolved include perspectives on English as a main subject and possible harmonisation of all Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) curricula.
9. **REPORT FROM DELEGATES' MEETING:** KK and Maja Ruef (MR) report on business relevant to SATE. Areas of discussion in the delegates' meeting were especially MFL curricula, education for sustainable development (BNE) and political education (PB); there is a drive in all these areas for more overall alignment (at the level of the structural set-up, not that of exact curricular content). The VSG are in the process of gathering all information submitted to be forwarded to the project group for evaluation. All VSG activities were approved, as were the finances both actual and budgeted, and KK has a positive overall impression of their work. The joining fee is to remain at 140 CHF. There was mention that there might be a future discount for *Fachverbände* with collective memberships. There is also a strong wish to make VSG activities more visible through increased press coverage, for example. The next delegates' meeting is due to take place at the Kollegium Heiligkreuz in canton Fribourg on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.
10. **REPORT ON COURSES:** Orlaith Nellen (ON) shares her take on the success of this year's course and ideas for next year. This year's course, which responded to recent participant calls for a concrete pedagogical toolkit to take away, was well received, with a good deal of positive feedback and many participants expressing an interest in returning next year and a few participants deciding to join SATE as a result of a positive course experience. The committee will review all feedback received in more detail at a later date. Building on ideas discussed last year, we as a committee remain interested in working with Claire Keegan or Elaine Feeney again, or inviting first time presenters Kirsty Logan or Louisa Reid. Further ideas include Dublin-based James Higson, a Swiss post-doctoral researcher into indigenous writing, James Higson, or a Nigerian-Irish presenter who explores the areas of migration and identity. The idea of a second annual course, to take place in the spring, was floated with a number of the November course participants and was positively received.
11. **AOB:** None.

Lynn Williams, Hale Barns, UK, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2023