



Attendees: Committee: Marie-Claude Guerry (MCG), Orlaith Nellen (ON), Hansueli Müller (HM), Rekik Scholler-Mekonnen (RSM), Lynn Williams (LW), auditors Sandra Gut (SG) and Franziska Tobler (FT), delegates Maja Ruef (MR) and Craig Brand (CB), former president Daryl Babcock

Excused: Matt Rügger

Time: 17:00 – 18:00

Venue: Neue Kantonsschule Aarau

1. Minutes last AGM (MCG)

Last year's minutes are acknowledged and approved.

2. Annual Report (MCG)

MCG reports on our current position. We need to do a structural overhaul: membership numbers are down, courses are not being booked as much (more/different advertising needed?), website outdated. Recruitment strategies will be evaluated at the committee meeting in January. Course fees will stay the same. A twilight spring course offering language practice/current affairs is being organised by LW for March. We aim to come back with a new CALP course in 2027.

3. Membership (HM)

Members: 242 last year, now 244 and we have 10 new people who've signed up. RSM will write and send the link to sign up on the VSG site.

4. Finances (HM, SG, FT)

HM shared a brief summary on the financial status and movements of SATE. The Joyce workshop in the spring resulted in a slight deficit but it was worthwhile. The 2024 course was a financial success but this year's will likely result in a slight loss. Last year we subsidised a school in Bülach with a theatre workshop. SG and FT: Auditors confirm that the accounts have been conscientiously kept; thank you on behalf of SATE to HM. The records are approved and the treasurer discharged.

5. Committee

The committee are unanimously confirmed in their roles. We elect our two auditors and two delegates with applause. MR is, however, stepping down from her VSG role and SATE will therefore need a new delegate. We decide to circulate a mail to our members in January to recruit someone.

6. Report from Delegates' Meeting (MR and CB)

Topics included:

- Curriculum: Cantons are dealing in different ways with the new curriculum that WEGM is ushering in, with greater and lesser degrees of innovation.
- Digitalisation and AI, with the overall message that AI is here to stay and can support but not replace learning, with a clear need for more oral marks and context-based tasks;

also a new position paper was presented on how to deal with social media and new tools for teaching media competency, source: Pro Juventute;

- The status of modern foreign languages (MFL) in education;
 - Finances: The VSG is in a strong position financially and will make a payout to the various subject organisations according to the number of VSG members in the subject organisation;
 - Further education for teachers: offerings are generally considered good quality but financing remains a challenge for teachers and solutions are being sought;
 - Teacher remuneration: CB reports on slight salary increases for teachers;
 - Organisational changes: A new president has been voted in.
- MCG thanks CB and MR for their respective reports.

7. Report on SATE November course 2025 (ON)

The November course was a brilliant and thought-provoking few days led by Jacob Sam-La Rose. Facilities were rated very good by participants (with the exception of not being able to leave belongings in the course room during lunch). Feedback indicated that those attending would appreciate a participant list – it is not permitted for us to circulate information of that nature digitally but we could print a list and distribute it on the day.

We briefly discuss the idea of booking the hotel for participants too, so more people might stay for the communal meal and will in future communicate early on which hotel we have made bookings at for the committee. 10 people signed up to become members on the course days.

8. Report on spring course 2025 (LW)

This took place at the James Joyce Foundation in Zurich as a twilight workshop at the end of March and was led by centre manager Martin Mühlheim. The session centred on the stories 'Eveline' and 'The Gallants', with further exchange on songs and visual art connected with Joyce. A guided tour of the Joyce collection rounded off our visit, with highlights including rare artefacts and striking artwork. After the course, there was the option to socialise with participants.

9. AOB

Farewell to HM: We honour Hansueli's longstanding and dedicated service to SATE with a few carefully chosen words, a card and gifts.

Teachers are increasingly not being allowed time off to attend further education courses and/or are unable to secure funding for these. We resolve to continue to exchange with the VSG (MCG and HM have begun this dialogue). In Vaud, a draft letter is planned by MCG and colleagues and this will be shared with the VSG committee.

The 2026 November course will be taking place in Lausanne 26th-27th November, with the AGM taking place in the same locality on Friday 27th November.

The meeting was closed at 17.51.

Bern, 15th January 2026
Lynn Williams Leppich