

# Articles of Association for the Nordic Women's University

Adopted in the founders' meeting on 11 January 2011  
(Translated from Norwegian)

## Article 1 – The Foundation

The Nordic Women's University Foundation is a foundation, which shall own and operate the Nordic Women's University.

The Board of Directors shall decide where the Foundation shall be registered at any given time.

## Article 2 Purpose

The Foundation's purpose is to:

- Establish and function as an educational institution built on feminist values and feminist pedagogy
- Develop alternative models fit to strengthen women's sense of identity and contribute to women's liberation
- Contribute to the confidence of women, highlight women's contributions and importance
- Engage in interdisciplinary research on and education of women of all ages, from different countries and with different levels of education and experiences
- Set the standard for women's politics

## Article 3 – Responsibilities

In order to fulfil its purpose, specified above, the Foundation must:

- Develop feminist pedagogy
- Disseminate results from research on women to groups that may make use of these results
- Engage in research, dissemination and experimentation within arts and crafts, production and teaching
- Collaborate with women's universities and university colleges, as well as other educational institutions, both nationally and internationally
- Collaborate with feminist movements, women's organizations and women's groups, both nationally and internationally
- Partner with individuals, groups or organizations, insofar such partnering is in the best interest of the Foundation

## Article 4 – Council

The Foundation shall have a council comprising 15 members. These members shall be women who in various ways are or have been engaged in projects or work related to the Foundation's purpose.

Council members are appointed by the Foundation's Board of Directors and shall serve for a period of three years. However, at the first appointment, five council members shall be appointed for a period of one year, five council members for a period of two years, and the remaining council members for a period of three years. In its appointment of council members, the Board of Directors shall strive to find representatives from several Nordic countries. Five

new council members are to be appointed every year. One council member may serve continuously for a period of nine years. The council itself will appoint a chairwoman and deputy chairwoman, who will both hold this position for one year at a time.

The council shall meet at least once a year. The chairwoman shall call the meeting.

Meetings may take place electronically.

The role of the council is to:

- oversee the council's activities
- give advice on the Foundation's activities, plans and finances
- appoint a member to the Foundation's appointment committee
- make statements on issues brought before the council by the Board of Directors

### Article 5 – Board of Directors

The Foundation shall be led by a Board of Directors comprising no less than five members and no more than seven members. There shall be five deputy members. All directors and deputy directors shall be women. One of the members of the Board, as well as a personal deputy member for this person, shall be chosen among and appointed from tenured staff at the Foundation's institutions. The remaining 6 directors and 4 deputy directors shall be chosen by the Foundation's Board, in a fixed order of rotation. Any one individual may serve on the Board of Directors for a continuous period of six years. The appointment committee shall strive to find representatives from several Nordic countries.

New directors shall be appointed every year by the end of December.

The Board of Directors constitute by electing a chairwoman and deputy chairwoman. These are elected for a period of one year at a time.

The Board will appoint a working committee comprising the chairwoman, deputy chairwoman and one director. This committee will handle urgent matters and matters delegated to it by the Board. Minutes shall be recorded in all working committee meetings. The committee shall appoint its own secretary.

The Board has reached quorum when at least half its members are present. In the event of a tie, the chairwoman shall cast the deciding vote. Minutes shall be recorded from all meetings. Insofar it is possible, the Board's shall reach a consensus in all decisions.

The managing director at the Nordic Women's University shall have a right to be present for Board meetings and may make proposals in said meetings.

Among other things, the Board's responsibilities are:

- Responsibility for the Foundation's activities

- Overall responsibility for the day to day operation of the Nordic Women's University
- Review budgets
- Review audited accounts
- Review main trends in academic developments and educational programmes
- Determine the Foundation's strategies and action plans
- Appoint committees and prepare mandates for said committees, including support groups, etc.
- Appoint appointment committee of three members, of whom two shall be members of the Board
- Adopt amendments to these Articles of Association

### Article 6 – Initial capital

The Foundation's initial capital shall be NOK 100,000. This initial capital may only be used to acquire real property and may not be used for any other purpose.

### Article 7 – Finances

The Foundation's accounts shall be kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and follow the calendar year. The accounts shall be audited by a state-authorized public accountant or registered accountant chosen by the Board.

Support loans granted by individuals, groups and organizations shall be deposited to a dedicated bank account in the Foundation's name or put on the market as negotiable instruments with a bank or insurance guarantee. The Foundation may only dispose of the interest from such support loans. The individual lender shall be issued a debt certificate for the loan amount, with a bank guarantee as security for the loan. The currency of the loan shall be agreed with the individual lender. The Foundation may pledge the total assets received as support loans with security for bank guarantees.

The Foundation's cash assets shall, insofar as they are not used in the day-to-day operation of the Foundation, be deposited in a bank account yielding the highest possible interest or be lent against first-priority pledges or other fully satisfactory security.

### Article 8 – Amendments to these Articles of Association

The Foundation's Articles of Association may be amended, as long as they remain in accordance with the purpose specified in Article 2. Directors and members of the Foundation's council may propose amendments to the Articles. Adoption of proposed amendments requires a 2/3 majority by the Board.

### Article 9 – Dissolution

The Foundation may be dissolved following a unanimous Board decision. Any assets of the Foundation that remain after its dissolution may only be used to promote and enhance women's rights and position, and if possible, such assets shall be given to organizations with a related purpose in the Nordic region. However, this shall not apply if a donor has made reservations to the contrary. Decisions about how remaining assets shall be used are to be made by the Board and require a 2/3 majority.

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