

**Statutes
for the "Africa Multiple" Cluster of Excellence
at the University of Bayreuth,
dated 20 December 2018**

(English translation*)

The Senate of the University of Bayreuth, after prior consultation with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation), herewith adopts the following Statutes:

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* The University of Bayreuth is not liable for inaccuracies or mistakes in this English translation. In case of doubt, the German originals are to be used in a court of law.

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§ 1

Position within the University of Bayreuth

¹The Cluster of Excellence (hereinafter referred to as: Cluster) is a central research institution of the University of Bayreuth within the meaning of Art. 19, section 5 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHSchG).² It has the name "Africa Multiple" at the University of Bayreuth. ³In addition to the University of Bayreuth, four cluster centres located in Africa take part in the Cluster through cooperative ventures (§ 8).

Aims and objectives of the Cluster of Excellence

§ 2

Scholarly objectives

The most important scholarly aims and objectives of the Cluster are:

- a. Reconfiguring African studies through the development of new approaches to the analysis of the multiple and relational nature of life worlds in Africa and its diasporas;
- b. Designing and implementing effective strategies for public engagement and knowledge transfer;
- c. Introducing and developing a comprehensive central digital research environment in African studies;
- d. Further developing the interdisciplinary research environment for the African Studies focus area at the University of Bayreuth, in particular through the inclusion of additional disciplines and the integration of African scholars in ongoing research;
- e. Strengthening and further expanding the University of Bayreuth's internationally leading position in African studies;
- f. Promoting innovative research projects that make substantial contributions to the Cluster's agenda.

§ 3

Structural objectives

The main structural objectives of the Cluster are:

- a. Restructuring African studies at the University of Bayreuth in innovative ways, in cooperation with existing and future university institutions;
- b. Strengthening the connections to foreign research centres and institutions in the field of African studies, and taking them to new directions;
- c. Promoting early career scholars and establishing junior research groups with the aim of fostering alternative career paths in academia;
- d. Creating sustainable structures to promote equal opportunity and to increase diversity at the University of Bayreuth;
- e. Giving sustainable distinction to the core areas and the international visibility of the African Studies focus area at the University of Bayreuth;
- f. Implementing the highest standards with regard to quality assurance;
- g. Implementing the innovative and successful cluster structures in other areas at the University of Bayreuth.

Structure of the Cluster of Excellence

§ 4

Units

The Cluster organises its research activities through the following units:

- a. the Knowledge Lab,
- b. the Research Sections,
- c. die Academy of Advanced African Studies,
- d. the African Cluster Centres.

§ 5

Knowledge Lab

- (1) The Knowledge Lab shall be set up as the research node of the Cluster.
- (2) ¹The Knowledge Lab shall be headed by the Vice Dean of Research (§ 20). ²It shall integrate and further refine and develop all forms of scholarly cooperation in the Cluster.

§ 6

Research Sections

- (1) ¹The main thematic fields of the Cluster shall be studied in the Research Sections, where Cluster members develop and conduct research projects. ²The Research Sections shall in particular prepare project proposals and related applications for funding, to be submitted to the Management Board.
- (2) ¹Initially, these shall be six Research Sections led by the Principal Investigators (§ 11, section 2) assigned to them. ²The Research Sections shall be free to determine the content and topics of their research projects within the scope of the Cluster's field of research. ³They may reorient themselves by merging with another Research Section or dissolving completely at any time; a Research Section that dissolves shall, as a result, lose its right to be represented in the Academic Committee by a representative (§ 15, section 1, letter a). ⁴The formation of a new Research Section - even if resulting from the split of an existing one - shall require a resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly; the newly formed Research Section shall appoint a representative to the Academic Committee in accordance with § 15, section 1.
- (3) ¹The Research Sections may restructure their management at any time and, if necessary, adopt their own statutes. ²The management shall, in accordance with § 15, section 1, delegate from its ranks a representative on the Academic Committee, who also represents the interests of the Research Section vis-à-vis all other governing institutions in the Cluster. ³The person appointed shall also - in consultation with the other members of the Research Section - submit statements regarding applications for funding of research projects pursuant to § 30, sections 5 and 6.
- (4) ¹The Research Sections shall involve the Junior Research Groups in the Cluster in their work on the thematic fields in an appropriate manner. ²They shall submit reports to the Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity (§ 19).
- (5) ¹The research performance of the Research Sections shall be evaluated every three years at the earliest and every four years at the latest. ²The Management Board shall specify the details of the procedure in accordance with the principles of quality assurance in the Cluster.

§ 7

Academy of Advanced African Studies

- (1) ¹The Academy of Advanced African Studies (hereinafter referred to as: Academy) is headed by the Vice Dean of Research (§ 20) and runs a programme for short or long-term research fellows, selected by the Academic Committee to conduct research at the University of Bayreuth and to participate in Cluster activities for specific time periods. ²The Vice Dean of Research shall coordinate matters involving the international fellows with the Vice Dean of Internationalisation and Public Engagement (§ 21).
- (2) The Academy shall also act as an institutional umbrella for the postdoctoral researchers employed in the Cluster as well as the heads of the Junior Research Groups, offering them separate further qualification programmes in consultation with the Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity (§ 19).

§ 8

African Cluster Centres

- (1) The African Cluster Centres (hereinafter referred to as: ACC) foster scholarly collaboration and communication with academic partners from African countries.
- (2) ¹The ACCs should be especially qualified institutions in Africa, whose research management is usually financed by the Cluster. ²The Academic Committee (§ 15) shall set out the criteria for assessing whether such institutions appear especially qualified as an ACC. ³The Management Board (§ 14) shall then conduct a selection procedure in accordance with these criteria, involving the Academic Committee and the Gender and Diversity Office (§ 27). ⁴A total of four ACCs should be selected. ⁵The Management Board shall inform the University Governing Board about which institutions have been selected. Reference is made to § 35, section 3.
- (3) ¹The Management Board shall draw up a model collaboration agreement in consultation with the University Governing Board. ²The Management Board shall support the University Governing Board in concluding collaboration agreements on the basis of this model with the African institutions selected in accordance with section 2.
- (4) ¹In the event that a cooperation agreement with an ACC is terminated, a new institution in Africa shall be selected as ACC. ²Section 2 shall apply accordingly.

§ 9

Relationship of the Cluster to Existing Structures of the University of Bayreuth

- (1) ¹The Cluster shall to the greatest extent possible coordinate its work with the Institute of African Studies (IAS), which has already been established at the university as the central research institution pursuant to Art. 19, section 5 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHSchG). ²In those areas in which such is possible, the Cluster shall in consultation with the IAS assume the ongoing organisational tasks of the IAS; unnecessary duplication of structures should be avoided. ³The Cluster and the IAS shall strive to integrate the central units of the IAS into the Cluster in accordance with § 3, letter c of these Statutes.
- (2) ¹The training and implementation of the doctoral examination procedures for doctoral candidates employed in the Cluster shall take place within the framework of the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). ²For this purpose, BIGSAS shall be organised in such a manner that the Graduate School is headed by the Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity (§ 19). ³All other matters shall be laid down in the BIGSAS statutes, whereby it must be ensured that duplicate decision-making structures are avoided. ⁴It must also be ensured that the founding members of BIGSAS continue to be authorized to administer examinations even after full integration into the Cluster, provided their membership in BIGSAS has not ended. ⁵The admission of doctoral candidates to BIGSAS is not contingent on being employed in the Cluster.
- (3) ¹As a central unit of the IAS, the Iwalewahaus - a place of research, production and for the presentation of contemporary African art - may possibly be integrated into the Cluster in accordance with section 1, while maintaining its independence in terms of content and sovereignty over its regular budget. ²Until such a decision is reached, the Cluster shall strive to find an expedient manner of collaborating with the Iwalewahaus.

§ 10

Governing institutions

The Cluster has the following governing institutions:

- a. the General Assembly (§ 13);
- b. the Management Board (§ 14);
- c. the Academic Committee (§ 15);
- d. the Dean and his/her deputy (§§ 16, 17);
- e. the Vice Deans (§§ 18-22);
- f. the Advisory Board (§ 26);
- g. the Gender and Diversity Office (§ 27).

Status of the members of the Cluster of Excellence

§ 11

Membership

- (1) ¹Any person who has demonstrated the ability to conduct independent academic work in the Cluster's field of research can become a member of the Cluster. ²The Cluster has full members (members of the University of Bayreuth, including secondary members as set out in § 1, section 4 of the Basic Statutes) as well as non-university members. ³Non-university members may not be a governing institution or part of a governing institution of the Cluster except in the cases laid down in these Statutes; they are only entitled to those rights expressly stipulated in these Statutes.
- (2) Members of the Cluster are the Principal Investigators listed in the Annex to these Statutes as regular members.
- (3) ¹The number of regular and non-university members may be increased. ²The Academic Committee shall decide on the admission of additional members after hearing the head of the Gender and Diversity Office. ³New regular or non-university members may be admitted to the Cluster at the request of any member, provided that they meet the requirements laid down in section 1, subsection 1 and are members of a domestic or foreign academic institution that guarantees independent academic research in the Cluster's field of research. ⁴Generally, the following are to be admitted as members:
 - a. professors employed through Cluster funds;
 - b. the Junior Research Group Leaders employed through Cluster funds;
 - c. the Managing Director employed in the Cluster;
 - d. the academic coordinators with doctoral degrees employed in the Cluster;
 - e. other researchers working at the University of Bayreuth whose research projects are financed through Cluster funds in accordance with § 30, section 5 (membership for the duration of the project);
 - f. non-university researchers whose research projects are financed through cluster funds in accordance with § 30, section 5 (membership for the duration of the project);
 - g. and - if they are not secondary members of the University of Bayreuth - in the capacity of non-university members the directors of ACCs.

- (4) Generally, the following shall be admitted in the procedure pursuant to section 3, subsections 2 and 3
- a. external fellows in the Academy for the duration of their membership in the Academy;
 - b. Members of IAS if they are not already members of the Cluster pursuant to section 2 or section 3, subsection 4.
- (5) ¹Membership in the Cluster shall end
- a. by means of written notice of resignation to the Dean;
 - b. if the Academic Committee, after prior notice to the member, determines by at least two-thirds majority of its members that the member is not complying with its obligations under § 12, sections 3 to 6;
 - c. upon the resignation of a regular member from the University of Bayreuth;
 - d. if a non-university member leaves the institution to which he/she belonged when admitted to the Cluster.

²In the event of subsection 1, letter b, the member shall be entitled to apply immediately for a resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly on the decision issued by the Academic Committee. ³In the event of subsection 1, letters c and d, the member may notify the Dean prior to his/her departure that he/she wishes to remain a member of the Cluster as a non-university member. ⁴The Dean may decide that such member may remain as a non-university member provided they become members of a domestic or foreign academic institution that guarantees independent research activity in the Cluster's field of research after their departure. ⁵Upon leaving this institution, subsection 1, letter d shall apply accordingly.

§ 12

Members' rights and duties

- (1) Members of the Cluster may submit proposals to the Academic Committee for activities to be undertaken within the Cluster or to be supported by the Cluster.
- (2) ¹The members are entitled to use the Cluster's infrastructure and resources within the scope of the Cluster's possibilities. ²They may participate in the internal allocation of funds available to the Cluster within the framework of the procedure laid down in § 30.

- (3) All members of the Cluster are obliged to comply with the agreed-upon quality assurance principles and research data management guidelines.
- (4) The members are obliged to cooperate on the objectives laid down in § 2, § 3 as well as in the administration of the Cluster according to these Statutes and to actively support the Cluster.
- (5) ¹The members are obliged to report regularly in writing to the Academic Committee of the Cluster on their research activities carried out with the Cluster's financial resources. ²In the event that members depart or resign from the Cluster, they must submit a written final report on the work funded by the Cluster within a period of three months.
- (6) Members are obliged to comply with the DFG Usage Guidelines for Clusters of Excellence in the respectively applicable version, in particular with regard to the rules on publications, commercial exploitation, reporting requirements and good academic practice.

§ 13

General Assembly

- (1) ¹The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year. ²It shall be convened with at least a 14-day period of advance notice by the Dean in writing or via an e-mail address provided by the member to the management; the agenda shall be sent to all members by the same means no later than seven days before the meeting. ³Non-university members shall also be notified and can participate in the General Assembly in an advisory capacity.
- (2) ¹An extraordinary General Assembly must be convened within a period of four weeks at the request of at least one-third of the regular members of the Cluster. ²The request must contain a proposal for an agenda.
- (3) ¹The Dean shall preside over and chair the meetings. ²The management shall keep the minutes.
- (4) The General Assembly is responsible for
 - a. Decisions regarding the Statutes and amendments to the Statutes of the Cluster;
 - b. Election and dismissal of the Dean (§ 16);
 - c. Election and dismissal of Vice Deans (§§ 18-22);

- d. Rescindment of the resolutions adopted pursuant to § 11, section 5, subsection 1, letter c provided that this has been requested in due time by a member in accordance with § 11, section 5, subsection 3;
 - e. Election of the members of the Board of Arbitration (§ 34);
 - f. Acceptance and discussion of the Dean's report;
 - g. Proposal for the dissolution of the Cluster;
 - h. Resolution on the formation of new Research Sections (§ 6, section 2);
 - i. Other matters concerning the Cluster to the extent that these are not assigned to another governing institution under these Statutes.
- (5) ¹The General Assembly shall decide by a majority of regular members (absolute majority) unless otherwise provided for in these Statutes. ²Voting in elections shall take place by secret ballot; in all other matters, voting shall take place by secret ballot if so requested.
- (6) ¹In the event of section 4, letter b, the General Assembly shall decide by absolute majority of the regular members and, in the case of letter c, by the majority of votes cast by the regular members (simple majority). ²If one of the positions stated in section 4, letters b and c of this Article remain unoccupied because none of the candidates who have run for election achieve the required majority, a new (second) ballot shall be held. ³If none of the candidates who have run for office in this round of voting receives the stipulated majority, the General Assembly shall decide in a third ballot by most votes cast by its regular members present (relative majority).
- (7) The dismissal of the Dean or a Vice Dean (section 4, letters b and c) before the end of the respective term of office is only permissible if another person is elected in accordance with section 6, subsection 1 to fill the vacant position; assignments of voting rights are excluded from this procedure and shall not be counted.
- (8) In the event of section 4, letter e, the General Assembly shall decide by the most votes cast by its regular members present (relative majority).

§ 14

Management Board

- (1) The Management Board of the Cluster consists of
 - a. the Dean (§ 16),
 - b. the Vice Deans (§§ 18-22),
 - c. the head of the Gender and Diversity Office (§ 27),
 - d. the Managing Director (§ 23).
- (2) ¹The Management Board shall generally meet every fortnight (14 days), but at least once a month. ²It may invite other persons to its meetings in an advisory capacity.
- (3) ¹The Management Board shall be responsible for all academic and administrative tasks of the Cluster as long as nothing to the contrary is stipulated in these Statutes. ²In particular, it shall be responsible for the following tasks:
 - a. Developing, coordinating and implementing the Cluster's academic programme;
 - b. Implementing the decisions and recommendations of the General Assembly, the Academic Committee and the Advisory Board and ensuring their review;
 - c. Taking decisions on the funding of members' academic activities pursuant to § 30, section 4;
 - d. Accepting applications for the funding of members' research activities pursuant to § 30, section 5 as well as the appointment of reviewers to evaluate applications pursuant to § 30, section 6;
 - e. Preparing the overall funding application to be submitted to the DFG, as well as the documentation of the use of funds;
 - f. Advising and monitoring the Dean and the Vice Deans regarding all aspects of the Cluster (including budgetary matters);
 - g. Human resource matters relating to employees paid through Cluster funds;
 - h. Reporting on possible decisions on short notice to the Academic Committee;
 - i. Controlling and steering of internal evaluation processes.
- (4) The Management Board may adopt its own rules of procedure and appoint persons from among its ranks to be responsible for tasks stated in section 3.

§ 15

Academic Committee

- (1) ¹The Academic Committee of the Cluster shall consist of:
 - a. the Management Board and
 - b. one representative of each Research Section, and
 - c. one representative of the postdoctoral researchers working in the Cluster, including the heads of Junior Research Groups, and
 - d. one representative of the doctoral candidates employed in the Cluster and
 - e. the directors of the African Cluster Centres (ACC) and
 - f. a representative of the non-academic staff employed in the Cluster (in an advisory capacity).

²The Academic Committee may invite other persons to its meetings in an advisory capacity.
- (2) ¹Each of the groups in section 1, letters b to d shall appoint their representatives by election for a term of three years. ²The organisation of the election is the responsibility of the respective group. ³Reelection is possible. ⁴All members of the group are entitled to vote in these elections regardless of their voting rights in the General Assembly. ⁵The transfer of voting rights is excluded.
- (3) ¹Section 2, subsections 1 to 4 shall apply accordingly to the representative of the non-academic staff employed in the Cluster.
- (4) ¹Generally, the Academic Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis. ²Regular meetings shall be convened with at least a 14-day period of advance notice by the Dean in writing or via an e-mail address notified to the management; the agenda shall be sent to all Committee members by the same means no later than three days before the meeting.
- (5) At least half of all members of the Academic Committee entitled to vote or all representatives of the Research Sections in the Academic Committee may request an extraordinary meeting in writing and specify an agenda; the meeting must then take place within 21 days with a 7-day period of advance notice.

- (6) The Academic Committee shall be in charge of the following tasks:
- a. Resolutions on the admission and exclusion of members (§ 11, section 3, subsections 2 and 3);
 - b. Implementation and quality assurance of the procedures for the internal allocation of funds;
 - c. Decision on the funding of academic activities of the members pursuant to § 30, section 5;
 - d. Selection of short and long-term fellows in the Academy (§ 7);
 - e. Quality assurance for measures to promote early career scholars, equal opportunity, and public relations;
 - f. Resolution on work reports and the overall funding proposal of the Cluster to the DFG;
 - g. Selection of the members of the Advisory Board.

The Spokesperson and his or her deputy

§ 16

The Spokesperson (Dean)

- (1) ¹The Dean shall direct the Cluster and represent its interests within and outside of the university. ²He or she shall chair the Management Board, the Academic Committee and the General Assembly.
- (2) ¹The Dean shall be elected for a term of three years by the General Assembly in accordance with § 13, section 4, letter b - as a rule from among the full-time professors of the University of Bayreuth who are eligible for a seat on the University Senate. ²Reelection is possible.
- (3) The tasks of the Dean include in particular:
 - a. Managing the day-to-day affairs of the Cluster;
 - b. Ensuring attainment of the Cluster's objectives pursuant to § 2, § 3;
 - c. Coordination and consultation with the University Board;
 - d. Representing the interests of the Cluster by participating in meetings of the Senate of the University of Bayreuth in an advisory capacity;
 - e. Responsibility for the proper allocation of funds and compliance with the overall budget;

- f. Convening and chairing General Assemblies as well as meetings of the Academic Committee and the Management Board;
- g. Reporting to the Management Board about decisions on short notice;
- h. Submitting an annual report to the General Assembly and the Advisory Board;
- i. Regular consultation with the members of the Advisory Board.

§ 17

Deputy Spokesperson

- (1) ¹The Deputy Spokesperson shall be elected by the Management Board from the ranks of the Vice Deans (§§ 18-22) for a term of three years. ²Reelection shall be possible.
- (2) ¹If the Dean is prevented from carrying out his/her duties, the Deputy Spokesperson shall temporarily perform his/her duties. ²This also applies if the Dean resigns prematurely or is no longer able to hold office. ³In those cases referred to in subsection 2, the Deputy Spokesperson shall convene a General Assembly within four weeks in accordance with § 13, section 1 in order to elect a new Dean.

Vice Deans

§ 18

General areas of responsibility

- (1) ¹For the proper and goal-oriented performance of the Cluster's tasks pursuant to § 2 and § 3, specific work areas shall be delegated to Vice Deans. Particularly, these areas are:
 - a. Early Career and Equal Opportunity,
 - b. Digital Solutions,
 - c. Research and
 - d. Internationalisation and Public Engagement.

³The Vice Deans shall consult with each other to avoid overlaps of or gaps between work areas.

- (2) ¹The Vice Deans shall be elected by the General Assembly in accordance with § 13, section 4, letter c - usually from among the ranks of full-time teachers at the University of Bayreuth who are eligible for seats on the University Senate - for a period of three years. ²Reelection is possible.
- (3) ¹The Vice Deans shall work independently for their portfolios in consultation with the Dean. ²In their capacity as members of the Management Board (§ 14, section 1, letter b), they shall report to it on their activities on a regular basis.

§ 19

Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity

- (1) ¹The Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity shall be in charge of those tasks primarily related to the promotion of early career scholars and matters of equal opportunity. ²He or she shall be assisted by an Academic Coordinator responsible for the promotion of early career scholars. ³She or he shall support the Gender and Diversity Office (§ 27).
- (2) ¹The Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity shall furthermore act as Dean of BIGSAS (§ 9, section 2) once the IAS has been integrated into the Cluster (§ 9, section 1). ²By way of consultation with the Vice Dean of Research she or he shall also be responsible for the further qualification of postdocs and Junior Research Group Leaders based at the Academy pursuant to § 7, section 2.

§ 20

Vice Dean of Research

- (1) ¹The Vice Dean of Research shall be in charge of those tasks primarily related to interdisciplinary and innovative research issues. ²He or she shall in particular head and coordinate the Knowledge Lab (§ 5) with the assistance of an Academic Coordinator.
- (2) The Vice Dean of Research is also responsible for the Academy's affairs. He or she shall coordinate matters relating to international fellows with the Vice Dean of Internationalisation and Public Engagement (§ 21); he or she shall be consulted by the Vice Dean of Early Career and Equal Opportunity (§ 19) in matters relating to postdocs and Junior Research Group Leaders.

§ 21

Vice Dean of Internationalisation and Public Engagement

- (1) ¹The Vice Dean of Internationalisation and Public Engagement shall be in charge of those tasks primarily related to internationalisation, networking and communication matters. ²Supported by an Academic Coordinator, he or she shall be in charge of the international networking of the Cluster and coordinate all measures of the Cluster in the field of public engagement and knowledge transfer.
- (2) The Vice Dean of Internationalisation and Public Engagement shall be in charge of the affairs of the ACCs and coordinate the affairs of the international fellows in the Academy with the Vice Dean of Research (§ 20, section 2).

§ 22

Vice Dean of Digital Solutions

- (1) The Vice Dean of Digital Solutions is in charge of the tasks mainly related to the further development and implementation of data management in the Cluster.
- (2) The Vice Dean of Digital Solutions is the superior of the data curators employed in the Cluster.

Management

§ 23

Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director

¹In its capacity as the central administrative unit of the Cluster, the business office shall be headed by the Managing Director. ²The Managing Director and his or her deputy shall be appointed by the Management Board upon the nomination of the Dean; the appointment may be revoked for good cause.

§ 24

Tasks of the management

- (1) The tasks of the management shall in particular include the following:
 - a. Organisational execution of the Cluster's tasks;
 - b. Securing the service functions required to perform the tasks;
 - c. Handling of staff-related matters in accordance with the instructions of the Dean;
 - d. Supervision of non-academic staff;
 - e. Administrative implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Academic Committee and the Management Board;
 - f. Management of the budget by preparing and implementing financial decisions;
 - g. Supporting the Dean and Vice Deans in the performance of their duties;
 - h. Supporting the Advisory Board in the performance of its tasks;
 - i. Preparation of General Assemblies and meetings of the Academic Committee and the Management Board;
 - j. Provision of logistics for meetings, conferences, workshops and similar events;
 - k. Regularly informing members and staff about matters bearing relevance to the Cluster.
- (2) The Managing Director and the business office of the Cluster shall also support the Dean or the Deputy Spokesperson in the performance of his or her other duties.

§ 25

Directives

- (1) ¹The Managing Director or his/her deputy shall be bound by the directives of the Dean. ²The Dean is the superior of the Managing Director. ³In his or her function as a member of the Management Board, the Managing Director shall not be bound by directives.
- (2) The same shall apply in the case of § 17, section 2 in relation to the Deputy Spokesperson.

§ 26

Advisory Board

- (1) ¹In its capacity as an advisory body, the Cluster shall be supported by an Advisory Board. ²This shall be made up of:
 - a. the Vice President for Research and Early Career Scholars at the University of Bayreuth or another member of the University Governing Board at the University of Bayreuth,
 - b. five internationally reputed researchers with outstanding expertise in the Cluster's area of work.
- (2) The external members of the Advisory Board shall be appointed by the Academic Committee in consultation with the University Governing Board.
- (3) The Advisory Board may in particular issue statements regarding the following:
 - a. Recommendations on the scholarly and structural development of the Cluster, in particular pertaining to the assessment of the academic results and achievements as well as regarding future concepts, strategies, projects and planned priorities;
 - b. Participation in internal evaluations of the Cluster;
 - c. Evaluation of new projects in the Cluster or proposals for their termination ahead of schedule;
 - d. Commenting on the Dean's reports.

- (4) The Advisory Board shall elect a Chairperson from its ranks, who shall forward the proposals or decisions of the Advisory Board to the Dean of the Cluster.
- (5) ¹Meetings of the Advisory Board shall be held at least once a year. ²The Chairperson may call additional meetings. ³The Advisory Board may adopt its own rules of procedure.
- (6) ¹The members of the Advisory Board shall be appointed for the duration of one funding period. ²If a member leaves the Advisory Board, his or her substitute shall serve for the remaining funding period. ³Reappointment is possible.

§ 27

Gender and Diversity Office

- (1) The Gender and Diversity Office shall be in charge of performing tasks relating to equal opportunity as well as gender and diversity in the Cluster. ²The director of the office shall be appointed by the Management Board and shall carry out his or her duties in consultation with the Management Board. ⁴The Dean shall act as superior.
- (2) The Gender and Diversity Office shall in particular act to ensure that gender, equality and diversity issues are adequately taken into account in all matters within the Cluster. ²It shall provide the members of the Cluster with guidance and assistance and working aids for this purpose. ³The Gender and Diversity Office shall furthermore support quality assurance of research in the field of gender and diversity.

§ 28

Resolutions, Elections, Minutes

- (1) ¹The General Assembly of the Cluster shall be deemed to have a quorum if a majority of all regular members are present after being duly summoned. ²Unless stipulated to the contrary, the assignment of voting rights by means of a written proxy shall be permissible and taken into account in determining whether there is a quorum. ³No more than one vote may be assigned to a person. ⁴If a quorum is not attained in response to an invitation, the next meeting shall be deemed to have a quorum regardless of the number of persons present if special reference has been made to this in the invitation.

- (2) ¹The Academic Committee of the Cluster shall be deemed to have a quorum if a majority of all members entitled to vote are present after being duly invited. ²Participation by the ACC directors in an advisory capacity is also possible via video conference.
- (3) ¹The Management Board of the Cluster is deemed to have a quorum if a majority of all members entitled to vote are present. ²The members of the Management Board may agree on resolutions by written consent in lieu of a meeting.
- (4) ¹Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly shall be governed by § 13, sections 5 to 8. ²If nothing to the contrary is set out in these Statutes, resolutions adopted in other bodies of the Cluster shall be passed by a majority of the votes cast stating yeah or nay (simple majority). ³Abstentions shall be deemed to be votes not cast. ⁴In the event of a tie vote, the Dean shall cast the deciding vote. ⁵A secret ballot shall be held if any member entitled to vote so requests.
- (5) ¹The election of the Dean shall be chaired by that regular member who has the longest affiliation with the University of Bayreuth unless he or she is a candidate. ²If the latter is the case, the chair shall be assumed by the member with the second (or if necessary, third, fourth, etc.) longest affiliation with the University of Bayreuth. ³The elected Dean shall then assume the chair if further elections become necessary.
- (6) The minutes of the meetings of the governing institutions of the Cluster shall be taken and made available to all members of the respective institution no later than by the invitation to the next meeting.

§ 29

Appointments

- (1) ¹Appointment procedures are crucial instruments for ensuring the quality of scholarship and research in the Cluster; they shall be conducted subject to the provisions of Art. 18 of the Bavarian Higher Education Employment Act (BayHSchPG) in connection with the Bavarian Regulation on Appointment Procedures (BayBerufV). ²The Dean shall therefore ensure that the interests of the Cluster are adequately taken into account in the appointment of new professorships within or in the environment of the Cluster. ³In particular, the Dean shall, in consultation with the concerned deans of the faculties, provide the University Governing Board with an up-to-date list of professorships that, in the Dean's opinion, lie within or near the domain of the Cluster. ⁴In consultation with the University Governing Board, the Dean shall ensure that appointment guidelines or similar instruments provide for the Dean being informed in good time if any professorships become vacant within or in the environment of the Cluster. ⁵With regard to appointment procedures for professorships that, in the opinion of the Dean, are directly relevant to the Cluster in terms of subject matter or structure, the Dean shall work to have himself/herself appointed member of the search

committee. He or she shall be given the opportunity to submit a statement of opinion to the University Governing Board regarding the appointment list. ⁶The Dean shall, wherever appropriate, act to ensure that the Management Board of the Cluster is enabled to submit statements of position to the chairperson of the search committee and to the University Governing Board on all proposals for appointments that affect the interests of the Cluster.

- (2) ¹In the case of professorships predominantly funded by the Cluster or from resources provided by the University of Bayreuth specifically for the Cluster, the Dean shall, upon the recommendation of the Management Board, submit a proposal for the composition of the search committee to the Faculty Council of the faculty where the professorship is located. ²The Dean may also nominate himself/herself. ³In the search committee Cluster members shall hold a majority of the members of the group of university professors with voting rights. ⁴If such is not infeasible, an additional member of the search committee shall be appointed from the Advisory Board of the Cluster. ⁵The Dean shall attach a statement addressed to the University Governing Board to the list of candidates for appointment. ⁶A member of the Cluster's Management Board shall participate in the appointment negotiations.*

§ 30

Internal allocation of funds

- (1) Financial resources for the funding of the tasks of the Vice Deans within the meaning of §§ 18-22 shall be allocated to the respective portfolios on the basis of the key specified in the funding proposal to the DFG.
- (2) ¹Members of the Cluster are entitled to apply for the funding of their academic activities. ²Applications must be filed in writing and must contain all information necessary for the review process as well as a financial plan. ³Applications for projects pursuant to section 4 shall be submitted to and decided by the Management Board; applications pursuant to section 5 shall be submitted to the Management Board and decided by the Academic Committee. ⁴Researchers employed at the University of Bayreuth holding a doctoral degree may submit applications pursuant to section 5 even if they are not members of the Cluster, provided the application is supported by a Research Section with sufficient justification.

* The Dean of the Cluster and the Senate are in agreement that in the case of § 29, section 2 the members of the search committee to be appointed for the Cluster should by a majority belong to the concerned faculty. (Resolution of the Senate dated 14 November 2018)

(3) ¹The allocation of funds to members of the Cluster shall be based on the principles underlying the quality assurance measures in the Cluster. ²The main criterion for award is whether the project promotes the Cluster's objectives in terms of § 2 and § 3. ³The following aspects are also relevant:

- a. the scholarly quality of the project;
- b. the scope and weight of the project's contribution to the Cluster's research agenda in general or to one of its Research Sections in particular;
- c. the scholarly expertise of the persons involved;
- d. the expected output in terms of publications;
- e. the appropriateness of the funds applied for;
- f. the achievement of the declared objectives of any previous Cluster-funded activities of the applicants.

⁴Additional award criteria are:

- g. The contribution to the support of early career scholars, equal opportunity and to the promotion of diversity;
- h. The contribution to the promotion of cooperation with African scholars or academic institutions in Africa;
- i. The inter- or transdisciplinary potential of the project;
- j. Compliance with the rules for data management in the Cluster;
- k. Compliance with the principles of research ethics.

(4) ¹All Cluster members may apply for funding for workshops, congresses, conferences and research-motivated travel. ²Decisions on such applications shall be taken by the Management Board on the basis of the criteria set out in section 3, in so far as the criteria apply to the project.

(5) ¹Applications for the funding of research projects involving the employment of academic staff shall be accepted by the Management Board after a preliminary review within the meaning of section 3 and after receipt of the opinion of the Research Section within the meaning of § 6, section 3 in which the project falls. ²The Academic Committee shall decide on such applications on the basis of the criteria set out in section 3 and taking into account the evaluations obtained in accordance with section 6. ³Applications may be filed for an appropriate amount of human, material and travel resources; funds may also be earmarked for substitute teachers.

- (6) ¹In the case of applications pursuant to section 5, the Management Board shall appoint two external reviewers. ²For applications pursuant to section 4, the Academic Committee may obtain the opinion of one or more of the members of the Research Sections' leadership. ³The latter shall not be necessary if the application is accompanied by an opinion of a founding member.

§ 31

Inventions and rights of use

- (1) Inventions, developments and comparable results (e.g. know-how, developments eligible for copyright protection, software) which come about within the framework of the implementation of the Cluster, as well as the industrial property rights applied for and/or granted in respect thereof belong to the institution participating in the Cluster whose members or employees have developed them.
- (2) ¹Inventions, developments and comparable results involving members or employees of several institutions shall belong to these institutions jointly. ²In the case of inventions in which members or employees of several institutions are involved, the institutions shall agree on the application (including the lead role in the individual case), maintenance, defence, cost-sharing as well as on the use of joint inventions.
- (3) ¹Each member of the Cluster shall have the right to use the information he/she has obtained within the framework of the implementation of the Cluster as well as protected and unprotected results of another member in all types of use for the duration and purposes of cooperation in the Cluster free of charge, without restriction and non-exclusively. ²This right shall in particular encompass the right to process and adapt, reproduce and exhibit and shall include the actions laid down in § 69 of the German Copyright Act (UrhG).

§ 32

Cooperation

- (1) ¹The details of the cooperation with the ACCs shall be laid down in cooperation agreements within the meaning of § 8, section 3. ²These agreements shall in particular contain arrangements pertaining to the handling of intellectual property, mutual information, confidentiality and publications. ³The Management Board shall support the University Governing Board in the preparation and conclusion of corresponding cooperation agreements.
- (2) If additional units of the Cluster are created whose cooperation with the Cluster requires cooperation agreements or cooperation agreements appear to make good sense to govern cooperation with the Cluster, section 1 shall apply accordingly.

§ 33

Publications

- (1) ¹The results obtained in the course of research conducted by members of the Cluster shall be published regularly and in an appropriate form. ²Publications should be internationally visible. ³In particular, the Cluster shall support Open Access formats.
- (2) Jointly produced research results shall only be published by mutual agreement of all contributors.
- (3) In all publications, care must be taken to ensure that applications for industrial property rights by other members of the Cluster are not infringed.
- (4) Academic and non-academic publications as well as press releases on activities and investigations funded within the framework of the Cluster must contain a reference to the Cluster of the University of Bayreuth and to the funding from the Excellence Strategy, either at the end of the publication or in the acknowledgements.
- (5) Non-academic or popular science publications about the Cluster, its contents, and activities by members of the Cluster shall be submitted to the Management Board prior to publication.

§ 34

Arbitration clause

- (1) ¹An Arbitration Board shall be set up at the Cluster to handle complaints by members or governing institutions against decisions of a governing institution of the Cluster which cannot be resolved by mutual agreement. ²The Arbitration Board shall consist of three ombudspople elected by the General Assembly, who may not themselves be members of the Cluster and elect their chairperson from their ranks. ³All members of the Cluster shall have a right of nomination. ⁴The members of the Arbitration Board shall be appointed for a term of three years. ⁵Reappointment shall be possible.
- (2) ³The Arbitration Board may be called upon by any full or non-university member of the Cluster or, following a decision to such effect, by any member of a governing institution on behalf of that governing institution. ²The Arbitration Board shall in consultation with the parties select the appropriate procedure for the complaint; in the case of obvious misuse of the complaint tool, the Arbitration Board may also refuse to open proceedings. ³The appellant may withdraw the appeal at any time.

- (3) ³Decisions of the Arbitration Board shall be communicated to the parties involved in the proceedings and as well as to the Management Board, unless there are grounds for maintaining confidentiality towards the latter. ²These decisions shall be addressed by the Management Board and properly taken into account. If the Management Board deems such to be appropriate, the parties to the proceedings shall be given the opportunity to comment on the decision. ³The Chairman of the Arbitration Board may also be heard.
- (4) If a complaint relates to standards of good academic practice, the Statutes of the University of Bayreuth to Safeguard the Standards of Good Academic Practice and to Deal with Academic Misconduct of 10 May 2012 must also be observed.

§ 35

Final provisions and entry into force

- (1) Any amendments or changes to the Statutes must be coordinated with the DFG and approved by the Senate of the University of Bayreuth.
- (2) These Statutes shall enter into force on 21 December 2018.
- (3) By way of deviation from § 8, section 2, the Cluster shall accept and adopt decisions on the selection of ACCs which were taken before these Statutes came into force, provided that such decisions were based on a competitive procedure, approved by the assembly of the founding members listed in the Annex and laid down in cooperation agreements by the University Governing Board.

Annex:

Founding members (Principal Investigators)

name	function	institution
Alber, Erdmute, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Social Anthropology	Univ. Bayreuth
Anchimbe, Eric, PD Dr.	<i>Akademischer Oberrat</i> at the Chair of English Linguistics	Univ. Bayreuth
Arndt, Susan, Prof. Dr.	Professorship of English Literature and Anglophone Literatures	Univ. Bayreuth
Beisel, Ulrike, Prof. Dr.	Junior Professorship for Culture and Technology in Africa	Univ. Bayreuth
Clemens, Iris, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Education Science	Univ. Bayreuth
Doevenspeck, Martin, Prof. Dr.	Professorship of Political Geography	Univ. Bayreuth
Drescher, Martina, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Romance and General Linguistics	Univ. Bayreuth
Fendler, Ute, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Romance Literature and Comparative Literature	Univ. Bayreuth
Glasman, Joël, Professor Dr.	Professorship of African History	Univ. Bayreuth
Hanke, Christine, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Digital and Audio Visual Media	Univ. Bayreuth
Mühleisen, Susanne, Prof. Dr.	Chair of English Linguistics	Univ. Bayreuth
Ritzer, Ivo, Prof. Dr.	Junior Professorship for Media in Africa	Univ. Bayreuth
Rothfuß, Eberhard, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Social and Demographic Geography	Univ. Bayreuth
Samimi, Cyrus, Prof. Dr.	Professorship of Climatology	Univ. Bayreuth
Schramm, Katharina, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Social Anthropology	Univ. Bayreuth
Schüßler, Rudolf, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Philosophy II	Univ. Bayreuth
Seesemann, Rüdiger, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Islamic Studies	Univ. Bayreuth
Spies, Eva, Prof. Dr.	Junior Professorship for the Study of Religion with focus on Africa	Univ. Bayreuth
Stadelmann, David, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Development Economics	Univ. Bayreuth
Stroh, Alexander, Prof. Dr.	Junior Professorship for African Politics and Development Policy	Univ. Bayreuth
Tchokothe, Rémi, Dr.	<i>Akademischer Rat</i> at the Chair of African Linguistics II	Univ. Bayreuth
Vierke, Clarissa, Prof. Dr.	Professorship of Literatures in African Languages	Univ. Bayreuth
Vierke, Ulf, Dr.	<i>Akademischer Oberrat</i> , Director of Iwalewahaus	Univ. Bayreuth
Wanitzek, Ulrike, Prof. Dr.	<i>Leitende akademische Direktorin</i> at the Institute of African Studies, Titular Professorship for Law in Africa	Univ. Bayreuth
Wiese, Volker, Prof. Dr.	Chair of Civil Law III	Univ. Bayreuth