

# Statutes of the Positive Impact Rating Association

21/10/2019

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# **OBJECTIVES**

## **Article 1**

The Association Positive Impact Rating is an independent association under Swiss law. Associations are per definition not-for-profit.

## **Article 2**

The purpose of the Association Positive Impact Rating (hereafter “PIR Association”) is to measure and communicate how business schools worldwide contribute to solving societal challenges by energizing the school and its culture, by educating current and future leaders, by providing relevant research results and offers for continuing education, by participating in the public debate and by being a role model institution. The PIR Association seeks to contribute as a lever of change to the transformation of the business school landscape.

## **Article 3**

The PIR Association shall pursue the following aim(s):

- Operate an annual or biannual student and/or multi-stakeholder assessment of business schools and how they do in terms of preparing students to become responsible leaders for the challenges of the 21st century.
- Provide students, who are seeking an education that prepares them as change makers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a global measurement of schools that help them in making informed decisions.
- Provide relevant information and educational resources to organizations of any kind, on leading business schools and their positive impact on business and society, with the aim of increasing their positive impact.
- Enable participating schools to use the survey results as a tool for their internal change and development process. As such, the PIR serves for benchmarking, business school development, as well as for marketing and communication.

# DESIGN PRINCIPLES

## Article 4

1. **Rating not ranking:** choosing a rating enables schools to augment awareness rather than simply worry about the results. Business schools are not positioned by specific ranks, but they are rated to belong to a certain level of achievement. This prevents the dangers of misplaced concreteness represented in current rankings with their ambition to objectively measure in a precise way very complex and dynamic realities. The rating is a social transparency effort.
2. **A normative starting base:** The starting base of the rating is a normative ideal vision of management education as a custodian of society (based on the 50+20 vision and expanded in the area of governance and culture). It may not be that different from the existing rankings after all, which are based – although implicitly - on normative foundations as well. These pursue a different ideal, however, which is oriented toward making the school the most successful school and their graduates the best paid. While they are supporting business schools to become the best *in* the world, this rating is trying to help them become the best *for* the world.
3. **Different ways to live up to the mission:** The rating does not prescribe specific ways to live up to the mission, but it leaves room for the schools to define their own ways to fulfill their mission. This recognizes the fact that different visions and strategies can serve society, in particular for schools in very different locations and environments, which are also dynamically changing.
4. **Internal and external use:** The rating can be used for internal purposes (school development) or it can be used for external benchmarking and communication.
5. **Ten-point rating scale:** A single ten-point rating scale is used for all questions offering a single, meaningful and simple survey technique.

# RESOURCES

## Article 5

The PIR Association's resources can be derived from:

- Sponsorship of organizations and institutions interested in one or more of the PIR's offering
- Volunteering efforts by users and other interested parties
- Informational and educational services
- Any other resources authorized by the law.

The funds shall be used to cover costs to operate, develop and improve the PIR as well as disseminate the results.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Article 6**

A PIR Association member is defined by the following criteria:

- Is a contributor (either an individual or an organization) to the project adding value as a co-convenor, expert, connector, distributor, donor, reporter or advertiser of the PIR.
- Is recommended by at least two existing members of the general assembly.
- Has been accepted into the PIR through the general assembly.
- Business Schools are excluded from membership.

The rights and responsibilities of a member are as follows:

- Speaking and voting right at General Assemblies
- Candidate for official positions within the PIR Association
- See Article 9 for a full list of responsibilities

Membership ceases:

- At death
- By written resignation thereby notifying the Supervisory Board at least thirty days beforehand.
- By exclusion ordered by the General Assembly, for just cause. Appeals can be submitted within 30 days of the decision.

## **ORGANS**

### **Article 7**

The PIR Association includes the following organs:

1. General Assembly (GA)
2. Supervisory Board (SB)
3. Management Team (MT)
4. Advisory Board (AB)

# **General Assembly**

## **Article 8**

The General Assembly is the PIR Association's supreme authority. It is composed of all the members. All members have speaking and voting rights.

The General Assembly takes place once a year. It may also hold an extraordinary session whenever necessary, at the request of at least one-fifth of its members. Meetings can be held virtually (internet) or in person.

The General Assembly shall be considered valid if the simple majority of voting members (+51%) are present. Presence can also be virtual, but each GA member can only be presented by him/herself.

### **General Assembly Organization**

- President
  - Chairing the General Assembly
  - Elected biannual for two years by majority vote in the General Assembly, can be re-elected two times (total of 3 terms)
  - President need to be nominated and elected as an individual person, not representing a member organization
- Members
  - Speaking and voting right at General Assemblies
  - Membership terms see article 6
- PIR Executive representation (ex officio)
  - Supervisory Board (SB), Management Team (Managing Director or Treasurer) and Advisory Board (AB), can attend a General Assembly meeting
  - PIR Executive representatives and AB members have speaking but no-voting rights

The General Assembly is presided over by the President of the Association, or in case the President is absent, a GA member should be appointed by the President to replace the President for this one meeting.

The President shall inform the members in writing of the date of the General Assembly at least six weeks in advance. The proposed agenda shall be sent to each member at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

## Article 9

Responsibilities of the General Assembly (supervisory and advisory):

- Elects the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Association
- Appoints the members of the Supervisory Board and dismisses them for just cause stating the grounds thereof
- Revises and approves the annual budget
- Notes the contents of the reports and financial statements for the year and votes on their adoption
- Approves the admission and dismissal of members of the General Assembly
- Decides on any modification of statutes
- Decides on the dissolution of the PIR Association
- The GA is being informed about all activities of the executive organs (Supervisory Board and Management Team) as well as the Advisory Board and advices on the organization's strategies, mission and vision

## Article 10

Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority vote of the Members of the General Assembly represented in the General Assembly meeting.

In the case of deadlock, the President of the PIR Association shall have the casting vote.

Decisions concerning the amendment of the Statutes and the dissolution of the Association must be approved by a two-third majority of the voting members represented. Votes are by a show of hands. Voting can also take place by secret ballot, if at least one fifth of voting members request it.

## Article 11

The agenda of the annual General Assembly must include:

- Approval of the Minutes of the previous General Assembly
- Approval of the Management Team's Annual Activity Report
- Approval of all fiscal reports and the accounts
- Approval of Strategies and the overall Mission and Vision of PIR
- Miscellaneous business

## ***Supervisory Board***

### **Article 12**

The Supervisory Board is comprised of a maximum of 7 members of the PIR Association and is elected by the General Assembly:

- Student organizations (2)
- Founders (3)
- Endorsers (2)

The SB meets as often as the Association's business requires.

### **Article 13**

Responsibilities of the he Supervisory Board:

- Votes on the discharge of the Management Team
- Defines the strategy of the Association together with the Management Team and secures (following the approval by the General Assembly) its implementation, integrity and continuous development
- Appoints members of the Management Team
- Supervises all activities of the Management Team (administrative, legal, fiscal, conduct)
- Liaises to the business school community and reaches out to key influencers
- Is the Guardian of the rating principles and protects its integrity in future modifications
- Appoints the Advisory Board and select the Chair

## ***Management Team***

### **Article 14**

The Management Team:

- Is composed of at least two members
- Is appointed by and reports to the Supervisory Board

- Coordinates and manages the implementation of all operational activities
- Manages the continuous evolution of the rating thereby ensuring that fundamental rating principles are protected
- Ensures professional conduct, transparent decision-making and independence

## ***Advisory Board***

### **Article 15**

The Advisory Board:

- Advises on all strategic issues, plans and strategies of the PIR
- Is comprised of representatives of funders, endorsers, catalysts, supporters and other stakeholders, and shall not exceed 10 people.
- Is appointed by the Supervisory Board
- Supports the work of the Supervisory Board and Management Team
- Provides resolutions of issues including conflicts and appeal processes related to the rating results
- Supports the growth and development of the PIR using its professional experience and network

The Advisory Board shall meet as often as it requires but at least ones a year. The meetings can be held virtually or in person.

## **SIGNATURE AND REPRESENTATION**

### **Article 16**

The association is legally bound by the joint signature of two members, one of the MT & one of the SB.

## **PROVISIONS**

### **Article 17**

The financial year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December of each year.

### **Article 18**

Should the PIR Association be dissolved, the available assets, and in particular the intellectual property of the PIR, shall be allocated in the best interest of the purpose of the PIR Association, ensuring - if possible - the continuation of the Positive Impact Rating and its transformative purpose in the business school landscape. In case of any surplus financial means, these shall be distributed in a "fair and just manner" (as decided by the general assembly) to a) the active contributing members, taking into account years and intensity of service to the PIR, as well as b) the funders, including the initiator Mission Possible Foundation for their investment in the PIR.

The present Statutes have been approved by the Constituent General Assembly of the PIR Association on January 7, 2020.



PIR President  
Name: Katrin Muff  
Date: 07.01. 2020



Head of the 1st General Assembly  
Name: Mathias Falkenstein  
Date: 07.01. 2020