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CHARTER OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, LATVIAN SSR

[Following is a translation of an unsigned article in Izvestiya Akademii nauk Latviyskoy SSR (Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR), No. 11 (148), 1959, Riga, pages 183-190.]

I. General Provisions

1. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is the highest scientific institution of the Latvian SSR, uniting in its membership the most outstanding scientists of the Republic.

The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is directly under the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR, and to this body it submits an annual report on its activities.

2. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, carries out scientific research promoting all branches of science in the Republic.

The Academy of Sciences participates through its research and its over-all activity in the development of a Communist society in the USSR and assists in defending the socialist achievements of the workers and in strengthening the cause of peace throughout the world.

3. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, prepares and submits for the approval of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR long-range plans for dealing with complex scientific and technical problems of great theoretical and practical importance, participates in coordinating the research done in the Latvian SSR, renders decisions and makes suggestions on the organization of research in the Latvian SSR.

4. In fulfilling its objectives the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR:

- a) concentrates its efforts on the most important problems in science;
- b) studies the natural resources and production forces of the country and its cultural and economic achievements;
- c) furthers the up-to-date and efficient utilization of the scientific, technical, and cultural achievements of mankind in the development of Communism in the USSR;
- d) carries out assignments of the higher governmental agencies with regard to giving expert scientific information and advice;

e) publishes in periodicals, collections, and books the approved works of members of the Academy, scientists of the institutions of the Academy, and other scientists who submit their investigations to it;

f) assists in publicizing scientific achievements.

5. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, and its institutions conduct their work according to a plan worked out by the Academy of Sciences on the basis of directives from the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR and approved by the leading agencies of the Academy of Sciences in the order established by the General Council of the Academy of Sciences.

The plan of the most important research projects of the Academy of Sciences is approved by the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR

6. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is made up of four departments: the Department of Chemical and Geological Sciences, the Department of the Biological Sciences, the Department of the Physical and Technical Sciences, and the Department of the Social Sciences.

7. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, has within its framework the following research institutions: institutes, laboratories, observatories, stations, libraries, museums, botanical gardens, permanent and temporary commissions and committees, research expeditions, and other scientific institutions.

Within the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, are scientific societies organized in the form established by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR.

The Academy of Sciences reserves the right to participate, by agreement with the scientific institutions of other countries, in establishing international scientific institutions and organizations.

8. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, convokes scientific sessions, congresses, conferences, and meetings to consider scientific problems and the coordination of research.

9. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, establishes and develops scientific relations with the Academy of Sciences USSR, the academies of the union Republics, branches of the academies of sciences, research institutes, schools of higher learning, scientific societies, and other scientific institutions of the USSR, and with the national economic councils, industrial and other enterprises, and organizations carrying on research.

10. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, establishes and develops scientific relations with the academies of science and other scientific institutions of foreign countries, participates in international scientific congresses, conferences, and meetings, and belongs to international scientific organizations.

11. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, trains scientific personnel through graduate study at its institutions and does work in providing advanced training for personnel in science.

12. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, awards prizes for outstanding scientific work, scientific discoveries, and inventions.

13. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, has the rights of a juristic person. The budget of the Academy of Sciences is included in the State Budget of the Latvian SSR.

II. Membership of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

14. The membership of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, consists of academicians and corresponding members.

15. Academicians of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, are elected from among scientists who have enriched the field of science with work of preeminent scientific importance.

16. Corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences are elected from outstanding scientists in the various fields of knowledge.

17. The total number of academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is determined by the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR upon the recommendation of the Academy of Sciences.

18. Elections for academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, are conducted in accordance with this Charter and the Statute on Elections to the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, as approved by the General Assembly of the Academy.

III. Order of Elections of Academicians and Corresponding Members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

19. Elections for academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, are designated by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR:

a) within the limits of existing vacancies on the basis of specialities approved by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences;

b) to fill vacancies if new vacancies are established by the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR.

20. The decree of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, designating the elections of academicians and corresponding members of the Academy is published in the Republic press not later than 2 months before elections are held.

21. Scientific institutions, public organizations, individual scientists, and groups have the right within a month after the publication date to submit in writing to the Academy with appropriate reasons the names of candidates for academician and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences in a designated specialty.

The names submitted to the Academy of Sciences as candidates for academician and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences are published in the press.

22. The list of candidates for academician of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, and testimonials on the scientific work of the candidates are examined by the General Assembly of the appropriate department of the Academy of Sciences, after which the candidates are chosen by secret ballot, the selected candidates being persons who have received no less than 2/3 of the votes of the registered membership of the academicians of the given department.

The registered membership of the department does not include academicians absent on foreign missions at the time of the elections.

The names of the candidates selected by the departments are announced in the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, and elections for academician of the Academy of Sciences are conducted by secret ballot, the electees being those who have received a simple majority of the votes.

23. The list of candidates for corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, and testimonials on the scientific work of the candidates are considered by the general assembly of the appropriate department, after which the candidates are chosen by secret ballot, the selected candidates being persons who have received no less than 2/3 of the votes of the registered membership of the academicians of the given department.

The registered membership of the department does not include academicians absent on foreign missions at the time of the elections.

The elections of corresponding members by the department are confirmed by the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences by a simple majority of votes.

Note: In case of a small membership in the departments, by decision of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, the elections for academicians and corresponding members may be conducted in the General Assembly of Academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences.

24. In elections of candidates for academician and of corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, the deciding votes in the General Assembly of the Departments belong to the academicians of the given department.

Elections of candidates for academician and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences require the presence of no less than 2/3 of all academicians of the Academy of Sciences in the given department.

25. In the election of academicians of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, and the confirmation of the election of corresponding members by the Departments, the deciding votes in the general assembly of the Academy of Sciences are held by the academicians of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR.

In order to hold elections of academicians and to confirm the election of corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, no less than 2/3 of all the academicians of the Academy of Sciences must be present at the meeting.

26. The academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, may be deprived of their title by decree of the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, if their activities are harmful to the Soviet Union. In expelling academicians or corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, the same voting procedure is employed as is used in elections.

IV. Obligations and Rights of Academicians and Corresponding Members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

27. The principal obligations of academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, are those of enriching science with new achievements and discoveries by personally conducted research, the organization of group solutions of the most important scientific problems, and the administration of this solution.

Academicians and corresponding members have the right to obtain from the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, the funds necessary for carrying out their personal scientific endeavors as decided by the corresponding Department and the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR.

The Academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, take part in measures conducted by the Academy of Sciences for adapting the achievements of science to the national economy and for providing advanced training for scientific personnel, and also carry out other assignments from the Academy.

Academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences participate in the work of the General Assembly of the Academy and in the work of the General Assembly of the appropriate Department.

28. Each academician and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is a member of one of the Departments of the Academy of Sciences in accordance with his academic speciality.

The academicians and corresponding members selected from one Department may, with the agreement of another Department, belong simultaneously to the other Department.

The academicians of the Academy of Sciences belonging simultaneously to two or more Departments have a deciding vote in only one Department in the election of candidates for academician and of corresponding member.

29. Academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences present an annual report to the appropriate Department of the Academy on their activity.

Reports of academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences are periodically heard in the General Assembly of the Academy and at meetings of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, at general assemblies and meetings of the Administrative Board of the Departments, and at meetings of the learned councils of the academic institutions.

V. General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

30. The highest agency of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is the General Assembly, which consists of the academicians of the Academy of Sciences and the corresponding members.

31. The General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, determines the general trend in the scientific activity of the Academy; it decides basic organizational questions; it confirms the reports of the Presidium of the Academy; it hears reports from the Departments and the other institutions of the Academy of Sciences and its individual members; it considers problems of a technical and organizational nature; it elects academicians and the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences; it confirms the corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences and the directors of the research institutions within the Academy.

32. The sessions of the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences are convoked as needed but no less frequently than twice a year.

Each member of the Academy of Sciences wishing to introduce some question for the consideration of the General Assembly must notify the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences in writing in advance.

33. The right of a deciding vote in the General Assembly of the Academy belongs to the academicians of the Academy.

Corresponding members of the Academy and the directors of the scientific institutions enjoy the right of deliberative vote.

34. Questions before the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences are decided by a simple majority of the votes of those present having the right of a deciding vote, with the exception of cases where, according to the present charter, a majority of no less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes is required for a decision.

VI. Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

35. The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, consists of the president of the Academy of Sciences, the vice presidents, the academician-secretary (chief academic secretary of the Presidium), and the members of the Presidium--the academician secretaries of the Departments of the Academy and other members in a number determined by the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences.

The president of the Academy of Sciences, the vice presidents, and the academician-secretary are elected by the General Assembly of the Academy from the academicians of the Academy of Sciences for a term of 5 years.

The academician-secretaries of the Departments are elected by the General Assemblies of the Departments of the Academy of Sciences from among the academicians of the Academy for a period of 3 years and are confirmed by the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences.

The other members of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR are elected by the General Assembly of the Academy from among the academicians for a term of 3 years.

Elections of president, vice presidents, and academician-secretary; the confirmation of the academician-secretaries of the Departments, and the election of other members of the Presidium are carried out by secret balloting with a simple majority of votes electing.

The allocation of duties between the president, the vice presidents, the academician-secretary, and the other members of the Presidium are determined by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences.

36. The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, carries out the decisions of the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, and during the period between sessions of the General Assembly directs all the activities of the Academy.

In all its activities the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences is responsible to the General Assembly of the Academy. The Presidium reports to the General Assembly on the most important decisions which it adopts during the period between sessions of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, may, by a majority of 2/3 of the votes of the total number of academicians of the Academy, re-elect the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, or its individual members before the completion of their terms.

The decision regarding the re-election of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, or its individual members before the expiration of their terms is adopted by secret ballot.

37. The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR:

- a) convokes the sessions of the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences;
- b) under a legally prescribed procedure establishes the research and assistance institutions and enterprises necessary for carrying out the Academy of Sciences' objectives, and determines the regulations for these institutions and enterprises;
- c) convokes scientific congresses, conferences, and meetings and organizes research expeditions;
- d) determines the research programs of the Departments and scientific institutions under the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences and controls the way in which these programs are carried out;
- e) determines the publication program of the Academy of Sciences;
- f) presents for the consideration and approval of the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences annual reports on the activity of the Academy of Sciences and the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR;
- g) adopts measures assuring the adoption of scientific discoveries and research results in the national economy;
- h) maintains scientific ties with the academies of science and other institutions of the USSR and the Union Republics;
- i) in conjunction with appropriate organizations convokes meetings of active scientific personnel in the institutions of the Academy of Sciences;
- j) maintains scientific ties with the academies of sciences and other scientific institutions of foreign countries;
- k) awards prizes for outstanding scientific work, discoveries, and inventions;
- l) determines the organization and confirms the charters of scientific societies within the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR.

38. The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, approves the appointment of: assistant directors of the research institutions of the Academy of Sciences, the editorial boards of journals of the Academy, the academic secretaries of the institutes and the Departments.

39. The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is the chief manager of the credits of the Academy of Sciences. It confirms the annual budget of the Academy, in accordance with the research plan disburses the appropriations from the Government among the institutions of the Academy of Sciences, and supervises the wisdom of expenditures by the institutions of the Academy.

40. The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, maintains control over the observance of the charter of the Academy of Sciences by all institutions and officials of the Academy.

41. The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, has jurisdiction over:

- a) individual institutions not belonging to the Departments and registered as approved by the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences;
- b) commissions, councils, and committees of scientists to deal with specific problems;
- c) the editorial and publishing council and the Publishing House of the Academy of Sciences;
- d) the library commission and the libraries of the Academy of Sciences;
- e) enterprises and organizations serving the Academy of Sciences, and operating without budgetary allotments as registered by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences.

42. The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, has a service unit operating on the basis of regulations established by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences.

VII. Departments of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

43. A Department of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is a research and organizational center uniting, within the Academy of Sciences, scientists in one or several branches of science.

A Department of the Academy of Sciences is made up of institutes and other scientific institutions subordinate directly to the Department in all research and organizational activity.

44. The chief agency of the Department of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is the General Assembly of the Department consisting of the academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences within the given Department.

The General Assembly of the Department considers the main trends and principles involved in the pursuit of science; hears reports on the disciplines falling within its competence; considers problems in planning research for the branches of science represented in the Department and in introducing research achievements into the national economy; hears and confirms the report on the activity of the Department; selects candidates for academicians of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR; elects corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, and the directors of institutions belonging to the Department, with subsequent approval of the elections by the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR.

45. The directing agency of the Department during the period between the General Assemblies is the Administrative Board of the Department, which is elected by the General Assembly by secret ballot from the members of the Department for a term of 3 years and consists of the academician-secretary of the Department, the deputy academician-secretaries, and the members of the Board.

The Administrative Board of the Department carries out academic and organizational supervision over the institutions which are within the Department; considers problems in the organization of new institutions with the Department of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, as well as questions pertaining to altering the structure and direction of operation of existing institutions, and presents appropriate suggestions on these problems to the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR; considers and approves the research plans and activity reports of the institutions which belong to the Department and the reports of academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, within the given Department; draws up plans for conducting sessions, conferences, and the more important meetings convoked by institutes of the Department; supervises the editorial boards of journals of the Department and the work of journals published by institutions in the Department; maintains general supervision over the societies existing within the Department.

The Administrative Board is responsible for its activities to the General Assembly of the Department and the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR. The Administrative Board reports annually on its activities to the General Assembly of the Department.

46. The right of a deciding vote in the General Assemblies of the Department belongs to the academicians and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, within the given Department, with the exception of decision on the selection of candidates for academicians and the election of corresponding members, in which case, according to the present charter, the right of a deciding vote belongs only to the academicians of the Academy of Sciences.

The director of an institute, at the same time an academician or a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, takes part in the General Assembly of the Department with the right of deliberative vote.

47. Questions in the General Assemblies of the Department are decided by a simple majority of those present having the right of a deciding vote, with the exception of cases where, according to the present charter, a 2/3 majority is required for a decision.

48. The regulations for a Department of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, are approved by the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences.

X. Research Institutes of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

49. The principal agencies carrying on research in the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, are its research institutes.

The research institutes of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, are a part of the Departments of the Academy.

50. At the head of a research institute of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is an institute director.

The institute director is selected by the General Assembly of the appropriate Department by secret ballot from among the leading scientists (academicians, corresponding members, and other outstanding scientists) in the appropriate branches of knowledge for a term of 3 years.

The directors of institutes which are a part of the Departments are confirmed by the General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, upon the recommendation of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences.

51. The research institutes of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, operate on the basis of the Charter for an Institute of the Academy of Sciences as established by the General Assembly of the Academy.

XI. Special Rights of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

52. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, has the right to keep the manuscripts of scientists and literary and art figures, and also archival material from the institutions of the Academy of Sciences and other material of value for the history of science, in the Archives of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, as well as in the archives of the scientific institutions of the Academy, without turning them over to the general state archival collections.

53. The Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, has the right to exchange printed publications with the scientific institutions, institutions of higher learning, and libraries of the USSR and the Union Republics, and with the scientific institutions, institutions of higher learning, libraries, museums, publishing houses, societies of friendship, and governmental institutions of other countries.

54. The General Assembly of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR; the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences; the Departments of the Academy; the research institutes and other attached scientific institutions of the Academy of Sciences, have a seal showing the arms of the Latvian SSR and the name of the appropriate institution.

XII. Procedure for Amending the Charter of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR

55. Amendment of the charter of the Academy of Sciences, Latvian SSR, is effected by a decision of the general assembly of the Academy of Sciences adopted by a 2/3 majority of the total number of academicians of the Academy with subsequent approval by the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR.

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