**CHARTER OF THE**

**PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S NEXT GENERATION OF ACADEMICS**

1. **Name**

The network shall be known as the “PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S NEXT GENERATION OF ACADEMICS.” In the appropriate context and in the rest of this document, “PANGeA” shall refer to the “Partnership for Africa’s next Generation of Academics.”

1. **Purpose**

The Purpose of PANGeA is to advance and strengthen research capacity and knowledge production in the arts, humanities and social sciences and foster a new generation of academics in Africa.

1. **Vision**

The vision of PANGeAis to advancethe quality, throughput and output of doctoral and early career training and research skills development in the arts, humanities and social sciences by promoting, co-ordinating and supporting full-time study and building research capacity on site through partnerships with leading African universities.

1. **Objectives**
   1. To foster linkages between academics and supporting capacity and skills development at member institutions;
   2. To develop vibrant scholarly communities among network partners to study and generate research relevant to Africa through *inter alia* collaborative research, faculty exchange, fellowship programmes, conferences and publications;
   3. To strengthen the member institutions through inter alia sharing of resources and tapping into partners’ comparative advantages;
   4. To build and sustain world-class doctoral programmes on the African continent in the arts, humanities and social sciences; and
   5. To support students and researchers within the partnership.
2. **Core activities**

To realise these objectives, PANGeAshall:

1. Establish collaborative research themes and projects at each of the member institutions;
2. Establish exchange agreements for academic staff that would enhance the capacity of the partnership and the individual partner universities;
3. Establish exchange agreements for postgraduate students;
4. Exchange and disseminate information and research through publications, conferences and PANGeA website;
5. Establish the PANGeA doctoral programme on the basis of:
   1. A full-time well-structured three-year study and research programme;
   2. Themes of research relevant to Africa and of mutual interest;
   3. Joint supervision;
   4. Joint application and selection procedures; and
   5. Compliancy with the normal admission requirements of the member institutions where students enrol.
6. Develop procedures to enable the implementation of collaborative doctoral programme awards to participants in the partnership;
7. Establish a training unit within the network – PANGeA-Ed – to provide research and skills development training on partner campuses;
8. Establish an early career fellowship programme for recent doctoral graduates within the partnership with a focus on training in University administration and management; and
9. Seek and secure financial support for the implementation of the general principles, programmes and activities of the network.
10. **Organisation**

6.1 Membership:

* 1. The founding members of PANGeA are: University of Botswana, University of Dar es Salaam, Makerere University, University of Malawi, University of Nairobi, and Stellenbosch University.
  2. Membership of the partnership many be extended to other institution by invitation. The Executive Board (see 6.2) will determine the conditions.
  3. Membership is based on the principles of reciprocity, equity and trust.
  4. Membership may be terminated by any partner institution by giving the Executive Board at least six months written notice.
  5. Associate membership may be extended to non-higher education institutions which have a specific interest in research, funding and training in Africa, by invitation. The Executive Board (see 6.2) will determine the conditions.

6.2 Governance:

1. PANGeA shall be governed and controlled by an Executive Board.
2. The board shall have the following *ex officio* members: one representative from each member institution at the level of dean, principal or equivalent from the arts, humanities and social sciences.
3. The Executive Board shall elect a chairperson from among its members on biannual rotational basis.
4. The Executive Board shall determine the general policy, approve new members and approve programmes and research projects as proposed by members in support and advancement of the objectivities and strategies of PANGeA.
5. The Executive Board shall, through its chairperson, submit a report on the activities and achievements of the partnership at least once a year.
6. The Executive Boardmay establish any other committees deemed necessary to perform the activities and operations of the partnership.

6.3 Coordination and Secretariat

1. The Secretariat – coordinating institution – shall be appointed by the Executive Board for a period of three years.
2. The Secretariat is responsible for managing and coordinating the overall organisation of all PANGeA activities and programmes and to prepare all necessary reports.
3. Partner institutions commit themselves to provide all necessary information to the Secretariat in time to ensure the good functioning of PANGeA activities and programmes.
4. Each member shall nominate a local coordinator who will implement and execute the programmes and decisions of the Executive Board.
5. **Finances**
6. The member institutions shall endeavour to secure local and international financial support for the implementation of the general principles, programmes and activities of the partnership.
7. Academic programmes and the administrative coordination shall be carried out in the accordance with the availability of funds and approved budgets.
8. Cost estimates shall be done per programme, based on actual costs and therefore not for gain.
9. Members will jointly develop proposals for funding of PANGeA activities and programmes. Such joint funding proposals must be endorsed by the Executive Board.
10. **Effective date**

The network referred to as PANGeA formally came into effect at an institutional level with the signing of the MMoU in Stellenbosch, South Africa, on 12 November 2010.

1. **Amendments**

Partner institutions may propose amendments to the charter by submitting, in writing to the Secretariat,the proposed amendments, which will serve on the agenda of the annual PANGeA Board meeting and require approval by the Executive Board.

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TERMINOLOGY

The following terms are used interchangebaly throughout this document:

* Network and partnership
* Institutions and universities

Drafted by: Dr C Steenekamp (PANGeA Secretariat)

For approval: PANGeA Board meeting, STIAS 2017.