

# Minutes of the 1st General Meeting of 9 September 2013

**Attendees:** 18 avuba members plus guests  
**Minutes taken by:** Patricia Eiche

## **Agenda Item 1: Welcome**

Kasper Renggli, Co-President of avuba, welcomes the members present. He apologises for the incomplete avuba members mailing list, which meant that a large proportion of the avuba members did not receive the invitation dated 20<sup>th</sup> August. Members were also informed via Uni News but this decision to notify members about the meeting via an alternative channel was last-minute.

## **Agenda Item 2: Rector's Welcome**

Antonio Loprieno is very pleased to see the 1<sup>st</sup> avuba General Meeting happen. For him, the research associates have become an all-important link between students and professors. He emphasizes how important it is for the university administration and the Rectorate to have a better understanding of the expectations and wishes of Faculty & Staff Group III. He would like to see avuba represent all faculties equally and function as the common link between the diverse needs.

## **Agenda Item 3: Activity Report**

Kasper Renggli explains how avuba came to be. In the 90s, an umbrella organisation encompassing junior research associates, senior research associates and post-docs was created. In 2007, this organization was dissolved owing to internal differences. In 2010, the rector called for the representatives of Faculty and Staff Group III to set up a new representative body for research associates; his request ended up with the Senate. Kasper Renggli, who was already in the Senate at this time, answered this call. With the help of Seraina Plotke (Faculty of Humanities) and Mareike Schmidt (Faculty of Law), this undertaking began.

In April 2013, Kasper Renggli (Senate representative of Faculty and Staff Group III Science) and Florian Kuhlmeier (Senate representative of Faculty and Staff Group III Business and Economics) began setting up an administrative and organizational structure for avuba. They moved into the administration office together with Patricia Eiche (on a 40% workload basis) on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013.

Since then, various administrative tasks have been dealt with, contact persons at the university have been visited, and offers to assist in various areas of university administration have been made.

## **Agenda Item 4: Teller Election**

The teller is unanimously elected.

### **Agenda Item 5: Agenda approval**

The agenda is unanimously approved.

### **Agenda Item 6: Approval of the Statutes and ratification of the performance agreement**

Subject to a few minor modifications, the agenda items and the performance agreement are approved/ratified with 17 votes. The modifications to the Statutes of 9 September 2013 are marked in blue.

The avuba members present decide that the Statutes and performance agreement of 9 September 2013 are to be sent out again by E-mail. The E-mail will further inform the members that any and all modification requests are to be sent to [avuba@unibas.ch](mailto:avuba@unibas.ch) within one month of the E-mail send date.

### **Agenda Item 7: Electing the Members of the Board**

Since many research assistants did not receive the invitation dated 20 August, and notification via Uni News was rather short-notice, those present agree that another General Meeting should be held in December 2013.

Those avuba members who wish to be actively involved in the board of representatives can put themselves forward as Board Members at the meeting in December.

### **Agenda Item 8: Confirming the Co-Presidents**

Those present confirmed that the co-presidents shall continue to work in the existing constellation until the meeting in December 2013.

### **Agenda Item 9: Revenue and Expenses 2013**

The revenue and expenses for 2013 are explained.

In 2013, the avuba revenue comprised CHF 30,000 in members' fees and a maximum of CHF 50,000 as a deficit guarantee from the university. On the one hand, avuba has to charge a members' fee and, on the other hand, perform services as defined in the performance agreement with the university in order for the university to contribute to the costs.

The expenses are made up of the co-presidents' salaries (2x20% workload basis, SNSF basis) and the management salary (40% workload basis), on the one hand, and expenses for the logo, website, translations, events and project assistance, on the other hand.

### **Agenda Item 10: Application for Funding for Caffè Bologna**

Marc Siegrist and Annina Brunner from Skuba (Student Association of Basel University) present their project.

Skuba is requesting financial assistance for Caffè Bologna in the form of a donation of CHF 10,000 for a piece of furniture on which “avuba” will be written. The application for funding is approved with 11 votes for, one against, and one abstention.

#### **Agenda Item 11: Application to Join Actionuni**

Marius Osterfeld from the University of Freiburg introduces actionuni.

Actionuni conveys the wishes and concerns of the mid-level academic faculty to those responsible at SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation), the Swiss government, and the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers association ‘Eurodoc’. Actionuni holds a seat on the SNSF Panel and is frequently asked to participate in commissions at national level. Additionally, actionuni has a seat in Eurodoc, the international and European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers which represents national organisations of PhD candidates.

The members present vote unanimously in favour of avuba joining actionuni.

#### **Agenda Item 12: Members’ Motions**

It is pointed out that the term “research associates” is not used uniformly throughout the university. Certain doctoral candidates do not feel that the term “research associates” refers to them. This problem is known and is being dealt with.

Those present thank the current Co-Presidents and the management for the engagement and commitment they have shown hitherto.

#### **Agenda Item 13: Looking Ahead**

The temporary avuba homepage is expected to be replaced by the new site [www.avuba.unibas.ch](http://www.avuba.unibas.ch) by the end of September.

Various events over the coming weeks which may be of interest to the research associates are pointed out, in particular ‘Nachwuchsapéro’ on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, an aperitif party for young academics. In addition to the departments Talent Promotion and Equal Opportunities, avuba is also involved in the organization of this event.

Basel, September 2013



Kasper Renggli



Florian Kuhlmeier

In cases of doubt, the German version of this document is the binding version.