

## **Minutes of the General Meeting held on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Location:** Regenzzimmer  
**Time:** 6.30pm – 9pm

**Present:** 38 members of avuba  
**Minutes:** Patricia Eiche

### **Agenda Item 1: Welcome**

Kasper Renggli, co-president of avuba, welcomes all the members in attendance. He apologizes again that the invitation to the General Meeting was sent out with fewer than 30 days' notice in the first instance.

He points out that any changes to the Bylaws require a majority vote of 2/3 according to the Bylaws of September 9<sup>th</sup> 2013.

As none of the members present declare that they cannot understand German, Kasper Renggli resolves that the General Meeting be conducted in German.

### **Agenda Item 2: Election of tellers and approval of agenda items**

The election of the tellers, which was intended as Agenda Item 4, is brought forward. Two people volunteer each of which will count either the inner or the outer circle of members.

The current agenda items are approved with one abstention. Kasper Renggli points out that any additional agenda items that may come up during the meeting will have to be postponed to the next General Meeting due to a lack of time.

### **Agenda Item 3: History of avuba**

Kasper Renggli explains that a need to bring the inactive umbrella association back to life was expressed by the Rector and the public. This led to a meeting between the Senate representative, the Rectorate, and the Administrative Director. It was then declared that the university administration would support and jointly finance the proposed association for Group III. The financial support would be first implemented through a shortfall guarantee: the University's contribution to the association could become part of the global budget at a later point.

The Senate members voted in favor of founding “avuba”. Kasper Renggli then established the avuba as an administrative entity together with Florian Kuhlmeier and Angela Heck. The seven Senate representatives of Group III oversaw the establishment of avuba. Each important step and decision was discussed in this committee.

#### **Agenda Item 4: avuba milestones in 2013**

The following steps were achieved for avuba in 2013:

- Drafting of a Performance Agreement and Bylaws
- Creation of the website avuba.unibas.ch
- Participation in working groups
- Increasing the awareness of the needs of English-speaking assistants
- Translation of the latest skuba brochure
- Exchange with the University of Bern Intermediate Staff Association
- Support of Caffè Bologna
- Initial steps towards joining actionuni

#### **Agenda Item 5: Minutes for the meeting held on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2013**

The minutes were approved with 10 abstentions. One spelling mistake is to be corrected.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Discussion and voting relating to comments submitted**

All inputs that have been received were discussed and a vote taken on each point individually. The first two points concern the Performance Agreement. Points 3-14 concern the Bylaws, and there are then several comments about the website.

The approved amendments concerning the Performance Agreement and the Bylaws are shown in *italics*. All amendments to the Performance Agreement and to the Bylaws from December 16<sup>th</sup> are highlighted in the new version of each document.

The first two points concern changes to the Performance Agreement. Points 6.3 to 6.14 concern the Bylaws or general matters. Point 6.15 concerns the homepage.

##### 6.1 Terminology “assistants and postdocs”

- The term “postdocs” is to be replaced by “postdoctoral researchers” in the Performance Agreement and in the Bylaws.  
-> This amendment is approved with 7 abstentions.
- The term “senior assistant”, which occurs in section 3 of the Performance Agreement, is to be deleted without replacement.  
-> This amendment is approved with 9 abstentions.

- The co-presidents agree completely with the members of the General Meeting that all members of Group III should be addressed in avuba communications to a greater extent than has hitherto been the case.

#### 6.2 Independence of avuba from University administration

- The Performance Agreement section 6 is to be supplemented: avuba shall submit its annual budget to the Rectorate for approval. This budget shall make clear which activities are to be financed using the funds provided by the Rectorate. *avuba's independence from the University relating to content remains unaffected.*  
-> This amendment is approved with 3 abstentions.

#### 6.3 The name "avuba"

Although official university documents (University Charter and Regulations for Academic Staff) state that assistants are: a) doctoral students and b) postdoctoral researchers, some members do not feel addressed by the term "assistants".

- The members resolve to keep the name "avuba".  
-> This resolution is approved with 5 abstentions.

Kasper Renggli suggests that this matter be discussed further with the co-presidents and Board, and furthermore that communication with members be improved so that every member feels addressed.

#### 6.4 Information exchange with non-members

The proposal to share information with non-members actively is retracted. Since avuba is not permitted to store data related to non-members, this proposal is not feasible.

- The co-presidents suggest that the passage regarding the confirmation of avuba membership termination from the Rectorate is supplemented by the following sentence: "avuba is not allowed to correspond with former members. Important information will be made available openly via: avuba.unibas.ch".  
-> This amendment is approved with 1 abstention

#### 6.5. Notice for invitations to the General Meeting

- Section 7: Supplement and amendment to the existing Bylaws: The ordinary General Meeting takes place annually. *The invitation is sent at least 30 days prior to the meeting.* Members must submit proposals to the Board in writing at least 7 days prior to the General Meeting.  
-> This amendment is approved with 2 absentions.

#### 6.6 Limitations to the eligibility of co-presidents for re-election

- Section 8: No amendment to the Bylaws. Board members are elected for a period of office of one year and can be reelected.  
-> This retention is approved with 7 abstentions.

#### 6.7 Presentation of election candidates for Group III representatives also to non-members

avuba is not permitted to share information with non-members actively due to data protection. Any important information is posted on the homepage at [avuba.unibas.ch](http://avuba.unibas.ch).

#### 6.8 Distribution of General Meeting minutes

- Section 8: Amendment to the Bylaws. The resolutions are recorded in a minutes and published. *Members are informed of the publication.*  
-> This amendment is approved with 1 abstention. Members are sent an email with a link to the minutes.

#### 6.9 The Board must include non-university funded researchers and researchers funded by third parties

- Section 8: No amendment to the Bylaws: The Board comprises two co-presidents, the Senate representatives, and additional Board members who are elected by the General Meeting.  
-> This retention is approved with 9 abstentions
- By the next General Meeting, the co-presidents will issue a proposal for an appropriate way of emphasizing diversity in the Bylaws.

#### 6.10 Additional standard legal passage concerning the competencies of the Board

- Section 8: The tasks of the Board are supplemented by the following point: *The Board shall have all powers that are not transferred to another organ by law or by explicit mention in these Bylaws.*  
-> This addendum is approved with 9 abstentions.

#### 6.11 The constituents of the Co-Presidium

- Section 9: The Presidium is part of the Board and *ideally comprises one doctoral researcher and one postdoctoral researcher from different faculties.* If possible, both genders should be represented.  
-> This amendment is approved with 6 abstentions.

#### 6.12 Remuneration and workload of co-presidents

- Section 9: The co-presidents are recompensed for their work on behalf of avuba. The amount of *financial compensation, which is paid for one year according to the tariff defined by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)*, is proposed by the Board and approved by the General Meeting.  
-> This addendum is approved with 2 abstentions
- A compensation of 20% for each co-president will be applied for 2014.  
-> This proposal is approved with 5 abstentions.

### 6.13 The General Meeting should evaluate the Administration

- Section 10: Proposed text: The degree of engagement and job description shall be evaluated by the General Meeting on a two-yearly basis.  
-> This proposal was rejected with 6 abstentions
- Section 10: Additions to the Bylaws: The Co-Presidium appoints members to the Administration *and decides on the amount of compensation for the Administration* in consultation with the Board.  
-> This addendum is approved with 18 abstentions.

### 6.14 On section 10: The Bylaws of September 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 are approved conditionally

The proposal is retracted since the Bylaws are being modified at the current meeting and the version of December 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 is the most recent.

### 6.15 Comments on the avuba website

The head of administration is to be named on the homepage.  
The section "Contact Persons" is replaced with "Useful Links".  
The Board was pleased with the design and content of the website.

### **Agenda Item 7: Election of the co-presidents for 2014**

- Florian Kuhlmeier, doctoral student in Business and Economics, and Angela Heck, postdoctoral researcher in Psychology, put themselves forward for election.  
-> Both candidates are elected.

During the election both candidates left the room. After the election the new Co-Presidium expresses its thanks for this proof of confidence.

### **Agenda Item 8.1: Ex-officio members of the Board**

The following members of the Senate will shortly be coming to the end of their Senate terms:

- Lukas Musumeci, Faculty of Law
- Kasper Renggli, Faculty of Science
- Pascal Maeder, Faculty of Humanities

Any Group III members at the relevant faculties who wish to stand for election to the Senate are very welcome to contact either avuba or a current Senate member. This information will also be published on the avuba homepage.

**Agenda Item 8.2: Task for the avuba Board in 2014**

The Board shall prepare a paper for the next General Meeting, which is to detail the involvement and influence of Group III within the University and the faculties. Possibilities for improving the network and suggestions for closing any representational gaps are to be developed.

**Agenda Item 9: Conditions of appointment for assistants**

Florian Kuhlmei presents the current information from the working group for appointment conditions for assistants, which was founded by administrative director Tschumi. Since there is nearly no more time left and the room is only available until 9pm, Kasper Renggli interrupts the discussion.

Angela Heck and Florian Kuhlmei resolve to invite avuba members to lunch in January for the purpose of exchanging information and discussing potential avuba action concerning the matter.

Information provided by the Rectorate on the subject of "Conditions of appointment for assistants" will be published on the avuba website under the heading "Infocenter".

**Agenda Item 10: Outlook**

The following are planned for 2014: newsletter, lunch meeting, fixed office hours during which the co-presidents are available to advise on questions and concerns.

Kasper Renggli thanks the members in attendance and invites them for drinks and snacks at the *Apèro*.

Basel, December 2013



Kasper Renggli



Florian Kuhlmei