

Minutes of Board Meeting held on June 5, 2014

Location: Kollegienhaus, Room 206

Time: 2-4pm

Present: David Atwood, Beat Jucker, Christian Herrmann, Florian Henri Besthorn,
Julia Manzetti, Florian Kuhlmeier, Angela Heck

Minutes: Patricia Eiche

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of minutes from Board meeting in February
2. avuba working group (AAG) on appointment and employment conditions
3. actionuni
4. Participation in the "Diss:Kurs" event on October 7
5. Topics for the next lunchtime meetings and the open access information day
6. Academic and non-academic project funding
7. Vademecum
8. Data protection
9. Next meeting of the avuba Board

Item 1: Approval of minutes from the Board Meeting in February

The minutes were approved by all.

Item 2: avuba working group (AAG) on appointment and employment conditions

a) General

The avuba Board would like to evaluate the goals achieved so far, as well as to give an overview of its ideas about the future orientation of the AAG.

In the application for the formation of a working group as an umbrella organization of the avuba, the short-term goal of the working group was to formulate a suitable response to the ongoing reform of appointment conditions initiated by University Management. The activities of the working group over the preceding months have proven successful in this respect: they have raised awareness and disseminated information at grassroots level and at faculty management level. The latter was achieved in particular through the drafting of a detailed position paper. The avuba Board wishes to express its thanks for the huge amount of work and voluntary efforts that led to this important outcome. Furthermore, the AAG has offered advice to representatives of Group III in the informal working group established by university management, providing the representatives with better support for their negotiating positions. avuba is aware of the significance of the AAG given the current situation and will continue to support cooperation in the future.

Since the resources required for the short-term goal of steering the reform process along the right tracks need to be reduced, the working group can now address the long-term goal. This means working for a general improvement in conditions for early career researchers at the University of Basel. The avuba Board envisages a valuable working relationship between the AAG and avuba. See point b) for more information.

The avuba Board discussed further minor matters. These will be directly addressed at the next meeting with the AAG on June 18.

b) Event on “career advancement of early career researchers and the educational situation across Switzerland”

The avuba Board welcomes and supports the idea of organizing an event for assistants. It wishes to expand the topic so that it appeals to a broader public, and proposes the title: “The future of early career researchers at Swiss universities”. The date envisaged for the event is in Spring Semester 2015. Following consultation with the AAG, David Atwood will ask Caspar Hirschi, professor in St. Gallen, to be the keynote speaker. The Board resolves that the organizational team is to comprise five people: two members of the avuba Board, two members of the working group, and the avuba head of administration for administrative support. Angela Heck and David Atwood put themselves forward from the Board.

c) List of representatives: governing committees and commissions

Since official communication between the AAG and external parties is to take place via avuba@unibas.ch, it is not necessary to make this list publicly accessible. Furthermore, several Senate representatives have noted that the names of representatives within a faculty fluctuate considerably, so that it is difficult to keep the list up-to-date with this level of detail.

d) The AAG requests for a shorter, English version of the position paper to be distributed by email

According to those responsible at the University IT center, it is not possible to send a group email with attachments. The June 2014 newsletter will therefore include a link to the document instead.

e) Moderating a forum

The avuba Board has decided that an online platform for discussing the AAG topics may not be strictly necessary. The avuba Board leaves it to the working group to set up and moderate a forum.

f) Participation and positioning of the Medical Faculty

Medics are not currently represented in the avuba or in the Working Group for ‘Employment and Working Conditions’. Christian Herrmann, who is a Sports Scientist and ‘coincidentally’ also Senate representative for the Medical Faculty, considers himself an unsuitable representative of Group III from the Medical Faculty due to his lack of academic and organizational contact with the discipline. The Senate does not wish to accept any new members to Group III. In the June 2014 newsletter, the avuba will therefore make an appeal saying that the avuba Board would very much welcome a new member from the Medical Faculty, in the hope that this person would also join the working group.

Item 3: actionuni

In the newsletter of April 10, 2014, we announced that Florian Kuhlmeier was looking for someone to permanently take over his seat on the Board of 'actionuni – non-professorial academic staff in Switzerland'.

Florian Henri Besthorn, doctoral student in the Department of Musicology, expressed an interest in the job. Since no one else has been in touch, Florian Henri Besthorn will represent University of Basel assistants on the actionuni Board as of Fall 2014.

Item 4: Participation in the “Diss:Kurs” event on October 7 2014

Florian Henri Besthorn and Angela Heck will be present at the information stand on October 7, to answer questions related to assistants.

Item 5: Topics for the next lunchtime meetings and open access information day

For the next lunchtime meeting in the fall, the avuba would like to invite a member of the Swiss Federal Administration to speak on the subject: 'Working at the Federal Administration'. For the lunchtime meeting after that, avuba is looking for two speakers on the topic 'open access' (a supporter and a critic). If there is considerable interest expressed in the subject, there is the possibility of organizing an open access information day in 2015.

Item 6: Academic and non-academic project funding

The avuba approved the three applications submitted in the first half of 2014 to the value of around CHF 500 each: The Biozentrum PhD Retreat; an annual subscription to 'The Economist' and 'Guardian Weekly' for the Faculty of Business and Economics; and the Gender Project at the Faculty of Theology. Applications may now be submitted to avuba@unibas.ch for the next round of funding at the end of November.

Item 7: Vademecum

Vademecum – a student guide produced by skuba (the University of Basel Student Union) was translated into English in 2013 and paid for by avuba. It is a real A to Z of information about the University and about Basel and can be downloaded in [German](#) or in [English](#). The avuba Board has authorized the printing of 200 copies in English.

Item 8: Data protection

avuba receives a list of the email addresses of its members twice a year from Student Services (doctoral students) or from Human Resources (postdoctoral researchers). According to Matthias Geering, Head of Communication & Marketing, group emails using this list may only be sent from the avuba@unibas.ch account. Email address lists should not be shared with third parties and therefore will not be distributed by avuba.

Item 9: Next meeting of the avuba Board

The next meeting will take place in September.

Basel, June 12, 2014



Florian Kuhlmei



Angela Heck