

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on February 16, 2015

Location: Petersgraben 45, basement meeting room

Time: 4pm–5pm

Present: David Atwood, Sarah Stingelin, Christian Herrmann, Florian Henri Besthorn, Julia Manzetti, Angela Heck, Barbara Heer

Absent: Florian Kuhlmei, Christopher Klenk

Minutes: Patricia Eiche

Agenda:

- 1. Update on the 2015 Senate elections**
- 2. avuba annual report 2014**
- 3. News from the avuba working group (AAG) on appointment and employment conditions**
- 4. News from the “Future of early career researchers” project group**
- 5. Latest news from actionuni – the association for teaching and research assistants in Switzerland**
- 6. Feedback on the Open Access lunchtime meeting**
- 7. Status reviews/Progress meetings**
- 8. Next avuba executive board meeting**

Item 1: Update on the 2015 Senate elections

The deadline for anyone wishing to take over from Julia Manzetti (Faculty of Science), Florian Kuhlmei (Faculty of Business and Economics) or Angela Heck (Faculty of Psychology) is February 22, 2015. Since nobody has yet come forward from the Faculty of Business and Economics or the Faculty of Psychology, another call will be put out in the Q1 newsletter. If there are still no candidates at the start of March, Angela Heck and Florian Kuhlmei will personally ask the assistants in their respective faculties.

Item 2: avuba annual report 2014

The avuba annual report 2014 is approved and thanks are expressed. In March 2015, the avuba auditors (Ivan Giangreco and Jan Overbeck) will review the annual report for 2014 and the associated documents and present any observations.

Item 3: News from the avuba working group (AAG) on appointment and employment conditions

Barbara Heer informs the avuba executive board of the latest developments:
Over the last few months, the Office of the Administrative Director at the University of Basel has developed a new appointment model. The amendments to the existing model will continue to be discussed in a small working group with four delegates from the pool of assistants (Angela Heck,

Barbara Heer, Julia Manzetti and Marc Stalder). Although the topic is highly complex, the process is proving very constructive and efficient.

The aims of the reform are, above all, a) to harmonize appointment conditions between and within the faculties, departments and chairs, b) to adjust postdoc salaries from January 1, 2016 in line with the adjustment of doctoral salaries made as of January 1, 2014 and, c) to introduce job descriptions to create clear appointment terms and gradings in accordance with the new salary tables for assistants.

The delegate group will have its last meeting with Christoph Tschumi on March 21, 2015 before the model is presented to the faculties for consultation.

Therefore, the working group on appointment and employment conditions will closely examine the model again at its next meeting in March. Anyone interested in contributing is very welcome to participate in the discussions and to become actively involved in the working group (contact for minutes and upcoming meeting dates: barbara.heer@unibas.ch or basil.bornemann@unibas.ch).

Item 4: News from the “Future of early career researchers” project group

David Atwood informs the avuba executive board that this event will take place on April 22, 2015 from 5pm–9pm in the Great Hall. From 5pm–6.30pm, there will be three presentations in English on the current status of appointment conditions for assistants and postdocs. The speakers are: Corinna Wirth of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, Christoph Tschumi from the University of Basel, and Lars Bütke from the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

The following people have confirmed that they will participate in the podium discussion, which will take place in German from 7pm–9pm: Anita Fetz, Swiss Parliament council member for the Canton of Basel-Stadt, Professor Brigitte von Rechenberg of the University of Zurich, Dr. Peter Streckeisen from the University of Basel, Dr. Rudolf Walser, consultant at avenir Suisse, and Professor Ed Constable, Vice Rector for Research at the University of Basel. Basil Bornemann from the Faculty of Humanities will moderate the discussion.

To raise awareness of the event among university members as early as possible, the Senate members are asked to inquire in their faculties whether our invitation can be sent by email to the faculty offices or the deans.

The invitation and abstract are still being discussed and should be translated and ready to send by the start of March at the latest.

Angela Heck is requested to ask Professor Maarten Hoenen whether he could transfer the CHF 1,500 promised to avuba for a large-scale event in 2015.

Item 5: Latest news from actionuni – the association for teaching and research assistants in Switzerland

Florian Henri Besthorn, university representative on the actionuni executive board, points out that the delegate meeting for actionuni – the association for teaching and research assistants in Switzerland will take place on March 20, 2015 at 4pm.

Among other things, this meeting will include a vote on a change to the bylaws to increase the membership fee. If this change is made, actionuni members will pay CHF 1 for each member of their assistants' association. This would mean that avuba would pay CHF 3,200 per year to be a member of actionuni instead of the previous fee of CHF 200.

The avuba executive board agrees that an annual fee of more than CHF 1,000 could lead to avuba withdrawing from actionuni – the association for teaching and research assistants in Switzerland at the avuba General Meeting on November 30, 2015.

To ensure that avuba can exercise its 5 votes at the delegate meeting in Bern, a call will be put out in the newsletter for five assistants to travel to Bern and attend the meeting on Friday, March 20, 2015. The meeting will take place at 4pm at the University of Bern. avuba will pay for the train tickets and

expenses of CHF 100. Anyone interested should contact Florian Henri Besthorn by March 15, 2015 (f.besthorn@unibas.ch).

Item 6: Feedback on the Open Access lunchtime meeting

At the executive board meeting on February 19, 2014, the avuba executive board decided to use the feedback on the Open Access lunchtime meeting to determine whether a large-scale, one-day event should be arranged on this topic.

This lunchtime meeting took place on February 5, 2015. The 18 participants found the information provided by Nicolas Sartori, who is responsible for Open Access at the Basel University Library, to be very valuable. However, attendance was roughly the same as for other lunchtime meetings. Therefore, there will be no major event on Open Access in 2016.

Item 7: Status reviews/Progress meetings

At the avuba General Meeting on December 1, 2014, the decision was taken that at least one meeting is to be held each year between the committee representatives and the avuba co-presidium to exchange information, including a report in the newsletter. The meeting will take place on May 7, 2015 and a report will appear in the Q2 newsletter.

The avuba executive board has also decided that the avuba co-presidium shall meet once a semester for progress meetings with the Rectorate and/or Office of the Administrative Director and also with the three offices for Human Resources, Early Career Researchers' Development, and Equal Opportunities. Meetings with other offices at the University can be conducted on an ad hoc basis if the assistants believe that action is required.

Item 8: Next avuba executive board meeting

The next meeting will take place in June 2015.

Basel, February 23, 2015



Angela Heck



Florian Henri Besthorn