

## **Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on June 3, 2015**

**Location:** Petersgraben 45, basement meeting room

**Time:** 12.00pm–1.15pm

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

**Absent:** -

**Minutes:** Patricia Eiche

### **Agenda:**

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on February 16, 2015**
- 2. News from the avuba working group on appointment and employment conditions**
- 3. News from actionuni – the association for teaching and research assistants in Switzerland**
- 4. Funding applications for academic and non-academic projects**
- 5. Uni-Nacht on September 18, 2015**
- 6. SKUBA clinic – legal advice**
- 7. Update to the vademecum**
- 8. New Senate term of office as of Fall semester 2015**
- 9. Exchange meeting with Group III representatives on university bodies and committees**
- 10. Date of the next avuba executive board meeting**

### **Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on February 16, 2015**

The minutes of the executive board meeting held on February 16, 2015 are approved and thanks are expressed.

### **Item 2: News from the avuba working group on appointment and employment conditions**

Barbara Heer informs the avuba executive board of the current situation:

The small working group with four assistant delegates (Angela Heck, Barbara Heer, Julia Manzetti and Marc Stalder) has met with Christoph Tschumi three times since the last executive board meeting. Between each of these sessions, a meeting was held with the avuba working group on appointment and employment conditions, which produced input and responses that the delegates could feed back to Christoph Tschumi. The faculties and avuba are currently consulting on draft appointment conditions for doctoral and postdoctoral students, which are available in German on the avuba homepage <https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/about-us/avuba-arbeitsgruppen/aag-anstellungs-und-arbeitsbedingungen/>.

In May 2015, the report was examined by the Rector's Conference and the faculties and avuba will complete their consultation on the provisional report by the end of June. The definitive report will be presented to the Rectorate in August. Specific implementation in the departments and faculties is planned to start in the Fall semester, and the new appointment conditions will be implemented as of January 1, 2016.

To make it easier for the Group III representatives on the relevant faculty committees to define positions on issues, they will receive an email containing the currently available documents from the relevant Senate members by June 5, 2015.

avuba members will be informed of the current situation in the Q2 newsletter, which will be sent out before the middle of June 2015. The newsletter is to contain a link to the avuba website, where the documents from Christoph Tschumi and avuba's statement (planned for the end of June) will be published. Barbara Heer is preparing a draft statement in note form, which Florian Kuhlmeier, Angela Heck and Julia Manzetti will use as the basis for the first draft in the week from June 6, 2015 (final version by end of June).

### **Item 3: News from actionuni – the association for teaching and research assistants in Switzerland**

Florian Henri Besthorn, universities representative on the actionuni executive board, states that the actionuni executive board will meet several times in July to develop actionuni's strategy and positions. Requests, expectations and "visions" will be gratefully received. This will then allow actionuni to take a clearer position in the future when contacting national bodies (e.g. SNSF or CRUS). The teaching and research assistants at the University of Basel can send 5 delegates to the annual delegate meeting in Bern. Anyone interested should get in contact with Florian Besthorn ([f.besthorn@unibas.ch](mailto:f.besthorn@unibas.ch)).

The executive board emphasizes that the SNSF reforms are of great significance to assistants. Christian Herrmann will raise the importance of the reform with Ed Constable at the next research committee session and initiate a meeting if necessary.

### **Item 4: Funding applications for academic and non-academic projects**

Due to the avuba budget, a decision was made at the executive board meeting on February 19, 2014 to pay out CHF 5,000 twice a year to 10 academic and non-academic projects that promote community building and network expansion.

This semester, 13 applications have been received that the avuba executive board believes fulfil this criterion.

During the meeting, the avuba executive board cannot agree on any further clear and meaningful criteria that would narrow the selection from 13 to 10 projects. They therefore decide to make an exception and support all 13 projects. By the next executive board meeting, Sarah Stingelin, Christopher Klenk and Patricia Eiche will develop further potential criteria, which will be put to the avuba executive board vote on September 23, 2015.

### **Item 5: Uni-Nacht on September 18, 2015**

Patricia Eiche informs those present that avuba has submitted a Uni-Nacht project together with the Equal Opportunities Office, the Office of Early Career Researchers' Development, Transferable Skills and EUresearch. This takes the form of a careers game, based on a project at the University of Bern, entitled "Game of Careers – Try Your Luck in the Battle for the Chair". The proposal is as follows: Find out whether you have what it takes to become a professor. Take on the challenge in a life-size game of Snakes and Ladders and discover which factors have a positive or negative effect on your academic career and which other career paths open up to you. On the way, make your own mortarboard to get one step closer to your goal of assuming the chair.

The development of a careers game has been generally welcomed and supported. The game is to be presented on September 18, 2015 in the foyer of the Kollegienhaus.

The avuba executive board approves funding of CHF 500 for this project.

**Item 6: SKUBA clinic – legal advice**

In collaboration with skuba, the Faculty of Law is offering free legal advice to all students at the University of Basel. Students in the Faculty of Law will provide this service under the supervision of a lawyer. Each semester, 10 students will work in pairs (with support) on around 25 cases, of which between 3 and 5 will come from assistants. The average workload per case will be around 16 hours, approximately 11 for the students and 5 for the supervising lawyer.

The financial costs of the SKUBA clinic will be borne mainly by skuba, the Faculty of Law, a law firm and private foundations.

As of 2015, the SKUBA clinic is requesting financial “pro memoria” support from avuba. As compensation for their services, which benefit assistants, a contribution will be made to the cost of the three-day block event that takes place at the end of the semester.

The executive board declines to contribute financially to the SKUBA clinic because this would mean that assistants could no longer receive free legal advice from the SKUBA clinic in the future. The decision is justified on the one hand by the fact that avuba cannot advertise this service because even more assistants would (presumably) contact the SKUBA clinic, and these cases could not be handled due to a lack of resources. On the other hand, the funding would benefit only a few avuba members. Furthermore, assistants in Basel have access to the following legal advice services, which are practically free of charge: The *Advokatenkammer* (attorneys’ association) at Gerbergasse 24, the civil court at Bäumleingasse 5, and the *Basler Gewerkschaftsbund* (Basel Federation of Trade Unions) at Rebgasse 1.

**Item 7: Update to the vademecum**

The skuba (University of Basel Student Union) vademecum was translated into English in 2013 at avuba’s expense and must be updated annually. The cost for 2015 is estimated at no more than CHF 500. The executive board approves this expenditure. The 72-page PDF contains an A to Z of information about the university and Basel and is available to download in both German (<https://avuba.unibas.ch/infocenter/>) and English (<https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/infocenter/>).

**Item 8: New Senate term of office as of Fall semester 2015**

As of the Fall semester 2015, Julia Manzetti and Christian Herrmann will step down from both the Senate and the avuba executive board. Sandro Sieber, a doctoral student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, will become the Senate representative for the Faculty of Humanities. The Faculty of Medicine will be represented by Christopher Klenk, a medical resident in the Department of Sport, Exercise and Health. We thank Julia Manzetti and Christian Herrmann for their dedication to avuba and welcome Sandro Sieber and Christopher Klenk to the avuba executive board.

**Item 9: Exchange meeting with Group III representatives on university bodies and committees**

The first exchange meeting took place on June 6, 2015. Those present agreed that one meeting per semester would certainly be beneficial because some points were identified – such as quality and doctorates, equal opportunities, health and accident insurance and the childcare committee – for which it would be useful to exchange information. The meeting was also a good opportunity to put names to faces and to acknowledge the representatives’ commitment. In the future, the avuba homepage is to feature direct links to their personal pages. We would also like to point out that the health and accident insurance at the University of Basel provides aid to assistants in proven financial difficulties in the event of an illness or accident.

**Item 10: Date of the next avuba executive board meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, from 2.30pm–3.30pm.

Basel, June 11, 2015



Florian Kuhlmeier



Angela Heck