

## **Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on January 20, 2016**

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

**Time:** 12.00pm–1.30pm

**Present:** David Atwood, Christopher Klenk, Florian Henri Besthorn, Sandro Sieber, Barbara Heer, Lukas Hohl

**Absent:** Sarah Stingelin, Anja Roth, Annette Milnik

**Minutes:** Patricia Eiche

### **Agenda:**

1. **Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on September 23, 2015**
2. **News from the avuba working group (AAG) on appointment and employment conditions**
3. **News from actionuni – the association for teaching and research assistants in Switzerland**
4. **“Future event 2016” project group**
5. **Draft of the avuba 2015 annual report**
6. **Teaching award jury**
7. **Academic editing**
8. **Topic: Incentives to find volunteer group representatives**
9. **Miscellaneous**
10. **Next avuba executive board meeting**

### **Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on September 23, 2015**

The minutes of the executive board meeting held on September 23, 2015 are approved and thanks are expressed.

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

The Office of the Administrative Director received consultation responses from avuba and the faculties until fall 2015 and the Rectorate made a few more adjustments.

The concept for new appointment conditions for assistants was presented at the Rector's Conference on November 4, 2015 and received positively. Its implementation was set for the Spring semester 2017.

The appointment conditions for assistants were presented to the Senate at the meeting on December 9, 2015. According to the minutes of the Senate meeting, which are available to the public at <https://www.unibas.ch/de/Universitaet/Leitung-Organisation/Gremien-Kommissionen/Regenz/Protokolle.html>, the presentation of the project plan and the concept content was followed by various suggestions and questions from the Senate, with comments and/or answers provided by the Administrative Director. The Rector then expressed her thanks for the engaged and constructive discussion. The concerns expressed would be discussed by the Rectorate and taken into account as far as possible. In addition, the new model would be evaluated relatively soon after its introduction and improved where necessary and possible. In the subsequent vote regarding the statement for the attention of the University Council, 31 Senate members backed the

concept for assistants' appointment conditions, taking into account the Senate's suggestions; 5 Senate members rejected the concept and 21 abstained.

*Post meeting note:*

*On January 21, 2016, the concept for appointment conditions was approved by the University Council. In February, an avuba delegation will meet with Administrative Director Christoph Tschumi to clarify any open questions.*

*On February 25, 2016, Administrative Director Christoph Tschumi will present the current concept and answer questions at an avuba lunchtime meeting.*

*Since there is some room for manoeuvre in implementation at faculty level, it is important to the avuba executive board that avuba has enough committed delegates to monitor the operational implementation process on behalf of the assistants. Further details will be given to members at the avuba lunchtime meeting on February 25, 2016.*

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

Florian Henri Besthorn, current universities representative on the actionuni executive board, informs the meeting that due to workload pressures, he would like a committed member to take over his role. Delegates are also still required to represent Group III in Bern at the actionuni delegate meeting on April 6, 2016 (4.00pm–6.00pm, travel expenses will be reimbursed).

In the best case, Florian Henri Besthorn's successor could be proposed and elected at the actionuni meeting on April 6, 2016. The two vacancies mentioned are advertised in the avuba Q1 2016 newsletter.

### **Item 4: "Future event 2016" project group**

In addition to Angela Heck, Lukas Hohl, and Patricia Eiche, Fiona Siegenthaler has offered to help plan, organize, and conduct the event. Daniela Keller will also take part in the first "Future event 2016" project meeting as brainstorming group representative.

### **Item 5: Draft of the avuba 2015 annual report**

The draft of the avuba 2015 annual report is approved and thanks are expressed. The accounts auditors, Ivan Giangreco from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and Wiebke Bretschneider from the Institute for Biomedical Ethics, will check the avuba 2015 annual report and the associated documents in February 2016 and make any necessary comments.

### **Item 6: Teaching award jury**

The Credit Suisse Award for Best Teaching has been presented at the University of Basel each Winter semester since 2006. From the Spring semester 2016, the Credit Suisse Award will be joined by another four teaching awards each year to acknowledge the broad spectrum of good teaching in all its variety and diversity.

At the end of November 2015, avuba was asked whether it would be willing to sit on the jury of the "Forging new paths" teaching award once a year until further notice (starting spring 2016). On December 3, 2015, the avuba executive board declared its willingness to participate via circular resolution, on the condition that the jury include both assistants and students. The two jury places for 2016 will be advertised in the Q1 2016 newsletter.

### **Item 7: Academic editing**

The next discussions between the avuba co-presidents and the Department of Staff and Organizational Development, the Equal Opportunities Office, and the Office of Early Career Researchers' Development will take place in spring 2016. In May 2016, the co-presidents will also have an informal meeting with the Rectorate. In addition to academic editing, these discussions will also cover incentives to find volunteer group representatives (see Item 8).

The discussion on academic editing will refer to the fact that early career researchers often require English-language articles to secure their qualifications. The faculties differ greatly in this regard: While the Faculty of Business and Economics, for example, offers an in-house editing service that is free for assistants, our current information suggests that such a service does not exist in the Faculty of Humanities. An editing program in the University Library might be a cost-effective medium-term solution.

### **Item 8: Incentives to find volunteer group representatives**

Since 2014, avuba has coordinated the election of Group III representatives for university bodies and committees, and has noticed that it is sometimes very difficult to find assistants to fill these voluntary and unpaid positions. This topic is to be discussed during the meetings mentioned in Item 7. The poor response to vacancies on bodies in which Group III should be represented might be partly due to the fact that employers often view assistants' involvement in self-organization as a voluntary activity. The discussions may produce ideas to make these positions more attractive in the future.

### **Item 9: Miscellaneous**

The avuba executive board decides that, in the future, avuba is to organize two informal network events each year. Options include a barbecue evening during the lecture-free summer period in the courtyard of the *Kollegienhaus* or a "get-to-know-you" reception combined with a city tour. The co-presidium will develop specific ideas for the next executive board meeting.

### **Item 10: Next avuba executive board meeting**

The next meeting is expected to take place in April 2016.

Basel, January 28, 2016



David Atwood



Lukas Hohl