

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on August 22, 2016

Location: Petersgraben 45, basement meeting room

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Present: David Atwood, Florian Henri Besthorn, Sandro Sieber, Anja Roth, Lukas Hohl

Absent: Christopher Klenk, Annette Milnik, Klaus Birnstiel (Barbara Heer's successor as project manager for the avuba working group on appointment and employment conditions)

Minutes: Patricia Eiche

Agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on April 5, 2016
2. News from the "Introduction to the new employment conditions" project
3. News from the "Future event 2016" project group
4. avuba film evening 2016
5. skuba clinic proposal: avuba support for a trial year
6. Endorsement of electoral candidates
7. Request for advance funding for an academic and non-academic project
8. Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) further develops career support
9. Next avuba executive board meeting

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on April 5, 2016

The minutes of the executive board meeting held on April 5, 2016, are approved and thanks for expressed.

Item 2: News from the "Introduction to the new employment conditions" project

On August 22, 2016, an avuba delegation attended a meeting with Christoph Tschumi and Ulrich Pfister to find out about the current status of the project.

All faculty directors have been instructed to inform their assistants by the end of October 2016 of the new pay scale and employment contracts to be introduced as of February 1, 2017, whereby – as already announced – existing rights will be protected.

The latest German-language document containing a pay scale overview and detailing the pay scale adjustments is available to the public at <https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/about-us/avuba-arbeitsgruppen/aag-anstellungs-und-arbeitsbedingungen/>.

Individual queries regarding uncertainties or discrepancies in employment contracts and/or pay scale assignments can be directed to your local Human Resources contact in the first instance. If this person is unable to help, the central Human Resources department will provide assistance. If, after these discussions, you feel that you have been treated unfairly, please contact the [Ombudsman's Office of the University of Basel](#).

Item 3: News from the “Future event 2016” project group

On November 15, 2016, the “Assistants 3.0 – Visions and plans for the future of early career university researchers” evening event will take place in the great hall (Aula) at the University of Basel. The panel discussion will feature Professor Wolf Linder (political scientist, member of the Swiss Science and Innovation Council), Professor Andrea Schenker-Wicki (economist, President of the University of Basel), Professor Marcus Kracht (theoretical computer linguistics and mathematical linguistics, University of Bielefeld), and Dr. Patricia Felber (social scientist). Invitations are expected to be sent out by email in October.

Item 4: avuba film evening 2016

This year’s avuba film evening will take place in December. Invitations will be sent out by email in November.

Item 5: skuba clinic proposal: avuba support for a trial year

A decision regarding potential avuba support for the skuba clinic was made at the executive board meeting on June 3, 2015. At that time, the avuba executive board declined to contribute, primarily because the service could not be promoted due to a lack of resources and would therefore be of financial benefit to just a few avuba members.

The current situation is as follows: Approximately 15 avuba cases can be taken on per semester. The “first come first serve” approach means that assistants’ cases are treated in the same way as students’. Consultations can also be conducted in English.

The avuba executive board therefore agrees to support the legal advice service (skuba clinic) with CHF 1,000 per semester from the fall semester 2016 as a one-year pilot project and to promote the service. The avuba funding can be extended as of the fall semester 2017 by mutual agreement. It should be noted that neither skuba members nor avuba members are entitled to advice. This is due to potential overload and because certain legal fields are too complex or may require swift action, in which case the person seeking legal assistance must be referred directly to a lawyer. It should be noted that consultations take place during lecture periods only.

Item 6: Endorsement of electoral candidates

avuba has been asked whether it could endorse election candidates who champion the interests of early career researchers in the political sphere.

According to its bylaws, avuba represents Group III interests both within and outside the University of Basel. However, avuba does not engage in party politics and is not a professional lobby association.

At this time, the avuba executive board declines the request to endorse candidates for the following reasons: Most of avuba’s approximately 3,000 members are not entitled to vote in Switzerland and would therefore not be affected by endorsements. In addition, avuba does not have the resources required to promote all candidates across all levels, all areas of party politics, and to explain its reasons.

Item 7: Request for advance funding for an academic and non-academic project

The “Excellence and/or varied life plans” project team has requested CHF 500 in September for its evening event on September 27, 2016 (an academic and non-academic project), even though the next round of funding will not be allocated until the end of November 2016.

The avuba executive board approves this financial support for September 2016 because only CHF 3,500 of a potential CHF 5,000 for academic and non-academic projects was allocated at the end of May 2016.

Item 8: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) further develops career support

Following criticism from many quarters, including the avuba statement on the SNSF multi-year program 2017–2020 (see <https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/about-us/stellungnahmen/>), the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) has revised its reform project for the 2017–2020 funding period and adjusted a few important points. Detailed information is provided here: [Development of career funding schemes for the 2017-2020 period: key decisions](#).

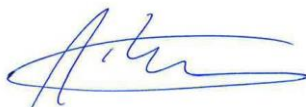
Item 9: Next avuba executive board meeting

The next meeting is expected to take place in January 2017.

Basel, August 26, 2016



David Atwood



Lukas Hohl