

## Minutes of the General Meeting held on December 4, 2017

**Location:** Fakultätenzimmer  
**Time:** 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm  
**Present:** 11 avuba members  
**Minutes:** Patricia Eiche

### Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Election of vote counter and approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes from the General Meeting on November 28, 2016
4. Finances: a) Motion to maintain current membership fee of CHF 15 per semester, b) Annual report 2016, c) Budgets 2017 and 2018
5. Progress report from avuba
6. Elections for 2018: a) Co-presidium, b) Auditors, c) avuba executive board members
7. Outlook
8. Miscellaneous

### Item 1: Welcome

Lukas Hohl, co-president of avuba, welcomes the members in attendance to the 2017 General Meeting. All those present (apart from head of administration Patricia Eiche) confirm that they are members of Group III and therefore eligible to vote.

### Item 2: Election of vote counters and approval of the agenda

Sandro Sieber from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences puts himself forward as a vote counter.

The members in attendance approve the existing agenda.

### Item 3: Approval of the minutes from the General Meeting on November 28, 2016

Lukas Hohl explains that the two motions from the General Meeting on November 28, 2016, were handled as follows:

The co-presidents were asked to discuss the notice period for the performance agreement with the President's Office. To improve planning reliability, it would be best to extend this notice period. The President's Office has agreed to the following wording: "If the agreement is not terminated by 30 June of the current year by either party, it shall be valid until the end of the following year." This termination option means that, for example, if the contract is terminated on 30 June 2020 - either by the Rectorate or by avuba itself - avuba is obliged to continue its work until 31 December 2021, i. e. for 1.5 years.

The co-presidents were also tasked with developing a position paper on various problems affecting assistants. This paper was then to be discussed with key people at the University. In the first quarter of 2017, avuba surveyed all assistants and collated a list of topics which it used to produce the "Summary of Areas with Potential". The content of the paper was then discussed with the President's Office in May. The document, including the feedback from the President's Office, is available on the avuba website at <https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/statements/>.

The minutes from last year's General Meeting are approved and thanks are expressed.

#### **Item 4: Finances**

##### 4.a) Membership fee

Executive board motion to the General Meeting:

- The current membership fee of CHF 15 per semester should be maintained.  
-> The motion is carried.

##### 4.b) Annual report 2016

Mohammed Ait Lahcen and Kerstin Hansen from the Faculty of Business and Economics reviewed the avuba annual report 2016 on May 4, 2017, and found it in order.

The avuba annual reports can be viewed at <https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/about-us/minutes-and-annual-reports/annual-reports/>.

Executive board motion to the General Meeting:

- Approve the existing annual report 2016 and express thanks.  
-> The motion is carried.

##### 4. c) Budget 2018

In accordance with the performance agreement with the President's Office, avuba may avail itself of a maximum annual cost/revenue deficit of CHF 50,000 from the University. avuba endeavours to use its money responsibly.

avuba anticipates that, in 2018, income from membership fees will remain stable and expenses will be in line with previous years. It therefore expects to make use of the University's deficit guarantee to the order of just under CHF 40,000.

Executive board motion to the General Meeting:

- Approve the existing budget.  
-> The motion is carried.

The budget for 2018 can be viewed at <https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/about-us/minutes-and-annual-reports/minutes-of-the-general-meetings/>.

## Item 5: Progress report from avuba

avuba activities in 2017:

- Developing the “Summary of Areas of Potential” paper and discussing this with the President’s Office in May
- Signing a framework agreement with Akademis, an insurance and finance platform that specializes in services for academics. This does not cost avuba anything and use of the services is voluntary; avuba members can register and benefit from these services as long as they remain members of avuba. Due to technical challenges and seasonal workload, Akademis was forced to postpone the launch of the English-language website. This is now scheduled for February 1, 2018. Plans are in place to inform avuba members of these services at the start of 2018; this will be completed by the end of April 2018.
- Writing a statement on the regulation of secondary occupations for the attention of the Senate. At the time of the General Meeting, the outcome of the discussion on the regulation of secondary occupations for University staff remains unclear. The Senate will discuss this topic at its meeting on December 13, 2017. The avuba statement can be viewed at <https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/statements/>.
- Drawing up general guidelines for dealing with media inquiries in October.
- avuba events:
  - Ten lunchtime meetings
  - Summer city tour with barbecue evening
  - Day trip to the Rigi mountain
  - Film evening
  - Monthly Happy Hours since February 2017 (initially in the skuBAR, then at Sandoase, and at Verso since November 2017)
- Sandro Sieber represented avuba in the panel discussion on November 2, 2017, on developments at the University of Basel (“Die Universität Basel im Wandel: Mitläuferin oder Wegbereiterin?”)
- Funding 6 academic and non-academic projects

## Item 6: Elections for 2018

### 6.a) Co-presidium 2018

Philippe Hofstetter and Christopher Klenk are standing as co-presidents for 2018. They leave the room while the vote is taken.

Lukas Hohl explains that nobody has put themselves forward for the role apart from the two executive board members mentioned above. Aïdas Sanogo adds that although the co-presidium will not include representatives of both genders (unlike 2017), it will include a doctoral student and a postdoc from different faculties. Both Philippe Hofstetter and Christopher Klenk have followed avuba’s activities closely in 2017. This ensures continuity and means that they will soon familiarize themselves with the role.

- Election of Philippe Hofstetter, doctoral student in the Faculty of Law, as avuba co-president for 2018  
-> The General Meeting elects Philippe Hofstetter.
- Election of Christopher Klenk, postdoc in the Department of Sport, Exercise and Health, as avuba co-president for 2018  
-> The General Meeting elects Christopher Klenk.

The existing co-presidents congratulate the two candidates and are sure that they will carry out their work with enthusiasm and dedication.

#### 6.b) Auditors

Agnes Hoffmann and Kathrin Gabler from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences put themselves forward to audit the avuba annual report 2017 in March 2018.

#### 6.c) Ex-officio avuba executive board members 2018

Ex-officio avuba executive board members 2018

- David Atwood, Faculty of Theology
- Philippe Hofstetter, Faculty of Law
- Christopher Klenk, Faculty of Medicine
- Andreas Baumgartner, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Sandro Sieber, Faculty of Science
- Anja Roth, Faculty of Business and Economics
- Annette Milnik, Faculty of Psychology

Klaus Birnstiel, postdoc in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, accepted to put himself forward as an avuba executive board member for another year.

#### **Item 7: Outlook**

Planned activities:

- Continuing existing events (lunchtime meetings, Happy Hours, avuba barbecue evening, avuba film evening, funding academic and non-academic projects)
- Regular meetings with the President's Office, the HR Office, the Equal Opportunities Office, and the Office of Early Career Researchers' Development
- Two meetings with the Group III representatives on University committees

The General Meeting also decides that the avuba co-presidents for 2018 will:

- Establish a twice-yearly lunchtime meeting on the topic of "Tips & Tricks for a Successful Doctorate"
- Closely monitor the "University cost-saving measures" project, including a statement on the planned measures, and discuss this with the President's Office
- Discussion of the further procedure with regard to communication and highlighting avuba's role in representing the interests of assistants, particularly with regard to the "University cost-saving measures" project, at the upcoming executive board meeting in January 2018
- Closely monitor the doctoral committee's "Strategy to consolidate existing doctoral programs" project prompted by the end of funding for SUC/SHK projects (government funding for interuniversity programs and activities for doctoral students, managed by swissuniversities) as of the end of 2020. This will be achieved by ensuring that Group III is actively represented on this committee, including the working groups planned for specific subtopics

**Item 8: Miscellaneous**

In summer 2017, avuba received emails from some members complaining that they were required to pay the avuba membership fee during their first semester. The people in question were recruited to the University by June 2017 and were not yet matriculated at this time. The avuba membership fee of CHF 15 was deducted from their salary at the end of June. They were not exempted from the avuba membership fee until the second semester, that is the first semester in which they were matriculated (in this case fall semester 2017/2018). To prevent this misunderstanding from occurring in the future, it is proposed that the word "matriculated" be added to the avuba Bylaws.

Executive board motion to the General Meeting:

- Add the word "matriculated" to point 4 ("Membership") of the avuba Bylaws: Doctoral researchers in their first *matriculated* semester are not required to pay avuba membership fees.  
-> The motion is carried.

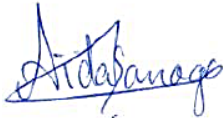
On behalf of the avuba executive board, Anja Roth thanks the outgoing co-presidents for their work.

Lukas Hohl and Aidas Sanogo thank the avuba executive board for their generous and constructive collaboration and thank the members present for attending the meeting.

Basel, December 8, 2017



Lukas Hohl



Aidas Sanogo