

## **Minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on January 9, 2018**

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

**Time:** 12.15 pm – 1.45 pm

**Present:** David Atwood, Philippe Hofstetter, Christopher Klenk, Andreas Baumgartner, Sandro Sieber, Anja Roth, Annette Milnik, Lukas Hohl

**Absent:** Klaus Birnstiel

**Minutes:** Patricia Eiche

### **Agenda:**

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on August 23, 2017**
- 2. avuba proposal for “funding contributions for editing services”**
- 3. actionuni position paper**
- 4. University cost-saving measures**
- 5. avuba lunchtime meeting with the avuba executive board**
- 6. avuba Happy Hours**
- 7. Open Access**
- 8. Next avuba executive board meeting**

### **Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on August 23, 2017**

The minutes of the executive board meeting held on August 23, 2017, are approved and thanks are expressed.

### **Item 2: avuba proposal for “funding contributions for editing services”**

By the end of February 2018, avuba plans to submit a proposal to the Office of Early Career Researchers' Development for funding contributions for editing services. In doing so, avuba aims to establish funding for the editing of English-language publications to improve the quality of research output by the University of Basel and, therefore, the image of our university. This could also reduce the time that supervisors (above all postdocs and professors) spend editing publications.

The language center at the University of Basel has offered editing and proofreading services for English-language texts since 2016. “Editing” applies to manuscripts submitted to publishers that are subject to a strict peer review process. Editing costs CHF 85 per hour. “Proofreading” applies to documents made freely available to the public by the University Library or the faculties and costs CHF 1.70 per 100 words.

An avuba delegation will meet with the relevant people at the language center in January to discuss the center's capacity and possible details of the proposal.

### **Item 3: actionuni position paper**

avuba has been a member of [actionuni](#), the umbrella organization for Swiss academic staff associations, since 2013. In December 2017, actionuni sent avuba its position paper on career advancement at Swiss higher education institutions with a request for feedback. The paper covers the following eight topics: diversification of career paths within higher education institutions and alternative careers, professional personnel management, dual skills profile (research/practice), transparency and careers advice, stronger departments, minimum research time, family-compatible careers, and rights of participation.

The avuba executive board believes the paper to be the most comprehensive list of the needs and expectations of teaching and research assistants at Swiss higher education institutions and is grateful for actionuni's efforts.

The next actionuni delegate meeting will take place in Bern on June 7 or 14, 2018. As before, avuba has 5 votes.

### **Item 4: University cost-saving measures**

No information about the university cost-saving measures is currently available to the public, and the topics discussed by the faculty committees and in the faculty assemblies are confidential. avuba is therefore unable to compose a statement at present.

The Group III Senate representatives will ask the general managers of the relevant faculties whether/when the faculty will inform its members about the measures decided.

The Group III Senate representatives will also contact the assistants in their faculty who attend faculty assemblies and ask them whether they see a need for specific action and/or require cross-faculty support from avuba.

In 2018, avuba plans to invite notable representatives of the university's current financial policy activities to an event in order to obtain information about medium-term financial and political trends for the University of Basel. These people include Dr. Conradin Cramer, Head of the Education Department of Basel-Stadt Canton and member of the University Council, Monica Gschwind, Head of the Department of Education, Culture, and Sport of the Canton of Basel-Landschaft and member of the University Council, and our President, Professor Andrea Schenker-Wicki.

### **Item 5: avuba lunchtime meeting with the avuba executive board**

In May or June, avuba will organize a lunchtime meeting in which the avuba executive board members will answer questions from the audience. While assistants can ask questions to their peers and representatives that are relevant to teaching and research assistants, avuba hopes to learn more about the issues currently concerning its members.

### **Item 6: avuba Happy Hours**

At the executive board meeting on August 23, 2017, the avuba executive board approved funding of CHF 4,000 for the next eight avuba Happy Hours. The last three Happy Hours, held in the Verso Bar, have shown that this amount will not be enough to finance eight Happy Hours.

If 60–70 people attend, avuba has to cover around CHF 600 for drinks, plus the wages of the Verso staff and any other costs for technology and music.

For the moment, the events will continue with the same regularity. avuba is therefore consulting the Verso management to see whether drinks could be offered at half price – in a “2 for 1” deal – for the first hour of the avuba Happy Hours (between 7 pm and 8 pm). By the next executive board meeting, it will be determined whether, if attendance remains the same, this measure will reduce the financial burden on avuba.

**Item 7: Open Access**

A brainstorming session on the topic of Open Access will take place on January 17, 2018. Attendees will include Nicolas Sartori, head of the open access unit at the University Library. The meeting will mainly focus on an initial overview of the needs and expectations of teaching and research assistants as well as ideas for next steps. The current goal is to draft an avuba statement in spring 2018.

**Item 8: Next avuba executive board meeting**

The next meeting is expected to take place in April 2018.

Basel, January 12, 2018



Christopher Klenk



Philippe Hofstetter