

Minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on April 12, 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, Nathalie Schicktanz, Annette Milnik, Lukas Hohl

Absent: Anja Roth, Klaus Birnstiel

Minutes: Patricia Eiche

Agenda:

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on January 9, 2018**
- 2. University cost-saving measures**
- 3. avuba and skuba position paper opposing possible reductions in educational investments and in favor of a university offering the full range of subjects**
- 4. avuba survey among doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers**
- 5. avuba Happy Hours**
- 6. Latest news from the “Strategy to consolidate existing doctoral programs” project**
- 7. Miscellaneous**
- 8. Next avuba executive board meeting**

Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on January 9, 2018

The minutes of the executive board meeting held on January 9, 2018, are approved and thanks are expressed.

Item 2: University cost-saving measures

The representatives of Group III of all seven faculties confirm that the assistants have not yet been officially informed about the consequences of the university cost-saving measures.

According to Christoph Tschumi, Executive Director, the faculties can only inform after the University Council has approved the proposed measures. The University Council has already approved the cost-cutting measures for the following faculties: Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Law and Faculty of Medicine. The measures of the other faculties are expected to be decided at the meeting of the University Council on May 3, 2018.

The Rectorate will arrange the level-appropriate information and it will be executed by the faculties by the end of May 2018 at the latest.

Item 3: avuba and skuba position paper opposing possible reductions in educational investments and in favor of a university offering the full range of subjects

The avuba executive board and the board of the Studentische Körperschaft der Universität Basel (skuba) have approved this [position paper](#). avuba has already provided copies to the University Council, the President's Office, and the general managers of the faculties on April 18, 2018. The paper can also be found on our website (<https://avuba.unibas.ch/en/statements/>).

Item 4: avuba survey of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers

In November 2017, the assistant's association at the University of Zürich conducted a survey on job satisfaction and supervision for doctoral students and postdocs and published the results in a detailed report ([Bericht](#), in German). The avuba executive board welcomes the idea of surveying Basel's doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, too. To ensure that the survey fulfills all the scientific criteria for a quantitative survey, avuba would like to commission someone to perform and analyze the survey. In the coming weeks, Nathalie Schicktanz, Senate representative for Group III at the Faculty of Psychology, will clarify whether this can be done within the Faculty of Psychology, for example as part of a supervised master's thesis.

Item 5: avuba Happy Hours

At the executive board meeting on August 23, 2017, the decision was made to reduce half-yearly funding for academic and non-academic projects from CHF 5,000 to CHF 3,000 in 2018 in order to finance the monthly Happy Hours.

Since February 2018, each monthly Happy Hour has cost avuba around CHF 450–500. This cost is capped; drinks are offered at half price until a "subsidy budget" of CHF 500 is reached. The same approach will be used for future events.

To reduce costs further, the avuba executive board decides not to hold avuba Happy Hours in months in which Verso offers no further events after the Happy Hour ends at 9 pm. In 2018, this affects the months of July, August, and September (Verso reopens at the start of the fall semester). The avuba executive board also decides that the annual avuba barbeque evening in June 2018 will take the form of a special Happy Hour. The 2018 avuba film evening will also take place at Verso.

Item 6: Latest news from the "Strategy to consolidate existing doctoral programs" project

Under the leadership of the Offices of the Dean of Research, the faculties are working on their own models and proposals for consolidating existing doctoral programs and, where applicable, establish new doctoral programs. The doctoral committee together with Group III representatives will also appoint working groups on various aspects (curricula, grants/scholarships, governance, etc.) In principle, the plan is to place existing doctoral programs (with 18 ECTS) under the aegis of a faculty, trans-faculty, and/or interuniversity graduate school as subject-specific or thematic specializations (automatic membership with 12 ECTS such as in a traditional individual doctorate). This graduate school will primarily serve as an administrative unit and work alongside GRACE for cross-program offerings.

avuba will ask the Offices of the Dean of Research whether assistants are represented in the relevant faculties.

Item 7: Miscellaneous

Klaus Birnstiel announces that he will step down from the avuba executive board as of June 30, 2018. Annette Milnik ceded her position as Group III Senate representative for the Faculty of Psychology to Nathalie Schicktanz in March 2018 and also withdraws from the avuba executive board with immediate effect.

Item 8: Next avuba executive board meeting

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

Basel, April 18, 2018



Christopher Klenk



Philippe Hofstetter