

## Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held on 20 January 2021

**Location:** Virtual meeting via Zoom

**Time:** 12:30 – 2:00 pm

**Present:** Nesina Grütter, Eva Maria Meyer, Tizian Troxler, Eva Schnider, Séveric Yersin, Butrint Aliu, Ulrike Unterhofer, Nathalie Schicktanz, Camila Plaza

**Absent:** -

**Minutes:** Patricia Eiche

### Agenda:

1. Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on 1 September 2020
2. avuba postdoc survey 2020
3. Impact of Covid-19
4. Performance agreement between the University of Basel and avuba
5. avuba priorities for 2021
6. Next avuba executive board meeting

### Item 1: Approval of the minutes of the executive board meeting held on 1 September 2020

The minutes of the executive board meeting held on 1 September 2020 are approved and thanks are expressed.

### Item 2: avuba postdoc survey 2020

The survey closed on 20 December 2020. In total, 192 postdocs took part (121 life science postdocs, 64 social science postdocs and 7 postdocs indicated “other research field”). The avuba executive board is discussing the initial results summary, including the areas where action is needed. Feedback will be incorporated by the end of January and the document will be discussed with the President’s Office in February. As announced, the results are expected to be published in March 2021. All avuba members will receive an email with a link to the documents on the avuba website.

### Item 3: Impact of Covid-19

The avuba executive board members report on how the current Covid-19 measures are affecting everyday life for the assistants in their faculty/environment. There are many similarities with the lockdown of spring 2020 and everyone hopes that things will return to normal soon. If this situation were again to continue for several weeks or months in 2021, research delays would cause particular problems for assistants who are reliant on conferences or research stays, travel abroad to collect data

and/or conduct studies with test persons that have had to be postponed or even abandoned (stricter requirements, applying for exemptions, participants dropping out). Assistants' contracts are already being extended due to Covid-related delays. If necessary, consideration would need to be given to extending the maximum term of employment for doctoral students (4+1) and postdocs (6+1) at the University of Basel. avuba will pass this information on to the President's Office.

#### **Item 4: Performance agreement between the University of Basel and avuba**

avuba's current income of CHF 80,000 per year consists mainly of avuba membership fees; all avuba members pay a fee of CHF 15 per semester (for processing and transparency reasons, the avuba membership fee has been waived for doctoral students in their first matriculated semester since the end of 2017 at the request of Student Services). The performance agreement between the University of Basel (represented by the President's Office) and the Assistants' Association at the University of Basel (avuba) enables avuba to spend an additional maximum of CHF 50,000 per year. avuba's biggest expense, at CHF 85,000, is salary payments to the avuba co-presidents and the avuba general manager. It uses its other funds to provide events and services for assistants.

At the end of each year, the University offsets avuba's costs so that its annual result is CHF 0; this means that avuba starts each year at zero. From 2013–2019, avuba made use of the deficit guarantee by CHF 34,000 per year on average.

The current financing structure restricts avuba's potential for development. The avuba executive board therefore decides that Tizian Troxler will prepare a discussion proposal by the next avuba executive board meeting on possible amendments to future financing or the performance agreement.

#### **Item 5: avuba priorities for 2021**

avuba's current priority is to analyze and publish the results of the postdoc survey 2020. All other dossiers and/or tasks will therefore be tackled from April/May onward. These include compiling the avuba annual report 2020, drawing up financial regulations, discussing a possible salary increase for the avuba general manager and potential measures to boost avuba's visibility among its members – if social events once again prove impossible in 2021.

#### **Item 6: Next avuba executive board meeting**

The next meeting is expected to be held in May 2021.

Basel, 1 February 2021



Tizian Troxler  
avuba co-president



Camila Plaza  
avuba co-president