

Protocol of the Assembly of Delegates 2017

Participants Designated delegations of member organizations
Designated delegations of organizations applying for membership
Invited Guests: Representatives of VSS-UNES and swissfaculty
Author Board of actionuni 2016 (azi)
Date/Time 10.05.2017 at 4 pm at University of Berne (UniS A301)

Topic **Assembly of Delegates 2017**

1 Welcome and information

Andrea Tamas opens the assembly and welcomes the delegates and guests, especially the candidates for membership.

The members of the board introduce themselves.

2 Quorum (slide 4)

The quorum of the assembly is guaranteed, if at least half of the member organisations are present with at least one delegate.

11 of 15 organisations are represented at the assembly and the quorum is fulfilled.

3 Election of the minute taker and vote counter

Minute Taker: Andrea Zimmerli

Vote Counters: Eliane Fitzé, Maxime Mellina

4 Approval of the agenda (slide 5)

On short notice ACIDUL, proposed to adress their petition "pour la recherche" (<http://pour-la-recherche.ch/>).

The board suggests adding this issue as an additional agenda topic (last agenda item).

ACIDUL proposes to combine their topic with the scheduled discussion on the position paper, as the two topics complement each other.

AVETH proposes not to include this topic at all due to the late input.

The board informs that there is currently no deadline for submitting new agenda items for the GA.

The board points out that there can be no vote on supporting the petition as this has to be a decision by the member organizations individually beforehand.

The assembly of delegates votes 1) on including (or not including) the topic (petition) in the agenda, 2) whether to discuss the petition jointly with actionuni's position paper.

***The assembly of delegates decides in a public vote to include the topic in the agenda.
The assembly decides furthermore with a majority of votes on combining the issue with***

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the agenda point “discussion position paper”.

The delegates approve the adapted agenda.

5 Discussion: Position paper and Petition (slides 6-10)

Actionuni got several different inputs and papers from member organisations on different key issues. The working group “position paper” was constituted in 2016. The working group gathered input on a list of strategically important topics.

The board drafted nine positions, which are up for discussion, revision, expansion.... The positions were sent to the delegates as supplement beforehand. Seven of nine statements are discussed in groups. The groups decide whether they in general agree or disagree with the position, make suggestions to alter/enhance the text or make counterproposals. The points of the ACIDUL petition are taken into account.

After the discussion in the groups, the board members present the feedbacks and suggestions of each group. Based on today’s results, the board will re-write to positions and the new draft will be sent to all the member organisations for discussion and consultation (by way of circulation). It is very important that the delegate who attended the discussion help to carry this into their own organisations. The goal is to eventually adopt the position paper as an official position paper of actionuni.

6 EURODOC report (slide 22)

Due to time shortage, the report from Eurodoc General Assembly is given priority in the agenda.

Cécile Blaser and Burim Ramaj (both University of Fribourg) attended the meeting in Oslo (April 2017) as representatives of actionuni.

Cécile reports from the event. Most importantly, the initiative of actionuni to manifest in the ESG the inclusion of the non-professorial academic staff in accreditation processes of higher education institutions in Europe was included as a Eurodoc strategic aim for 2018. As the framework of institutional accreditation in Switzerland is based on these ESG (European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area), this could have interesting consequences for participation opportunities.

Further, Cécile reminds the delegates of the Eurodoc Survey on open science and encourages everybody to take part. The survey results could influence politics on the topic of Open Science in Europe. Also, if there are enough data from Swiss participants, country-specific analyses will be possible.

7 Approval of the protocol of the Assembly of Delegates 2016

The board asks the Assembly of Delegates to approve of the protocol and the supplement.

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The delegates approve the protocol of the assembly of delegates of 2016 per acclamation.

8 Annual Report 2016 (slide 12-13)

The document was sent to the delegates beforehand. For detailed information, please consult the corresponding document. It will be uploaded on the Webpage.

The board highlights some main topics and events of the last year (slide 11). The board also visualizes the network and connections actionuni was able to establish and enhance (slide 10).

Over all, actionuni is friendly and favorably received. But most often the contacts point out that the main decisions and activities take place in the individual universities. Therefore, it is crucial that all member organisations are active and attentive in their own institutions.

9 Financial Report 2016 and discharge of the board (slide 14)

The financial report was sent via email and is a supplement to this protocol.

Andrea Tamas presents the financial report, as the treasurer Armin Zenker could not attend the meeting. The year 2016/17 closes with a plus of 1467.19 Fr. However, this is only due to the fact that there are still some unpaid travel expenses of board members. Overall, the financial situation is not very good, it's just enough to cover the basic expenses.

The auditors, Thomas Meier and Dennis Scheidegger, could not attend the assembly. Their written statement is presented: The auditors have verified the accounting. The board asks the delegates to approve the financial report and to discharge the board.

The assembly of delegates approves the financial report per acclamation and the board is discharged.

The board thanks the auditors, Thomas and Dennis, and the treasurer, Armin, for their work.

The financial situation has to be watched carefully, especially with regard to a possible and desired/needed professionalization of actionuni.

10 Welcome of new member organizations (slide 15)

- vmph, School of Teacher Education of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland FHNW
- MiFHO, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Eastern Switzerland FHO

The delegates of both universities present their organisations shortly.

***The assembly of delegates votes vmph to be a member of actionuni unanimously.
The assembly of delegates votes MiFHO to be a member of actionuni unanimously.***

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11 Membership fee 2017 (slides 16-17)

The board suggests using the same calculation method for the 2017 membership fee as for the last two years: tanh with maximum rate ($a_0 = 1.00$ CHF). Maximum fee per member association of CHF 600.-, starting point for calculations at CHF 1.-.

Members who did not already give their information about number of members (total; defines number of delegates with actionuni) and number of members paying membership fee with their organization ("paying members"; defines membership fee with actionuni) are asked to do this soon.

The assembly of delegates approves unanimously of the calculation method of the membership fee for 2017.

12 Election of the Board of actionuni for the year 2017/18 (slides 18-21)

Elections of the members representing Universities of Applied Sciences

Andrea Tamas (ZHAW) and Armin Zenker (FHNW) stand for reelection.
There are no further candidates.

Andrea and Armin are reelected unanimously.

Elections of the members representing Universities

Florian Lippke (Uni Fribourg) and Francis Kay (Uni Lausanne) stand for reelection.
As there is another candidate – Audrey Lötscher (Uni Lausanne), Francis withdraws his candidature.

Audrey presents herself shortly to the assembly.

Florian and Audrey are elected unanimously.

Elections of the members representing Universities of Teacher Education

Both representatives, Carla Duss (PH Luzern) and Andrea Zimmerli (PH Bern) will not stand for reelection.

As there are no candidatures of possible representatives from Universities of Teacher Education, Andrea steps back from resigning and stands for reelection.

Andrea is reelected unanimously.

The present representatives of Universities of Teacher Education decide to transfer the open seat to a candidate of another university type for one year, as the statutes of actionuni gives them the right to do so.

Francis Kay (Uni Lausanne) and Mirco Grüter (Uni Zürich) stand for election.

Mirco is elected in a secret election with 27 to 15 votes of delegates.

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Elections of the presidency

There is some uncertainty on how to proceed with the election of the presidency, as there are two of three co-presidents remaining (Florian Lippke, Andrea Tamas) and one to elect additionally.

Finally, Florian and Andrea are reelected with 36 votes and one abstention¹, each.

Audrey Lötscher and Mirco Grüter stand for election as the third co-president.

In a secret vote the delegates elect Audrey with 20 to 15 votes and 2 abstentions for co-president.

Positions on the Board (without election)

Treasurer: Armin Zenker

Actuary: Andrea Zimmerli

Auditors

Carla Duss (PH Luzern) and Martin Rokowski (ETHZ) stand for election.

The assembly elects Carla and Martin unanimously.

13 Institutional Accreditation (slide 23)

Andrea Zimmerli reports shortly from the recently passed process of institutional accreditation from the perspective of the University of Teacher Education in Bern (PH Bern).

Under the new Federal Act on Funding and Coordination of the Swiss Higher Education Sector (HFKG) also universities of this type have to undergo institutional accreditation.

The process contains two main tasks for the institution:

1. to write a self-evaluation report
2. to undergo an on-site visit and interviews with the expert group

In this procedure, the staff had the possibility to give feedback to the self-evaluation report. There was no possibility to discuss or give any input on the members of the expert group.

It is therefore very important to stay alert and to look for regular updates about the state of the process. Otherwise, one will miss opportunities to hook in and to demand participation opportunities (see slide 23).

Add: For universities the process of internal evaluations (in comparison to external evaluation) will become more and more important.

¹ As some delegates had to leave the assembly during the agenda item "election", the numbers do not correspond to prior numbers.

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14 Swiss open access strategy (slide 24)

Actionuni will take part in a working group developing an action plan on Swiss open access strategy.

It is very important for researchers to be aware of the effects on dissertations and habilitations or rather the clash between open access standards and regulations for publishing qualification work. Check, if there are transitional regulations.

15 Swissfaculty (slide 25)

Denise Martin, representative of swissfaculty and fh-ch, shortly gives an inside view on a current project: "Dozierende an Schweizer Hochschulen / Enseignant-e-s de hautes écoles suisses".

See also: http://www.fh-ch.ch/~fhch/upload/2017_Maerz_fh-ch.pdf

16 Aperitif

The presidents close the assembly at 19:15 and invite all delegates and guests to attend the aperitif.