



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Trustees

MINUTES

April 16, 2021
Online

Meeting was moved to April 16th because of the Gendlin Symposium taking place on April 9th.

Documents sent via email prior to meeting

- Agenda
- Minutes from previous month
- ED report
- Draft annual report 2020 Budget 2020 calculations of expense summary
- Q1 Financial Report
- Website update
- Introduction of two potential candidates for TIFI board

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Catherine Torpey, Paula Nowick

ABSENT: Peter Afford, Leslie Ellis

PRIME MOVER: Nelle

I. REFLECTION - Evelyn

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. Approved with no changes.

III. REPORT ON STATUS OF WEBSITE (Catherine)

A written report was submitted and supplemented by an oral report

IV. REPORT ON GENDLIN SYMPOSIUM

The Gendlin Symposium was received as a great success. Thanks to the many volunteers and the organizers, this first of its kind event went smoothly. It attracted double the participants expected from 32 countries. Philosophers could have their high-level conversations and issues like racism, gender, environment found a platform to be discussed. From a presenter's perspective (Evelyn) the support before and during the presentation was very much acknowledged.

There are already ideas to organize another Symposium together with a different university.

V. POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR TIFI BOARD

Paula introduced the two candidates which were very well received by board members. We approved the process for

1. The candidates will be nominated by the nominating committee.
2. Nelle will have a personal conversation with them about the role of a board member and invites them to the board meeting in May.
3. The candidates will participate as guests in the May board meeting. Afterwards, the board will vote in a closed session.
4. Awaiting the final decision of the candidates, Nelle will reach out for confirmation within a week.

VI. ED REPORTING (Catherine)

a. 1st Quarter Financial Report:

A written report was submitted.

The income for the first quarter is above budgeted amount.

There is a chance that TIFI will receive another loan from the United States government through its Paycheck Protection Program. We agreed not to increase the budget and rather have it as a safe background.

b. Annual Report to Membership (draft)

Despite the challenge of Covid-19, TIFI had a successful year. Switching all the events online was a great effort but had the positive effect that a lot of more people could participate.

Issues standing out from the report for further consideration:

- Low numbers of members from some countries and high numbers in others.
- Increase in Coordinators and a decrease in certified Focusers as members. Budget calculation in annual report was in broad mission-oriented categories. Had a brief conversation about the pros and cons of this method of calculating and whether it gives a good picture of where our resources are going. More discussion is needed

VII. STRATEGIC CONVERSATION (CATHERINE)

Catherine led an hour-long strategic conversation. She suggested to start a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). We started with the strengths of TIFI.

Some Strengths which came up TIFI has these attributes which uniquely position it:

- Dedicated not only to Focusing, but to the whole of Gendlin's legacy, including the Philosophy of the Implicit, all of Gene's writings, and Thinking at the Edge
- Founded by Gene himself, which gives us a certain status and responsibility
- Very international; we are connecting people in a larger community
- Looked to by others as an organization that can lend them the prestige they need to take Focusing into areas they can't break into themselves. This is less true (naturally) for organizations or people who feel capable of achieving their goals without us. It is more true for people and organizations who have fewer resources.
- Able to garner resources to put on big or continuous projects; capacity of people, technology, translations
- TIFI has more variety, breadth, more choice, pulling together all threads
- We can use our international community as a support and resource for all the Focusing communities. We could be a clearing house: e.g. what Japan does with elderly
- We offer training and certification in many different languages.
- It is a hub of experience, knowledge, learning from each other

- With Focusing and TAE two practices. Focusing is a healing modality, so deep ... a way of egalitarian process;

VIII. MEETING CLOSED

The next Board Meeting will be Friday, May 14 at 12 noon (U.S. Eastern time)