



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Trustees

MINUTES

October 11, 2019

Documents sent via email prior to meeting

- Agenda
- Minutes from previous month
- 10 Year Financial Snapshot, 2008-1018
- TIFI Policy Clarifications for Coordinators
- Carta Letter from Spain 2018
- TIFI Reply to Ibero American Coordinators

PRESENT: Paula Nowick, (President), Hanspeter Muehlethaler (Treasurer), Nancy Falls, Nelle Moffett, Peter Afford, Catherine Torpey and Samantha Wright (for first hour).

ABSENT: Leslie Ellis (Vice President) due to schedule conflict.

PRIME MOVER: Paula Nowick

I. REFLECTION

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- The Board decides to vote their approval of the September minutes by email so they could have additional time to review them carefully.

III. FUNDRAISING PRESENTATION BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT

- The first hour of the Board meeting was dedicated to fundraising. Samantha Wright, Catherine's fundraising assistant, gave a prepared presentation to the Board on fundraising.

IV. JOINT BOARD/ILC MEETING

- Paula reminded the Board of the upcoming joint meeting of the Board and ILC scheduled for October 17 at noon.
- Catherine explained to the Board that the topic of the meeting would be: "What kind of relationship does TIFI want to have with international bodies?" Catherine further explained that

Evelyn Fendler-Lee of the ILC will be leading the joint meeting. There may be small breakout groups followed by the larger group discussion.

- The Board went on to discuss the document prepared by the ILC: "TIFI Policy Clarifications for Coordinators." They decided that the document needed a few additional sentences that would include 1) a mention that it's always a process and as new experiences arrive we will consider what alternatives may be needed. 2) a strong recommendation that Coordinators in Training have at least one Coordinator in their country.
- Catherine volunteered to draft item #1 and Peter volunteered to draft item #2.

APPROVAL OF POLICY CLARIFICATIONS FOR COORDINATORS: The Board formally voted that the above policy document needed two additional sentences.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A written report was submitted, and Catherine highlighted these points:

Fundraising/Finances:

- Following up on the last Board meeting, Catherine brought up the possibility of operational cuts. This included Sherrie and the storage unit housing all of Gene's items. They are in the process of emptying out the storage unit and bringing everything to the Nyak office.
- Catherine has hired a part time, short term researcher, Emma McGonigle, who is investigating grants and corporate sponsorship.

Website:

- New webmaster, Joel Brodsky.
- ILC Update: The two ILC meetings with the Coordinators were very well attended and well received. The ILC is talking about scheduling a further meeting with the Coordinators to go over some of the questions in the Strategic Plan.

Membership:

- Catherine presented her review of increased membership dues over the last several years – from \$160,000 to \$210,000.
- Catherine proposed approaching current Coordinators with a request to invite their people to become members and asked the Board for feedback. The Board discussed this and supported Catherine's basic idea, emphasizing the importance that their people to become members and explaining all the advantages of membership to the Institute. Catherine will reach out to the Coordinators.

Programming:

- Catherine reported that the FOT Conference will be held in Chile at the University of Chile in Santiago. They are looking into the possibility of a less expensive venue for the Felt Sense Conference for 2020.

Stepping Up Campaign:

- Catherine explained that the current campaign has a focus on live streaming and creating more videos of our programming to them more accessible.

China:

- Catherine told the group that she will be going to China for the Asian Conference. Her airfare and hotel were all covered by the Conference.

VI. ENDING REFLECTION

Paula led a brief reflection asking the Board to contemplate what we as a Board should be looking at. Next she asked the Board to reflect on a sense of how productive the Board meeting was for the Institute. This was followed by individual input.

VII. MEETING CLOSED

The next Board Meeting will be Friday, November 8th at 12noon (U.S. Eastern time)