



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Trustees

MINUTES
September, 2021
Online

Documents sent via email prior to meeting

From Nelle:

- Agenda
- TIFI Board DRAFT Minutes 2021.08 (with CT edits)
- ED eval process in prose
- Nominating Committee DRAFT policy

From Catherine:

- Diversity Report to Board 2021.09
- TIFI ED report to BoD 2021.09
- TIFI Audit 2020.12.31
- Website update for board 2021.09
- Strategic Conversation Notes 2021.09

From Paula:

- Comments on ED Evaluation Process

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Florentina Sassoli, Darryl Commings, Paula Nowick, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Catherine Torpey

ABSENT: Peter Afford

PRIME MOVER: Nelle

Before the Board meeting, some members of the board had the opportunity to meet the new Coordinators:

Julie Grafe, Belgium
Paula Travaglini, Argentina
Yehudit First, Israel
Tal Varon, Israel

The board welcomes them heartily.

I. ATTUNEMENT: led by Florentina.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes from the August meeting were approved as presented.

III. Audit Report for 2020 (Darryl with Valerie Jashi, Auditor)

The auditor evaluated the balance sheet and the profit and loss statements and confirmed them accurate: “the financial statements referred to above present fairly.” (Quote of the audit report)

There was one recommendation to clean up of historically overgrown structure of our QuickBooks Chart of Accounts.

The summary of the auditor was that TIFI was doing well in 2021 despite Covid with positive cash flow and a reasonable reserve.

The board accepted the audit report.

The board thanked Darryl for his role as Treasurer.

IV. ED Evaluation Process document

We postponed the discussion to the October meeting.

V. Nominating Committee Draft Policy (Nelle, document sent separately)

DECISION: Nominating Committee Policy is approved by the board as drafted:

The TIFI Board has created the Nominating Committee for the purpose of searching out and recommending qualified individuals for the Board’s consideration for appointment to either the Board of Directors or the International Leadership Council (ILC). All vacant Board and ILC positions will be processed through the Nominating Committee, except under extenuating circumstances as determined by the Board of Directors.

Committee Membership

Membership on the Nominating Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors, to include at least one member of the Board, one member of the ILC, and the Executive Director. The Board member designated with the Nominating Committee as their Portfolio will serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Candidates for the Board of Directors and ILC

Candidates for new Board directors and new members of the ILC are recommended by the Nominating Committee, and the Board decides who of these candidates to appoint. The Board has the final say on all candidates, but always seeks the input of the ILC on ILC candidates before making its final decision on these candidates.

Qualifications

Candidates are primarily drawn from the worldwide TIFI membership, although some must be from the USA since TIFI is a US non-profit organisation. The aim is to have a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise, including experience of the international Focusing community, organisational governance, finances, and/or internet and social media issues. Directors may also be appointed from beyond the Focusing community if they bring relevant experience and skills with them. The Board and the ILC may indicate to the Nominating Committee any specific qualities or skill sets that are needed on their respective bodies.

Schedule

The normal time for Board and ILC members to rotate on and off is usually at the June or July meeting. The Nominating Committee therefore presents its nominees to the TIFI Board before the end of April so that the Board can complete its process before its June meeting.

VI. DIVERSITY STATEMENT UPDATE (Evelyn and Catherine)

A written report was submitted, and a lengthy discussion ensued.

The feedback of the members fell into these categories:

1. Issues regarding practices (Focusing and TAE), "thinking," or philosophy
Questions about the value and history of this statement, such as "Why the change?" and concern about abandoning a statement "that Gene wrote."
2. Issues of certification v. teaching

Evelyn and Catherine felt good about the process and grateful for the response of the members of TIFI. Based on the feedback, a "revised revision" was submitted to the board.

The board discussed the "revised revision" and had further suggestions.

Evelyn and Catherine will come back to the October meeting with a new revision, incorporating the suggestions. The existing 2009 statement is in effect until the process of revision is complete. The complete process will include not only the revision of the Diversity of Approaches statement, but also a new "Diversity of people statement" that expresses the value of diversity in a broader context, including ethnic/racial diversity.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A written report was submitted and some items briefly discussed.

VIII. WEBSITE REPORT

A written report was submitted and discussed. The following were highlighted:

- The fonts on the website were changed to be more uniform.
- Additional costs on the website are coming up this month primarily due to a mandatory program update. The extra cost was already approved in the last meeting.
- The store is on the way.

IX. Closing Attunement

The next Board Meeting will be Friday, October 9, at 12noon (U.S. Eastern time)