



# THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

*Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979*

## **Board of Directors**

### **MINUTES**

14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Online

#### Documents sent via email prior to meeting.

- Agenda
- Board Minutes 2023.06.09 – DRAFT.doc
- Roles of the ILC & Board – rev 2023.03.11.docx
- Financial report narrative 2023.07.pdf
- 2023 Budget with Qtr 2 YTD Board.pdf
- Board goals by portfolio 2023.docx
- ED mid-year report.pdf
- TIFI ED report to BoD 2023.07.pdf
- Notes on Board meeting with Coordinators

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Evelyn Fendler- Lee, Darryl Commings, Flor Sassoli, Eveline Moor Züllig, Veronica Urioste, Patrick Duffy, Catherine Torpey

ABSENT: All present

GUESTS: Laura Bavalics (ILC)

TAKING MINUTES: Veronica Urioste. Veronica not able to attend 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 meeting.

ATTUNEMENT: Evelyn Fendler-Lee

I. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from 2023.06.09 unanimously approved.

II. Appointment of Dr. Donata Schoeller - The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Donata Schoeller to the Steering Committee at the Gendlin Center for Research in Experiential Philosophy and Psychology.

III. Discussion of the Zoom meeting with Coordinators regarding “Experiential Focusing” – the meeting was successful, connecting and stimulating. Participants shared how they are dealing with the issue of the automated translation of the word “Focusing.” Coordinators shared their challenges and experiences. A couple of noteworthy examples were: In some languages it is better to stick to the word Focusing, as otherwise the meaning can get lost in translation. Automated translation services seem to better recognize our special use of the word when the capital letter in Focusing is used, or when the phrase “Gendlin’s Focusing” is used. The general discussion included the observation that human translators

also have difficulty in getting across the specialized meanings of our Focusing terms. Board members agreed that this meeting with Coordinators was enjoyable and productive.

#### IV. ILC & Board interaction

- Laura Bavalics, our guest from the ILC, is also part of the Children & Focusing Advisory Group. Laura shared that the ILC is a diverse group of people from all walks of life, different languages, and therefore it takes time to explore what arises. Laura emphasized the difference in character between the ILC which moves slowly and the Board, which deals with the business aspects of TIFI and moves more quickly. The ILC has historically been made up of Coordinators and Coordinators-in-Training, though this has never been a set rule.

- The Board and ILC have different functions, and each has a significant responsibility. The Board has the responsibility of governance, effective operations, and attends to business and administrative deadlines. The distinction of these two roles creates a strong and healthy organization. It was highlighted that the presence of the ILC in Board meetings give us an opportunity to communicate and work together. Laura suggested that Board members periodically attend ILC meetings.

#### V. Executive Director (ED) Report

A written report was submitted which included information on the recently completed Weeklong, the Honoring Milestones event, and the possible upcoming Vienna International Focusing Conference. Board members congratulated Catherine on the outstanding range of workshops and classes offered by TIFI. The ED presented her actions to date in terms of Goals and Plans. One of the Board's initiatives is diversity, and Catherine reported, among other things, that of the seven invited presenters for the FOT Conference in November 2023, three are White, one is Asian, one is an indigenous person, and two are Black, making one of the most diverse groups of presenters to date.

#### VI. Second Quarter Financial Report

The ED, along with Treasurer Darryl Commings, submitted the Second Quarter Financial Report sharing that the stability of the finances is good. The Board expressed its gratitude for the significant grant which financed the move of the Gendlin Online Library to focusing.org, which was a real accomplishment.

MEETING CLOSED

*The next Board Meeting will be 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 12noon (U.S. Eastern time)*