



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Directors
MINUTES
12th January 2024
Online

Documents sent via email prior to meeting:

- Agenda
- Board Minutes 2023.12.8
- CV Natalia Calvino.docx

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

GUESTS: New Coordinators:

- Stephen Adler (from USA, living in Brazil, studied with Lynn Preston)
- Christine le Coutre (Germany, studied with Hejo Feuerstein)
- Mateja Tomazin (Slovenia, studied with Jeffrey Morrison)

TAKING MINUTES: Veronica Urioste.

ATTUNEMENT: Flor

I. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from 2023.12.08 where unanimously approved after correction.

II. **Gendlin Center Committee** – Evelyn reported that the 2024 Gendlin Grant for Original Research in Psychology is soon to be advertised. Chair of the committee Akira Ikemi had previously sent an email to the Board announced the departure from the Committee of João Messias (of Brazil). He requested that the Board send him any suggestions of an appropriate person who might be appointed.

III. **Nominating Committee** – the Board unanimously agreed for Natalia Calviño, from Argentina, to join the International Leadership Council (ILC). Laura Bavalics is now the “Prime Mover” in the ILC, and so is the lead contact. The Nominating Committee mentioned two potential nominees to the Board, to check whether anyone had feedback about their possible nomination. .

IV. **International Focusing Conference 2026** – Eveline Moor Züllig will become the contact person from the Board for this Conference, having organized the Swiss International Focusing Conference. Eveline will inform the Board on occasions when she has something to report.

V. **ILC and Board interaction**

- a. Continuing conversation – The ILC receives the Board agenda in advance of Board meetings, and there is an ongoing agreement for them to attend regularly.
- b. Report on ILC meetings: Veronica Urioste contacted the ILC to attend their meeting as agreed on the 12th of December 2023, but did not, as she had not received confirmation back from them in time.

VI. **Executive Director Report** – There was no written report this month. The Annual Report in progress – the ED showed an early draft, and gave a verbal preview of the many accomplishments in 2023.

VII. **Finances** – Darryl and Catherine gave an informal report on the end of 2023, as the numbers are not yet all in. However, it is clear that we will end the year with a positive cash balance. Revenue in all categories was as good or better than expected, and we managed to control expenses according to the budget. Darryl pointed out in particular that the anticipated overage for the website was not as big as expected.

VIII. **Board Strategic Conversation**

Membership - the Board discussed strategic opportunities to enhance and involve members in meaningful ways, including:

- a) Inviting former members to rejoin, and creating incentives for Coordinators to encourage their students to become members and retain their membership.
- b) Ensuring that people know the benefits of membership, which have grown substantially in recent years.
- c) In response to a question about offering Continuing Education Units (CEU) or Continuous Professional Development (CPD) certificates, Catherine explained that doing so would require a significant shift in how TIFI operates, as CEU/CPD-granting authorities have created very strictly limited criteria for these. In order to meet these criteria, TIFI would have to become a training institute, with faculty and supervision, in ways that are not consistent with our international mission.

Impact of world events on TIFI world-wide membership. In response to the difficult and challenging events in the world the Board had a conversation about:

- a) How do we deal when opposing views come up in the TIFI space?
- b) As an international community we can empathize; we are able to create a space for those that have been with trauma/violence.
- c) There was a conversation about the contribution that Eugene Gendlin's work makes towards building a basic ethic of compassion and connection which is being shared throughout the world.
- d) The Board expressed gratitude for the conversation about how Focusing and our worldwide network of Focusers is carrying this ethic throughout the world.

MEETING CLOSED

The next Board Meeting will be 9th February 2024 at 12:00 noon (U.S. Eastern time)