



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Directors
MINUTES
June 14, 2024
Online

Documents sent via email prior to meeting

- Agenda
- Board Minutes DRAFT May 2024
- TIFI ED report to BoD 2024.06
- DRAFT Revision of Goals – with rationales added 2024.06

PRESENT: Nelle Moffett, Evelyn Fendler- Lee, Flor Sassoli, Bill Gayner, Tom Larkin, Catherine Torpey

ABSENT: Darryl Commings and Eveline Moor Züllig sent their regrets

GUESTS:

Laura Bavalics (from ILC)

Ilse Pieth (possible volunteer for minute-taking)

TAKING MINUTES: Catherine Torpey

I. INTRODUCTION TO ILSE – Possible volunteer minute taker, Ilse Pieth, introduced herself. She lives in Basel, Switzerland and trained with Eveline Moor Züllig and used to teach English. She is open to being a volunteer minute-taker for the Board and was present to observe. Nelle mentioned the importance of the confidentiality of discussions on the Board (other than what is taken down in minutes) so that Board members can speak freely.

II. ATTUNEMENT – Nelle led the group in an attunement.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from 2023.05 were approved.

IV. POSSIBLE REVISION OF TIFI'S GOALS

A document was sent to the Board in advance called “DRAFT Revision of Goals – with rationales added 2024.06.” Evelyn gave a brief presentation and explained that this most recent revision contains

the reasons for the possible changes. After reading through the document together, there was a conversation which included these points:

- Catherine clarified that the possible revision incorporates language from the mission statement.
- What is meant by “integrity”? (This question came up but was not discussed.)
- A question about whether it should name FOT as one of the practices – there was substantial conversation about whether this is equivalent as a practice to Focusing itself and TAE, since FOT came from Gendlin. If FOT is to be explicitly named, there was discussion about where it would belong in the list of goals.
- Should certification be mentioned explicitly? If so, does it belong where the goals talk about integrity? And maybe FOT would belong there too.
- Overall, Board members felt positive about the drafted possible changes and expressed appreciation for the changes and clarifications, and that the revised goals are in keeping with the mission of TIFI.

V. ILC/BOARD interactions

- Evelyn reported on her experience in having attended the ILC meeting as a guest. She expressed appreciation for their work and described the meeting as “inspiring.”
- Nelle mentioned that she’d like the Board to consider adding “ILC liaison” as a possible portfolio
- Laura expressed appreciation for Evelyn’s presence and gave a brief recap of the ILC’s work discussing the possibility of adding an intermediate level of certification. There are a wide variety of opinions, which makes it challenging. The feedback was organized by Laura and Catherine into 7 areas of concern: (1) the idea itself, (2) about getting the certificate, (3) guidelines, (4) the proposed name “Practitioner,” (5) what it means, (6) the business angle, and (7) other concerns.

VI. PORTFOLIOS

There was a discussion about matching portfolios with members. This was a discussion and no final decisions were made. Tentative possible assignments:

- Gendlin Center – currently Evelyn, though she is leaving the Board soon – possibly Bill?
- Goodwill – possibly Bill?
 - Individual calls
 - Event Visits (NEW – Shared or individual role)
- Membership – Tom
- Nominating Committee – Flor
- ILC Liaison (this is a new possible portfolio) – possibly Eveline?
- Finance – Darryl, Treasurer
- Strategic Planning – Nelle Moffett, President

During the Portfolio conversation, Evelyn reminded the Board that she will be leaving the Board before the end of 2024.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A written report was submitting with the following topics:

- News Feed hello to Tom and Bill and farewell to Veronica
- Gendlin Center event upcoming June 29

- Advanced and Certification Weeklong focusing.org/weeklong
- Assistant helping with Intellectual Property
- ILC updates
- Catherine taking Ann Weiser Cornell's basic Focusing course
- Reminder of 3 Advisory Groups: TAE, Children & Focusing, and FOT
- US government tax forms for non-profits (990s) – getting extension to November
- The all-Spanish language Academia de Focusing upcoming in August
- Demographic survey – separate document (this was tabled to July meeting)
- Annual report 2023 in process
- Roundtable team update
- News Feed versus Newsletter statistics
- Procedures in place for how to certify someone, and how to recommend Coordinators-in-Training and Coordinators
- Website home page changes
- Venue for 2026 International Focusing Conference in Vienna

In the course of Catherine's report, a reminder was given by Catherine and Nelle about Board members speaking publicly on issues regarding Focusing or TIFI. When an individual who is a Board member speaks publicly to the Focusing community, it can be interpreted as speaking for the Board. Board members were asked to be mindful of this and to err on the side of restraint when weighing in publicly on matters having to do with TIFI, or in such public arenas as the Discussion Lists or social media. The Board hires the Executive Director and leaves communication with membership to the ED; it can create confusion and, in the worst case, chaos if there seem to be multiple sources of information to the community.

VIII. APPROVING VOLUNTEER MINUTE-TAKER

Ilse was approved by vote to be our volunteer minute-taker beginning with the July meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next Board Meeting will be July 12 at 12noon (U.S. Eastern time) on Zoom.