



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Directors
MINUTES
April 11, 2025
Online

Documents sent via email prior to meeting

- Agenda
- Board minutes DRAFT March 2025
- Detlef bio and photo
- 2025 TIFI Board Strategic Directions
- Focusing Facilitator (Proposal from ILC for new certification)

PRESENT:

Nelle Moffett, Bill Gayner, Darryl Commings, Tom Larkin, Eveline Moor-Züllig, Catherine Torpey

ABSENT:

Flor Sassoli

GUESTS:

Laura Bavalics (representative of ILC)

MINUTES:

DECISION: The minutes from March were approved.

MINUTE TAKER FOR THIS MEETING:

Catherine Torpey agreed to create minutes with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence.

ATTUNEMENT led by Tom

VOTE TO ACCEPT NOMINEE DETLEF GIRKE

Detlef Girke was nominated to the Board by the Nominating Committee, and the vote was held.

DECISION: Unanimously approved

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (ILC) PROPOSAL FOR NEW TYPE OF CERTIFICATION

Laura Bavalics presented to the Board a formal proposal to adopt a new type of certification called Focusing Facilitator. A written proposal was shared in advance. The proposal as submitted is attached to these minutes.

DECISION: The Board unanimously approved the new type of certification (Focusing Facilitator) and congratulated the ILC on its hard work over the last two years on creating this proposal.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No written report was submitted.

Catherine verbally reported on the following:

- The launch of videos.focusing.org and the celebration of Nada Lou's work were significant events this month.
- Apologies that the 2024 Annual Report is delayed.
- Reminder of the two meetings scheduled on April 23rd to greet new Coordinators who can never meet on a Friday at 12pm Eastern US time.
- Three new hires to assist with fundraising and foreign language projects.
- TAE symposium had lower than expected income despite a good experience.
- Soft launch of videos.focusing.org, a video rental and subscription service.
- A fourth hire was made to manage the video platform.
- Plans for a Focusing-Oriented Therapy (FOT) academy in 2025.
- Vienna conference planning is progressing, seeking volunteers.

Strategic Conversation:

The Board had a discussion which included these observations:

- The organization needs to ensure financial sustainability to support its mission.
- Revenues should exceed expenses to build reserves and achieve organizational goals.
- The board needs to continually address the issues regarding staying true to the original vision and being flexible to address current needs as they change (no frozen structures).
- Discussion about the organization's role in maintaining standards, balancing structure with flexibility, and respecting individual Coordinators' autonomy.
- The organization's mission is to share Gene's teachings *and carry it forward*.

FEEDBACK FROM ILC ON THE BOARD'S REVISION OF THE GOALS OF TIFI

Laura reported on 4 items that the ILC wanted to pass along regarding the revision of TIFI's goals made by the Board. She mentioned that the discussion on the ILC had been brief, at the very end of its last meeting.

- To highlight the importance the value of "interaction first" and taking care of human expression of community life – this comes before the institution itself.
- Suggested edit of Goal 1: "Build and sustain an organization and global community that has..." (adding "and global community")
- Suggested edit of Goal 2: "Preserve the integrity of Gendlin's work and philosophy..." (instead of "Preserve the integrity of Focusing, TAE, FOT").
- Maintaining high standards and quality in all practices, training and teaching

Minutes by Catherine Torpey utilizing AI