

Academic Staff Association of the D-BSSE of ETH Zürich

General Assembly 2018 Minutes

Minute taker: David Fuchs

Identifiers:

Proposals

Requests

Resolutions

1. The assembly goes into session on 24.01.2018, 18:05, at room Misrock of the D-BSSE. 16 people are present.
2. The president Marc Rullan (MR) opens the session and details the agenda. The attending do not have additions to propose. David Fuchs (DF) is unanimously confirmed as minute taker.
3. MR presents the minutes of the 2017 assembly.

RESOLUTION The house accepts the minutes in their current form without changes.

4. DF presents the Mittelbau representatives, their tasks and their duties. He describes their activities during the last year.

The Departmental Assembly? (DA) has been restructured, so the representatives are no longer automatically invited.

DF highlights the importance of getting feedback from PhD students and Postdocs. This helps to bring issues to the attention of the Department Conference.

PROPOSAL: A brochure introducing the VMB and its representatives should be distributed among Mittelbau members.

5. DF reports on his activities as a person of trust and the aim of the person of trust of helping PhD students and Postdocs reach the necessary help within ETH in case they have any problems. There have been ~10 cases since the news broke about the bullying in the astronomy institute, about partial, limited contracts or bullying cases within groups across different career phases. AVETH follows a protocol when people approach the person of trust so they can follow the development of their cases and also see if patterns can be identified between different cases. The departments at ETH are coordinating about cases across ETH.

REQUEST It is asked whether these associations collectively can hire a lawyer.

DF explains that the ETH legal team can help, but they would probably not represent you and rather give you some advice about legal issues.

There is a single email address for the person of trust that would be passed on to the next person. One can write directly to this address (trust.vmb@bsse.ethz.ch), not the current person of trust personally.

It is being discussed whether this email address should be advertised. DF emphasizes that the cases that come through person of trust are not selected, everybody gets the help.

PROPOSAL It is suggested that this information, about the email address, should be sent around in the BSSE newsletter.

REQUEST It is asked whether a special training is necessary for DF. DF explains that he only directs people to the necessary resources, and does not carry out the counseling himself. In case it is deemed necessary, the psychological service might offer such a course.

The cases are treated confidentially through the person of trust and subsequent services of ETH or AVETH.

REQUEST It is asked whether this process has been successful so far or not. DF said there is interest from ETH and the department leadership to have happy people in the department.

6. Maaïke Welling (MW) presents the current state of the intradepartmental seminars. She emphasizes the benefit of immediate feedback on presentations and the importance of understandability across disciplines. On average, 40 people attended the seminars.

PROPOSAL Titles of the seminar talks should be announced well in advance and should be presented in the elevators.

PROPOSAL Credit points, if awarded, would motivate people to join.

PROPOSAL Newcomers should be the first to present.

7. MR presents current affairs concerning the German courses. Due to low demand, no courses were held in 2017. Philipp Rottmann (PR) volunteers as course coordinator for 2018.

PROPOSAL: We should advertise German courses more broadly. The courses should be mentioned in future newcomers' brochures.

8. Yannik Schmid reports on the VMB Christmas dinner. Thanks go to all the people attending and the organizers. Department leadership sadly does not value or support this kind of event.
9. MR introduces newcomers' lunch. The plan is to invite newcomers monthly via mail and explain basic department workings over lunch.

PROPOSAL: Invite newcomers to Friday meetings.

PROPOSAL: VMB information brochures should be handed out during the newcomers' lunch.

10. Andreas Cuny presents the Ski weekend and its associated costs. Feedback from the 2017 trip was very positive. Scientific exchange is unwanted, as this should be purely for fun. The department does not fund leisure or sports events. The money budgeted by VMB for support of the weekend in 2017 was not fully spent.

REQUEST: Financial support for the Ski weekend 2018 by the VMB to the tune of 594 CHF (support for VMB members only) or 968 CHF (support for all participants).

PROPOSAL: Financial support for events early in the year should be decided on before Christmas.

PROPOSAL: Fund all participants, including non-VMB members, and advertise VMB at the weekend.

11. Philipp Koch proposes a regular departmental Tabata meetup. This workout does not strictly require weights or other gear. He envisions a weekly course of ~30 people. Location-wise, proximity to the department is key, which limits us to either school auditoriums or actual gyms. The booking cycle for these rooms starts again around April. VMB might be involved in booking the venue and collecting participation fees.

12. MR presents the Football and Volleyball tournaments.

13. Maximilian Bahls describes the beer brewing activities in 2017.

PROPOSAL: Brew beer for the summer bbq and for pub-quizzes.

14. Daniel Gerngross presents the latest changes to the VMB website. The overall page was restructured and we gave ourselves a new logo. Content suggestions are welcome.

15. MR and Lukas Widmer (LW) present the association's financial status and propose a budget for 2018. VMB produced a budget surplus in 2017. The controllers LW and PR assert that the financial documentation for 2017 is correct and complete. No liabilities remain. They advise discharge of the board. Individual items of the 2018 budget are discussed.

PROPOSAL: Reduce VMB cash reserves.

16. MR asks the members to discharge the board.
The members present discharge the board unanimously.

RESOLUTION: The budget report for 2017 is accepted (Annex I), the board of 2017 is unanimously discharged.

RESOLUTION: The budget for 2018 is unanimously accepted (see Annex II).

17. MR continues to chair the assembly and details the available board positions (asterisk) and support functions. Members interested in running for one are asked to make themselves heard. MR presents the list of candidates:

*President – David Fuchs
*Treasurer – Marc Rullan
*Secretary – Maximilian Bahls
*Media and Communications officer – Daniel Gerngross
Person of Trust – David Fuchs
Controller 1 – Philipp Rottmann
Controller 2 – Simon Hoellerer
Scientific events manager – Maaike Welling
Head of German classes – Philipp Rottmann

MR asks the assembly to vote on the list as-is. If at least one vote against is cast, the positions will be voted on individually.
The members present elect the board of 2018 unanimously. The list of candidates given above is accepted.

RESOLUTION: The VMB board of 2018 is confirmed.

18. MR asks for candidates for the Mittelbau representatives. MR asks for votes on the four candidate representatives:
MW, Niels Weisbach, PR, DF
The Mittelbau members present accept the list of representatives as-is.

RESOLUTION: The Mittelbau representatives for 2018 are confirmed.

19. MR closes the session and dismisses the assembly.

ANNEX I

	Cost	Income	Net	Budget
Membership fees	0.00	1896.00	+1896.00	+1500.00
Donations	0.00	48.55	+48.55	0.00
Scientific events	250.00	0.00	-250.00	-500.00
Equality events	0.00	0.00	0.00	-500.00
Language classes	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1000.00
Brewing	294.62	0.00	-294.62	-500.00
Sports events	366.00	0.00	-366.00	-1000.00
VMB board related	129.48	0.00	-129.48	-1000.00
Ski weekend	505.74	0.00	-505.74	-1150.00
Other	60.00	11.72	-48.28	0.00
Total	1605.84	1956.27	+350.43	-4150.00

Assets	31.12.2017
Cash	453.40
Bank account	5820.54
Total assets	6273.94

Liabilities	31.12.2017
Open liabilities	0.00
Transitory liabilities	0.00
Total liabilities	0.00


Balance	31.12.2017
Total	<u>6273.94</u>


ANNEX II

▪ Current balance	+6273.94	CHF
▪ Income AVETH member fees 2018	+~1900.00	CHF
▪ General board costs & GA 2018	(-500)	CHF
▪ Board Members' dinner	(-500)	CHF
▪ Language classes	(-1000)	CHF
▪ Sports activities	(-1000)	CHF
▪ Ski weekend	(-1000)	CHF
▪ Beer brewing	(-500)	CHF
▪ Scientific Events	(-500)	CHF
▪ Win/Loss	-5000	CHF
▪ Assets at end of 2018	3173.94	CHF

The signatures confirm the accuracy and completeness of the minutes.


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Marc Rullan, Treasurer


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Maximilian Bahls, Secretary


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David Fuchs, President