

# INTERNATIONAL FELDENKRAIS FEDERATION

## SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PARIS 22, 23, 24 MAY 1993

### MINUTES

#### 1. PRESENT

Board of Directors:

*President:* François Combeau, *Secretary:* Jean Conran, *Treasurer:* Nancy Schumacher, *Directors:* Patrice Auquier, Bonnie Humiston, Cliff Smyth, Lea Wolgensinger.

Representatives of Constituent Member Groups:

*Australian Feldenkrais Guild:* Cliff Smyth; *Austrian Feldenkrais Verband Österreich:* Daniel Rosenfels; *Belgian Gulde Feldenkrais Beige:* Patrice Auquier, Renée-Jean Van GMen; *French Association des Practiciens de la Méthode Feldenkrais:* Jean François Michaud, Inge Offerman; *German Feldenkrais-Gilde e. V:* Claus Bühler, Christoph Görtz; *Great Britain Feldenkrais Guild UK* Jean Conran, Shelagh O'Neill; *Israeli Feldenkrais Qualified Practitioners Association:* Ruthy Alon, Michel Silice; *Italian Associazi one Italiana Insegnanti del Metodo Feldenkra is:* Franca Losi Recla, Raffaele DMLa Valle; *North American Feldenkrais Guild:* Bonnie Humiston, Philippe Leblond, Nancy Schumacher; *Norwegian Norsk Forbund for Autoriserte Feldenkraispedagoger:* Kari Brømet; *Swedish Svenska Förbundet för Auktoriserade Feldenkrais Pedagoger:* Marianne Eriksson, Christine Wessman-Rinman; *Swiss Schweizerischer Feldenkrais Verband:* Gregor Risi, Lea Wolgensinger; *European Training Accreditation Board:* Gareth Newell; *North American Training Accreditation Board:* Paul Rubin; *Feldenkrais Family:*

Michel Silice. It was agreed that Ruthy Alon and Gareth Newell should, between them, represent the interests of the *Trainers and Assistant Trainers Forum*, which had not sent an independent representative. Apologies for absence were received from the Association Québécoise des Professeur(e)s de la Méthode Feldenkrais, with the wish that the North American Guild should look after their interests.

Guests:

Yochanan Rywerant attended as a member of the *Unification of Membership Committee*; Anna Cremers attended as an invited representative of the *Nederlandse Feldenkrais Vereniging* (an association combining practitioners from TAB-accredited trainings and Mia Segal trainings); Andrea Bonissone, Daniel Clénin and Michael Schründer attended as invited representatives of the *Network of Mia Segal Pupils*; Ingegerd Lonroth, a student on the current UK Training, assisted with secretarial work.

Note from Secretary: For clarity and to avoid repetition, I have brought together in the minutes the reports of the working parties, the general discussions of the Assembly and the final decisions made at the Annual General Meeting on the third day. The minutes are not, therefore, always in chronological order. The words 'Annual General Meeting', referring to events on the third day of business, are abbreviated hereafter to AGM.

## 2. OPENING OF SECOND IFF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2.1. The President, François Combeau, opened the Assembly with a welcoming address and a short summary of the year's work. He stressed the importance of creating a structure and space in which to operate, with time for the new Board of Directors to find a way of working productively together. Benefits would come gradually from careful negotiations with organisations holding valuable resources. The President and Secretary had produced the IFF's first Journal, of which copies were presented to those present, with an invitation to copy them for distribution to the individual members of constituent member groups. Also distributed were copies of the statutes of the constitution of the IFF, now legally registered in France. The President stressed that an important issue for this Assembly was going to be the finding of a right way forward, not necessarily a full solution, in the process of unification of membership of all Feldenkrais practitioners. He welcomed the guests who were representatives of organisations of Mia Segal's pupils. He concluded by sharing his personal and international dreams for the IFF, which required recognition that there are different ways of climbing to the top of a mountain and a belief that there are more ways of seeing than one's own. We are building for the future and need balanced rather than hasty actions. He thanked the Secretary and Treasurer for their contributions.

2.2. The Secretary, Jean Conran, thanked the President for receiving the Assembly, once again, at his Centre in 30, rue Monsieur le Prince, 75006 Paris. She explained that the proceedings would be divided into two days of General Assembly, with the formal business of the Annual General Meeting on the third day. She clarified the voting procedures. It had been agreed at the inaugural meeting in 1992, that each official representative of a full constituent member group could cast one vote on issues, with proxy votes allowable for representatives unable to attend or absent from particular sessions. The electoral college was therefore deemed to be:-

*Australia* (3 votes: Cliff Smyth holding proxies for Chris Lambert and Tanya Saxon); *Austria* (1 vote); *Belgium* (1 vote); *France* (2 votes); *Germany* (3 votes: Claus Bühler holding a proxy for Sybille Mania); *Great Britain UK* (2 votes: Jean Conran holding a proxy for Shelagh O'Neill on Day 3); *Israel* (2 votes); *Italy* (2 votes); the *Netherlands* (1 vote); *Norway* (1 vote); *Sweden* (2 votes); *Switzerland* (2 votes); *EuroTAB* (1 vote); *NATAB* (1 vote); the *Feldenkrais Family* (1 vote); *Trainers and Assistant Trainers Forum* (1 vote: a proxy held by either Ruthy Alon or Gareth Newell).

During elections there could be only one vote from each full constituent member group. Guests were reminded that they could contribute to discussions, but should not vote. Observers were informed that they could contribute to working party discussions, but not to plenary session debates or to voting. Those present were reminded that they remained representatives for their groups on returning home and should take seriously the need to act as channels of communication for their members.

2.3. The Treasurer, Nancy Schumacher, confirmed that each constituent member group should pay to her an Assembly Fee of FF250 and each individual present should pay FF200 for refreshments, to include the IFF Annual Dinner and Entertainment. It was agreed that one representative from each constituent member group should share in the travel pool.

2.4. Cliff Smyth explained the purpose and timetabling of the working party sessions. Terms of reference for each working party had been distributed in advance and a co-ordinator identified. Representatives were asked to distribute themselves as evenly as possible between the groups and co-ordinators were asked to report back to a full plenary session at 17.00 hours. Because of particular interest in the issue of unification, it was proposed by Paul

Rubin, Chair of the Unification of Membership Committee, and agreed by the Assembly, that there should first be a working party meeting, open to all, followed by a meeting of the Committee members alone. The Committee (Ruthy Alon, Claus Bühler, François Combeau, Marianne Eriksson, Paul Rubin, Yochanan Rywerant) would consider the points raised, with a view to bringing proposals to the full Assembly. The following working parties met during the first day of the Assembly:-*Finance, Unification of Membership, Promotional Guidelines, Resources.*

### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

At the AGM, the President and Secretary signed the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the IFF, held in Paris from 29 to 31 May 1992, as a correct record of its discussions and decisions. All matters arising from these minutes were covered by this year's agenda.

### **4. FINANCE**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Nancy Schumacher, IFF Treasurer

4.1. Proposed by the working party, and agreed at the AGM, that the following fees should be set for the financial year 1 January to 31 December 1994:-

Full Constituent Member Groups:

FF 125 per individual full member

Associate Constituent Member Groups:

FF 75 per individual full member

EuroTAB, NATAB, Forum:

FF 5,000 per group

Student/Trainees:

FF 50 each

Agreed that the Treasurer should negotiate with Michel Silice an appropriate fee for the Feldenkrais Family.

4.2. Agreed that fees for 1994, payable on 1 January, should be quoted in French francs and converted to the currency of each constituent member group at the exchange rate prevailing on 22 May 1993. The exchange rates and equivalents for FF125, FF75 and FF50 for each country are therefore:-

<b>Country</b>	<b>Rate for FF 1</b>	<b>Equiv. FF 125</b>	<b>Equiv. FF 75</b>	<b>Equiv. FF 50</b>
Australia	A\$ 0.26	A\$ 32.50	A\$ 19.50	A\$ 13
Austria	Schi 2.08	Schi 260	Schi 156	Schi 104
Belgium	BF 6.09	BF 761.25	BF456.75	BF304.50
Canada	CAN\$ 0.2	CAN\$ 25	CAN \$ 15	CAN\$ 10
France	FF 1	FF 125	FF 75	FF 50
Germany	DM 0.305	DM 38	DM 22.75	DM 15.25
GBUK	£0.12	£15	£9	£6
Israel	Sche 1.62	Sche 202.50	Sche 121.50	Sche 81
Italy	L 269.50	L33687	L 20 212	L 13 450
Netherlands	G 0.33	G 41.25	G 25	G 16.50
Norway	NK 1.25	NK 156.25	NK 93.75	NK 62.50
Sweden	SK 1.34	SK 167.50	SK 100.50	SK 67
Switzerland	SF 0.26	SF 32.50	SF 19.50	SF 13
USA	\$0.18	\$22.50	\$13.50	\$9
ECU	ECU 0.15	ECU 18.75	ECU 11.25	ECU 7.50

Whilst accepting these figures, it was pointed out by the Italian and UK representatives that, although there appeared to be no increase in fee for 1994, for countries whose currencies had been devalued since May 1992, there was an increase (e.g. for the UK from £12.50 sterling to £15 per individual full member). Garet Newell (EuroTAB) accepted that a student contribution to the work of the IFF was desirable, but proposed that it should, at least for the time being, be voluntary for the organisers of trainings to pay this fee on behalf of their students, since their training budgets are pre-planned for four years and have to be approved by a TAB. It should also be taken into account that training organisers are not directly represented in the IFF and should therefore be consulted. Proposed by the Treasurer and agreed that only new trainings approved by a TAB after 31 May 1993 should be asked for a fee. The TAB's would be asked to consider including this request in future policy documents.

4.3. Proposed and agreed that only member groups that had paid the current year's fee (which covered the extended period from the inauguration of the IFF in May 1992 until 31 December 1993) should be entitled to vote at the Assembly. Michel Silice, representing the Israel Guild, requested acceptance this year of late payments, also that official invoices should be sent. On hearing that a number of constituent member groups had in fact paid no fee yet (or only a first installment on a fee), it was agreed not to implement this regulation until 1994. Consideration would be given by the Treasurer to requests for special arrangements.

4.4. Proposed by Lea Wolgensinger, but not implemented, that trainers should be asked to pay 1% of their salaries from trainings to the IFF.

4.5. Reported by the Treasurer that the IFF's gross income potential, as at 21 May 1993, was FF 164,875. Net income so far had been FF 145,900. Expenses so far reimbursed amounted to FF 18,975. Those incurring recognised expenses on behalf of the IFF should complete an official expense voucher and present it for approval and reimbursement to the Treasurer or appropriate regional Sub-Treasurer (Nancy Schumacher for the central IFF account, held in North America; Cliff Smyth for the Australian regional account; Patrice

Auquier for the European regional account, held in Paris). Amounts above FF 5.000 must first be approved by the IFF Treasurer. It is hoped by January 1995 to have built up an emergency contingency fund of at least FF 100.000.

4.6. Proposed by the working party that an appropriate goal for the budget break-down would be:-

60% towards Board of Directors meetings, communications, office work and the Journal;  
30% towards the work of committees and 10% towards the cost of setting up and holding the Annual General Assembly.

4.7. **Proposed** at the AGM by the Treasurer and seconded by Cliff Smyth that the recommendations approved above should be accepted; motion passed.

## 5. UNIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairperson:  
Paul Rubin

5.1. Issues related to the unification of membership were raised and discussed on each of the three days of the Assembly and AGM. The first report followed the open working party meeting on Day One. Specific proposals were brought by the Committee to the plenary session on Day Two. In the light of the plenary group discussions, the Committee brought further proposals to the full Assembly at the AGM on Day Three.

5.2. Reported by Paul Rubin that the working party had discussed the problems associated with assessing quality and standards of training programmes, which combine both art and technique. A way forward would be to recognise the possibility of models of training with variations; for example graduates who had experienced working with only one trainer could take advanced courses with other recognised trainers. What should be the role of the IFF in this process? At the moment, it has played an important part in bringing together graduates from different types of training, to talk with each other and to recognise and discuss each other's concerns. Michael Schründer, from the Mia Segal Network, considered that training and accreditation are two linked but separate issues. Daniel Clénin, also from the Network, recommended finding and defining the areas within different trainings that "fitted together". The Secretary drew attention to a letter from the Association set up in Sweden for students trained by Yochanan Rywerant, asking to become part of the IFF.

5.3. Taking into account both the present discussions and those held during the year, the following proposal was presented to the Assembly for consideration and discussion. It was an attempt to find an interim middle way, which took account of the situation as it exists now, in order to promote continued progress. It was recognised that it was a first step in a continuous process and that it came from a majority rather than unanimous decision of the Committee.

5.3.1. The IFF should maintain special membership categories, which open the door to all practitioners from TAB-accredited trainings and from the trainings of Mia Segal and Yochanan Rywerant, to come together to discuss and resolve any problems and to share development of Feldenkrais work.

5.3.2. The IFF should accept as full voting members, all Guilds and national Associations, whose full voting membership does not exceed more than 20% of practitioners trained by Mia or Yochan an.

5.3.3. The IFF should maintain a category of Associate Membership for those Guilds or Associations which accept more than 20% and those Associations consisting entirely of practitioners from non-TAB-accredited trainings.

5.3.4. Associate members should have access to all the facilities and services offered by the IFF; they can send representatives to the Annual General Assembly, with one representative sharing in the pooled travel arrangements, but they cannot stand for election as Officers or Directors and cannot vote. They can contribute to discussions.

5.3.5. It should be left entirely to the Guilds themselves to decide whether or not they accept Mia's or Yochanan's students as full or special category members. The Guilds will know that, if they accept more than the agreed percentage as full members, their organisation will have to become an Associate Member.

5.3.6. This proposal should be re-evaluated each year.

5.4. The above proposal was presented to the full Assembly at the end of Day Two, with the request that it should be carefully considered prior to discussion at the AGM next day. The Chairperson, Paul Rubin, urged representatives to respect not only the rights of the trainer, but also the position of future practitioners. A training policy is a living organism and needs time to evolve; one option to consider would be the development of different training models. It should be recognised that pressures are developing in the outside world which may necessitate the presentation of a coherent image of our profession.

5.5. Before discussion of the above proposal at the AGM on Day Three, Paul Rubin added two related proposals that had been drafted since the close of the previous day's proceedings.

5.5.1. Proposed by Ruthy Alon, a member of the Committee, that, in response to a recognised need and as a possible new avenue towards unification, a questionnaire about training programmes and policies should be developed and distributed to all members of the Feldenkrais community. In a democratic way, this would ascertain attitudes and opinions and show whether or not there was a readiness to consider other models of training, such as a basic TAB-accredited programme followed by a choice from a range of complementary courses, which might vary in their approach and structure. The results of the questionnaire would be sent to the TAB's for their consideration, with a request that they should be responsive to the views of the Feldenkrais community.

5.5.2. Proposed by the Committee that the IFF should signify its readiness to accept organisations of non-TAB-accredited practitioners as Associate Members.

5.6. During discussion, Gareth Newell asked why this Committee was initiating these proposals. The Chairperson responded that the Committee had been asked by the Assembly to gather opinions and data and to make recommendations that could further the cause of unification. Gareth pointed out that any change in training policy would take a long time to process and put in place. Gregor Risi expressed concern at the possibility of non-TAB-accredited practitioners starting their own trainings. Bonnie Humiston stated that to practice the Feldenkrais Method in North America, a practitioner had to be certified by the Guild in order to use the legally protected service mark. North America could not, therefore, accept clause 2 of the Committee's proposal (5.3.2 above). It was pointed out that the German Guild already had practitioners trained by Mia Segal as full, voting members and the Israeli Guild accepted as full voting members all practitioners who had been trained by trainers recognised by Moshe Feldenkrais

5.7. Proposed by Patrice Auquier that the Committee's original document (5.3 above) should be amended to delete clause 2 (5.3.2 above) and to change clause 3 (5.3.3 above) to, "The IFF shall maintain a category of Associate Membership for those Guilds or Associations which accept practitioners from non-TAB-accredited trainings as full voting members."

5.8. Proposed by Christine Wessman-Rinman that, "We should stay as we are, but start an active process of unification within Guilds and Associations first."

5.9. Proposed by Nancy Schumacher, after further discussion, that a vote should be taken. Proposed from the Chair, by the President, François Combeau, and agreed that a separate vote should be taken on each of the following three proposals:-

- 5.9.1. The original proposal from the Unification of Membership Committee (5.3 above),
- 5.9.2. Patrice Auquier's proposal (5.7 above),
- 5.9.3. Christine Wessman-Rinman's proposal (5.8 above).

There was further discussion, as the consequences of voting for this selection of proposals was not entirely clear. It was suggested that the vote could be taken as a "straw poll", to ascertain whether or not a consensus view had yet emerged. The results of voting were as follows:-

- Proposal 1(5.9.1 above):- For: 14; Against: 14; Abstentions: 5.
- Proposal 2 (5.9.2 above):- For: 18; Against: 8; Abstentions: 5.
- Proposal 3 (5.9.3 above):- For: 16; Against: 12; Abstentions: 5.

It became apparent at this stage that representatives were becoming confused about the process of voting and the significance of the results. Difficulties arose from:-

- The assumption by each representative that the system being followed was that of his or her own country.
- The speed of the proceedings, with successive changes of wording confusing, particularly, those for whom English is a second language.
- The disorientation of those more accustomed to dealing with one proposal at a time and taking step by step amendments, rather than voting simultaneously for a series of overlapping proposals.
- The fact that some representatives believed that they could vote for only one proposal, whilst others voted for them all.
- Lack of understanding of the term "straw poll".
- Amnesia about the number of votes and proxy votes to which each constituent member group was entitled.

However, the French Presidential system prevailed, with François Combeau exercising his right to declare insufficient consensus for a binding vote to be taken, particularly in view of the sensitivity of the issue involved. More time was needed for reflection. This experience proved to be a valuable part of our experience of learning to work together. Differences were perceived to extend beyond the type of Feldenkrais training received, to differences in such simple things as the conduct of a meeting. It was a tribute to the cohesive force of the Feldenkrais Method that good humour and mutual respect prevailed and enabled the Assembly to identify the areas of agreement which did exist.

5.10. It was agreed, by clear majorities, that:-

5.10.1. The IFF should signify its readiness to accept organisations as Associate Members.

5.10.2. The IFF, at its next Assembly, should review training policies and construct a questionnaire along the lines suggested in 5.5.1 above.

5.10.3. The IFF should recognise the "Crossover Policy" being developed by the TAB's and recommend it to the Guilds and Associations for consideration and adoption. A copy of the policy would be sent to each representative, with a request for feedback on its reception to be brought to the next Assembly.

The President felt that these were very positive steps forward in a sensitive area that needed more time for further development.

## 6. PROMOTIONAL GUIDELINES

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Bonnie Humiston, IFF Director

6.1. The working party recommended:

- that the IFF should encourage each country/Guild/Association to develop its own promotional materials, in its own language and with its own expression.
- that the IFF should encourage Guilds/Associations to develop first a simple introductory brochure, then additional material for specific audiences.
- that Guilds/Associations should develop an information packet (e.g. with one or two articles, a directory of practitioners, an order form, etc.)
- that the IFF should set guidelines for defining the Feldenkrais Method.
- that the IFF should adopt the *Standards of Practice for the Feldenkrais Method* developed in North America, each constituent member group to take a copy of the standards home to discuss during the year and to return with comments for the next Assembly.
- that one person, or a small group, should undertake the actual writing of promotional materials.

6.2. The working party distributed guidelines for defining the Feldenkrais Method, based on documents of the North American Guild. Guilds could, if they wished, make copies of the North American Guild's brochure, if permission was first obtained and a license fee was paid to the printer for use of the plates. The brochure should be used in whole and not part-copied.

6.3. Agreed that further discussion would be needed and that agreement on standards of practice and guidelines acceptable to all members of the IFF could be deferred until the next Assembly.

## 7. RESOURCES

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Christoph Görtz

7.1. The working party put forward a model for the establishment and functioning of an IFF Standing Committee on Resources. A questionnaire would be distributed to identify the existence and ownership of written materials and audio/videotapes. The Committee would catalogue the materials and provide one copy of the catalogue for each constituent member group. A holding office would be established on each continent; the German Guild offers the

use of its Guild office for Europe. Members of constituent member groups would be able to obtain copies of written materials and loan tapes for a reasonable charge to cover costs.

7.2. At the AGM, it was proposed by the Treasurer, Nancy Schumacher, and agreed that these recommendations should be accepted. She asked the Committee to prepare a budget for her approval.

7.3. **Proposed** by Patrice Auquier and agreed that Christoph, as a newly elected member of the Board of Directors, should be confirmed as chairperson of the new Standing Committee on Resources. Agreed that the Committee should consist also of Michel Silice (for the Feldenkrais Institute), Franca Losi Recla (for Europe), Tanya Saxon (for Australia) and Philippe Leblond (for North America).

7.4. Reported by Christoph that Michel Silice had given permission for the translation into English of Moshe's Alexander Yanai Street lessons, given originally in Hebrew and numbering 450.

Negotiations would proceed for their production and distribution. Michel offered a generous contribution towards the costs. He also proposed that the IFF should hold one copy of all resources for archive purposes and that those receiving materials should provide a signed declaration that library material would not be used for business purposes.

7.5 Reported by the President that negotiations were continuing with the Feldenkrais Foundation concerning Moshe's Amherst training and functional integration videotapes. He stressed the importance of making materials available to all members of the Feldenkrais community at the lowest possible price.

## **8. CONSTITUTION AND INTERNAL REGULATIONS**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Jean Conran, IFF Secretary

8.1 Copies were distributed of the Constitution of the IFF, legally registered as an Association in France. The Constitution consists of a series of statutes which conform to French law and can only be altered by a two-thirds majority at a specially convened extraordinary meeting of the IFF Assembly. For each statute, the Secretary had produced an English translation, but she stressed that, in cases of dispute of interpretation, the French version would be the legally binding wording.

8.2 To supplement the Constitution, a series of Internal Regulations, which could be agreed or amended at any ordinary General Assembly, were needed to regulate the conduct of IFF business. In spite of the importance of adopting agreed procedures, there was poor support for this working party and it was agreed that completion of the regulations should be delegated to the Secretary and Board of Directors.

## **9. IFF MEMBERSHIP**

Coordinator of Working Party: Christine Wessman-Rinman

9.1 Proposed by the working party that the IFF should maintain the following categories of membership:

9.1.1 Full Voting Member Groups; National Guilds or Associations, EuroTAB and NATAB, The Feldenkrais Family.

9.1.2 Non-Voting Associate Member Groups.

9.2 The working party recognised that the IFF is seeking avenues whereby associate members could eventually qualify for full membership, but was recommending that, for the present, full voting Guild/Association membership should be offered only to practitioners who had satisfied the requirements of a TAB-accredited training programme.

9.3 Most members of the working party recommended acceptance by the IFF of the North American Guild's "Crossover Policy", which provides a method whereby students from Mia Segal's trainings can become full members of the North American Guild and so be able to use legally the service marks and logo. Proposed that this should be expanded to apply to all practitioners graduating from a non-TAB accredited training of Mia Segal or Yochanan Rywerant. Proposed by Paul Rubin that this should apply only to graduates qualifying prior to this Assembly, with a review of the policy in a year's time.

9.4 At the AGM, proposed by Nancy Schumacher, seconded by Philippe Leblond, that the IFF should accept the recommendations of the working party and that Guilds/Associations should be asked to provide feedback on responses to the "Crossover Policy" at the next Assembly; motion passed with a clear majority in favour and two against.

9.5 The inclusion of the Forum for Trainers and Assistant Trainers as a full voting member was questioned by the working party, since this group had no formal organization and no representative with whom to correspond. It also provided double representation for those who were members of both a Guild or Association and the Forum. Garet Newell confirmed the need for the Forum to become better organized and it was agreed that a further attempt should be made to ascertain its interest in remaining as a member of the IFF.

9.6 Proposed by the working party and agreed that all constituent member groups should be asked to provide evidence of their existence as a working organization (e.g. a Constitution, a Board of Directors and Chairperson, a Meeting's Schedule, etc.).

Note from Secretary: Presumably the IFF would exempt the Feldenkrais Family from this requirement.

## **10. NEW MEMBER**

At the AGM on Day 3, Nancy van Eck applied for IFF membership for the Dutch Association for Qualified Feldenkrais Practitioners and Education, which has three members. Concern was expressed at the existence of two Guilds/Associations within one country, in this case the Netherlands, which already has an Association of 32 members, combining practitioners from both TAB-accredited and Mia Segal trainings. It was agreed that there should be co-operation between organisations within one country. Proposed that the Dutch Association should be accepted for membership; motion carried by 26 votes to nil, with one abstention. Agreed that the IFF Internal Regulations need to specify at what point a new member group should have full voting representation. Proposed that the Dutch Association should hold one vote, with immediate participation; motion carried by 24 votes in favour and 6 votes against.

## **11. ELECTIONS**

11.1 Proposed by the President and agreed (26 for the motion; 2 against) that the Board of Directors should remain at seven in number, this being within the 6-12 range allowed by the Constitution.

11.2 After only one year of the IFF's existence, the President asked the Assembly to maintain, as far as possible, the present membership of the Board, since it took time to learn to work together effectively, when so far apart. Jean Conran (Secretary) and Bonnie Humiston (Director) were therefore re-elected by acclamation, each for a three-year term of office (proposed by François Combeau, seconded by Nancy Schumacher). Christoph Görtz was elected by acclamation to replace Lea Wolgensinger for the remaining year of her term as a Director, following her resignation.

11.3 Substitutes for the Board of Directors were elected to take office in the following order: Franca Losi Recla, Michel Silice, Philippe Leblond, Marianne Eriksson.

## **12. LOCATIONS AND DATES FOR 1994 AND 1995 ASSEMBLIES**

Co-ordinators of Working Party: Michel Silice, Claus Bühler

12.1 Proposed by the working party and agreed that the Annual General Assembly should take place each year in the last week of May; the next Assembly would run from 27 to 29 May 1994.

12.2 The following locations were proposed by the working party for Assemblies:

1994 - Israel (at the invitation of Michel Silice and the Feldenkrais Institute, to honour Moshe's tenth anniversary);

1995 - Germany;

1996 - the United States (East Coast).

Agreed to meet in Israel in 1994. Proposed by Lee Wolgensinger that meetings after 1994 should be held in Paris, a possible site for a permanent IFF Office. An initial vote was taken on the Paris proposal:

For:11, Against: 13, Abstentions: 7. After further discussion, a majority favoured Paris until the Assembly had reason to decide otherwise.

12.3 Proposed by the Secretary that a working group should be set up to liaise with Michel Silice in arranging the 1994 Assembly.

## **13. INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER AND JOURNAL**

Having produced the first IFF Journal, the President and Secretary were disappointed that nobody came forward with an offer to coordinate or edit the production of a Journal for publication in 1994. Reported by Bonnie Humiston that Larry Goldfarb would be willing to take on the role of Editor, if someone else would undertake the task of obtaining and gathering together the material.

## **14. SETTING UP OF MEDIATION COMMITTEE**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Patrice Aüqüier, IFF Director

Agreed by the Assembly that a Mediation Committee should be set up; formulation of detailed proposals referred to the Board of Directors.

## **15. PRESERVING INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF FELDENKRAIS METHOD**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Gregor Risi

15.1 The working party identified a number of problems:

- a growing number of professionals, mostly physiotherapists who have attended only short courses and are now using terms associated with the Feldenkrais Method to describe the work they offer;
- advertising of courses for professionals which may inadvertently suggest that they are trainings;
- in Switzerland, physiotherapists are negotiating with those controlling medical insurance for recognition of the Feldenkrais Method as a specialization of physiotherapists, for which insurance could be paid; this could lead to discrimination against Feldenkrais practitioners who are not also physiotherapists;
- laws requiring additional qualifications, for example as a masseur, are already in place in some states of the U.S.A.
- absence of legal protection for the service marks and logo in a country makes it more difficult to deal with unauthorized practitioners.

15.2 To meet these problems, the working party recommended the following strategies:

- promotion of a distinct professional image, with high standards of training practice;
- legal protection in each country of the service marks and logo;
- wider publicity for the existence of the IFF, with production of a letter, signed by the President on behalf of the Board of Directors, to be used by Guilds in support of their own letters, when dealing with unauthorized people using the Feldenkrais mark.
- clarification in negotiations over medical insurance, by stressing the educational rather than therapeutic or paramedical nature of the work; medical insurance should not be paid unless for a recognised educational reason.
- production of advertising guidelines.

## **16. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Kari Brøtmet

16.1 Recommended by the working party that term, "advanced training" should continue in use, with better advance publicity on dates and content, more sensitivity to practitioners' needs and more variety. Included should be longer courses, such as a master class series, better postgraduate supervision, the encouragement of research and analysis of techniques.

16.2 Proposed that the IFF should adopt guidelines for a process of certification, based on the model initiated by the North American Guild. Further discussion of this was deferred until the next Assembly.

## **17. DEVELOPMENT OF IFF DESIGN STYLES**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Cliff Smyth

17.1 Concern was expressed at problems of achieving universal protection of the logo developed by the Swiss Guild. Subject to contract with the Swiss Guild, the logo had been adopted by some, but not all, constituent member groups. The logo had, in some cases, become closely associated with legal protection of the service marks, whose protection was proving of importance in preserving the integrity and legal status of the Feldenkrais Method.

Agreed, after discussion, that the IFF should design its own logo, independent of the logos adopted and protected in each individual country. This would assist the IFF in establishing a recognisable identity for its communications, but would not be associated with the professional and legal status of the Feldenkrais Method itself and would not therefore require legal protection.

## **18. COMMUNICATIONS**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Philippe Leblond

18.1 Agreed that a Standing Committee on communications should be set up, consisting of Philippe Leblond (Convener), Nancy Schumacher (for the Board of Directors), Shelagh O'Neil and Christine Wessman-Rinman.

18.2 Agreed that the Committee should explore the feasibility of adoption by the IFF of the electronic E-mail system of communication.

18.3 Guilds/Associations were requested to circulate two copies of their journals and newsletters to other Guilds within the IFF (one for the Editor and one for the Board of Directors) and one copy to the IFF Secretary. The question of translation was raised, but not resolved.

## **19. IFF DIRECTORIES**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Michel Silice

19.1 Agreed that the IFF should have basic data on Guilds, TAB's, trainer/assistant trainers, trainings and training organisers, advanced trainings. Agreed that Cliff Smyth, already working on a training data-base, should undertake this task on behalf of the IFF and should ensure that his records would not infringe the data protection laws of each country.

19.2 Proposed that TAB's should be asked to retain information on students/trainees who do not complete training. This might be important in identifying successful graduates for any future processes of certification in which the IFF becomes involved.

## **20. CODES OF ETHICS AND GUIDES TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Co-ordinator of Working Party: Lea Wolgensinger

No report was produced on behalf of this working party.

At the end of the proceedings on Day 3, warm thanks were given to Michel Silice, for a generous gift of money towards the funds of the IFF, to the President, François Combeau, for the use of his Centre and to the members of the Board of Directors for their contributions to the success of the Assembly.

The President closed the 1993 IFF Annual General Assembly with thanks to the representatives of the constituent member groups for their patience in listening to one another and their willingness to find a way forward.

R. Jean Conran, IFF Secretary