

INTERNATIONAL FELDENKRAIS FEDERATION

30, le Monsieur le Prince - 75006 Paris Tél (10 43.25.36.52)

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
22-25 MAY 1997, BASEL, SWITZERLAND

MINUTES

Participants:
see attached list (Appendix 1).

Thursday, 22 May 97

Welcome and Introduction

François Combeau welcomed assembly participants. The purpose of this meeting, François said, was to share and discuss ideas, to relate to others and to the self. To facilitate communication, the session began with the group meeting in a circle sitting on the floor.

Objectives for 97 Assembly

The focus of this year's assembly was successful practitioners. What makes a successful practitioner? What is our definition of success? What part does training play? François encouraged the participants to differentiate the questions. The questions will evolve as we look at the reality of today; working on the response is an intellectual process and must be focused on specific questions.

Successful practitioners are people who are successful, not only in their careers, but in their lives. People are successful because of who they are, not because of what they know. Success in one area can be extended by defining, understanding, and finally by transposing images and ideas from that success. Representatives brought interviews from "successful" practitioners to share. François suggested that we might collect case studies of successful practitioners to compile in a journal or document, which could be shared with other practitioners.

Above all, François encouraged everyone to forget expectations and to share, to explore spaces, and to feel free to relate with one another.

The morning finished with the first Meet the Board session, where assembly participants met with members of the Board.

The introduction to the General Meeting oriented participants to the working groups (journal, training questionnaire, promotion, berufsbild, budget, success profiles, and ethics), and the rest of the afternoon was reserved for an initial discussion and review of "successful" practitioner interviews and profile in small groups.

Friday, 23 May 97

Most of the day was spent in work groups collecting and collating information from the "successful" practitioner interviews.

Survey of Trainer's Opinions

Donna Blank made a presentation to the assembly consisting of responses from questions to trainers about what a successful practitioner is. A summary of these ideas are found in Appendix 2.

The assembly was dismissed after the second Meet the Board session and working groups met after dinner.

Saturday, 24 May 97

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Minutes of Last Assembly

It was moved to approve the minutes of the last assembly. It was passed with two abstentions.

IFF Project Report

Alexander Yanai:

The work is progressing slowly, but the fourth volume should be out in the next few months. After the publishing of volume six, the IFF will take a break and renegotiate this project. Translation of the Alexander Yanai books into other languages beside English cannot start until after volume six is published. Economically, a market of at least 1,000 practitioners is needed to make translation profitable.

San Francisco Feldenkrais Professional Training Program Transcript:

Allison Rapp (year 1) and Ellen Soloway (year 2) are still working on the project, although there is no substantial progress at this time.

Amherst Feldenkrais Professional Training Program Transcript (2nd Year):

Arlyn Zones has approached the IFF to propose that trainers and assistant trainers may be willing to support this project, as it has specific concern to them for use as educational materials in FPTPs and advanced trainings. This project is in the planning stage.

Amherst Functional Integration Series Videos:

Purchase of these videos has been slow. The community asked for these videos, but has not responded by buying the sets. Promotion of these videos is paramount.

Financial Report

The financial report (see Appendix 3) was accepted with one against and one abstention. As business has expanded, especially with new projects, the complexities of the accounting has

increased as well. The Financial Report covered both 1995 and 1996. The projects have put the IFF over the budget with a small deficit, but as the inventory sells it will make up the difference. The first transfer from the Feldenkrais Foundation has come through, so there is money in the bank. Once again, François specified that the membership fees are not used to support project costs, but instead go to provide membership services and cover administration costs.

Fees

It was proposed and accepted to keep the same fees as 1996 and 1997 for 1998:

1. IFF full member Guilds and Associations - 125ff per full practitioner member for up to 400 full members. Over 400 full members - 50ff for each additional full member. For trainees - 50ff per trainee.
2. IFF associate member Guilds and Associations - 75ff per full practitioner member. Over 400 full members - 50ff for each additional full member. For trainees - 50ff per trainee.
3. Training Accreditation Board - 5,000 ff for each.
4. Trainers/Assistant Trainers Forum - 5,000 ff.

Elections

1. Vice President - Cliff Smyth (USA) elected for 3 years (97-00)
2. Treasurer - Shelagh O'Neill (England) elected 3 years (97-00)
3. BOD director - Donna Blank (USA) elected for 3 years (97-00)
4. BOD director - Nancy Schumacher (USA) elected for 2 years (97-99)
5. BOD director - Anne Candardjis (France) elected for 1 year (97-98)
6. BOD director - Susan Pinto (USA) elected for 1 year (97-98)
7. First substitute Director - Manfred Sylla (Germany)
8. Second substitute Director - Leila Malcolm (England)
9. Third substitute Director - Glenice Hall (Australia)
10. Finance Committee - Markus Riesen (Switzerland) elected for 3 years (97-00)

Mediation Board - Election for the position on the Mediation Board was postponed until Sunday after 3 ballots were unsuccessful in reaching an absolute majority (51% of votes cast) with nominees Edward Dwelle and Barry Levine.

Sunday, 25 May 97

BUSINESS MEETING

Elections (continued)

Nominations to Mediation Board were reopened and an additional nomination was presented - Gregor Risi.

11. Mediation Board - Gregor Risi (Switzerland) elected for two years (97-99)
12. Mediation Board substitute for Gregor Risi - Edward Dwelle (Germany)
13. Mediation Board substitute for Francesca White - Barry Levine (USA)

Correction to the 1996 Minutes

It was called to attention that there is a typographical mistake on page four of the 1996 AGM minutes under the 'Fees' heading. The word 'trainings', listing the fees for trainees of 50 ff, should say 'trainees'. It was passed with two abstentions

Internal Regulations Policies

The following changes in the Internal Regulations, related to filling of vacancies on the Board and the election of substitutes were discussed and adopted, in keeping with the changes made in constitution.

6.5 In addition to election of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, as required by the IFF Constitution, a Vice President shall also be elected for a three year term, to take over from the President, until the next Annual General Assembly, should the President be unable to continue in office. The Board of Directors will elect from among all Board members and the three substitutes replacement in Vice -President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions. Vacancies in Director positions are filled in order, by the first substitute, then second, etc. At the following Annual General Assembly, an election shall be held to fill each such vacancy, for the remainder of its original term.

6.8 At each General Assembly three (3) substitutes shall be elected, if qualified candidates are nominated, to be called to serve on the Board of Directors to fill vacancies on the Board which occur between Assemblies. The Board of Directors will elect from among all Board members and the three substitutes replacement in Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions. Vacancies in Director positions are filled in order, by the first substitute, then second, etc. At the following Annual General Assembly, an election shall be held to fill each such vacancy, for the remainder of its original term.

Committee for Moshe Feldenkrais' Materials

The Assembly approved the following proposal and asked the Board to implement it.

Proposal from the IFF Board of Directors

After discussion with Michél Silice-Feldenkrais, the Board proposed that a committee of the Board of Directors be created composed of the founding President of the IFF, the current President of the IFF, Michél Silice-Feldenkrais, one member of the Board of Directors of the IFF, with the purpose of assuring continuity for protecting and publishing Moshe Feldenkrais' materials, including: planning, making recommendations to the Board, overseeing the management of projects

Future Assemblies

Future assemblies for 1998 and 1999 were agreed upon.

1998 - The Swedish Guild, in conjunction with their 10 year anniversary, will host the 1998 Assembly in Malmö, Sweden, 21-24 May 1998

1999 - The 1999 Assembly will be hosted by the North American Guild in Baltimore, MD, USA, 27-30 May 1999.

The Netherlands also offered a proposal for the Assembly in 1998, 1999, 2000, or later. The French Guild is hoping to host another European Conference in 1999 or 2000 and would possibly host the IFF Assembly.

The Business meeting was adjourned for working groups.

REPORTS

Ethics

The Ethics Working Group proposed that the Australian Code of Ethics be used as a model by Guilds/Associations for formulating their own codes of ethics. The Australian Guild, Inc. will waive rights, allowing Guilds to modify, translate, etc. for use in all Guilds.

The Ethics Working Group also proposed that the IFF adopt separate Principles of Ethics for the IFF (see Appendix 4). The Ethics Committee would like to see these principles distributed within the international Feldenkrais community for discussion during the next year, to stimulate input. It is hoped that a code of ethics will evolve from these basic principles.

Berufsbild

The Berufsbild Working Group presented a recommendation (see Appendix 5) for Guilds to discuss during the year. The German version is available through German Gilde, and English version through the IFF Distribution Centres. Recognition was given to Sylvia Weise and Barbara Pipper for their work on this project.

Promotion

The Promotion Working Group identified three ways that the IFF could promote the Feldenkrais Method:

1. Hire a professional consultant to help with promotion of the method internationally, especially in relation to other professions.
2. Seek advice from someone who could direct the IFF on how individual Guilds/Associations could promote the method, as has been done in some countries.
3. Ask guilds to present promotional materials that they have found effective, and share ideas on how these materials might be used by other guilds.

Marketing IFF materials

The Alexander Yanai transcripts and Functional Integration Series Videos need a successful promotion. The ideas discussed will be considered by the Board.

Functional Integration Series Videos

The Marketing Working Group was pleased with the description of the videos in the newsletter, but felt it should be made more obvious to the practitioners. The group proposed that a special mailing be sent within Guilds. This mailing would include the description, an order form, and a personal letter (from the IFF representative or a trainer) recommending the FI videos. The group also thought the IFF should encourage the use of the videos in Advanced trainings, workshops, and continuing education.

Alexander Yanai

The group felt that Alexander Yanai should be marketed more intensely after volume four is out. They also felt it was important to let the practitioners know that the IFF projects are not a commercial venture, but that revenue only supports the IFF and future projects. The possibility of giving Assistant Trainers and Trainers an incentive to sell Alexander Yanai at advanced trainings was also discussed.

Communication with Trainees:

The Working Group noticed that there is a difficult balance in trainings as students want support and at the same want to be challenged. Communication, however, exists when everyone knows there is a forum, and the group felt that trainings could provide more of this. The communication skills that are learned in FPTP affect the communication in Guilds/Associations, and also in individual practices. The group wants to see the beginning of community discussion, using articles in the IFF newsletter to encourage talking in guilds. They also saw it as the subject for a journal, with personal perspectives about being in a FPTP, and how this perspective changes after several years as a practitioner.

Ombudsman

The Working Group discussed the aspects of student rights in a Feldenkrais Professional Training Program. Although everyone supports student rights, most students do not realize they have rights. The Group felt the best way to deal with this issue is to create awareness from the outset of a training. NATAB is already addressing this with student packets, but these packets are often not read. The group suggested that there could be more informative articles in the journal and newsletter, and that students should already know that they can contact their Guild for help and information.

Swiss Guild Questions

The Working Group recognized the concerns in the Swiss Guild. This situation has not been dealt with before in other big Guilds, like Australia and the United States. At the moment, the IFF has full members and associate members, and no place for other Feldenkrais groups. The Working Group saw the need for more dialogue within Switzerland and Europe, and continued discussion at the assembly and in the IFF newsletter. They encouraged cooperation between the two Swiss Guilds which are members of IFF, with the idea that there may be a single Swiss association at some point.

It became clear to the Working Group that it was difficult to characterize people by their professional training programs, and that more concentration should be focused on the quality and integrity of the work itself. The Group felt that professional standards for graduates of training programs within each country could help maintain that integrity. The first step, however, is dialogue.

Scientific Research Forum/Colloquium

Cliff Smyth presented a proposal for a Scientific Research Forum, which the assembly agreed to support. The IFF supports development and research of the method and will play an active role in a research forum. The idea behind the Forum is to bring researchers worldwide together to discuss the research which has been done and to encourage and direct future research. See Appendix 6.

Successful Practitioner

The successful practitioner working groups each reported their findings for questions in the Successful Practitioner Survey. The results of this survey are presented in Appendix 7.

Closing

The Assembly gathered in a circle on the floor, where participants spoke to those around them about their experiences at the assembly. A few people related their feelings to the entire group. François then thanked everyone for their participation and support, and recognized people who had contributed greatly to the success of the assembly. The 1997 assembly was closed with feelings of accomplishment, looking forward to future assemblies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Rich Humiston,
Secretary

Appendix I

INTERNATIONAL FELDENKRAIS FEDERATION Assembly

22 - 25 May 1997 - Participants

Australia The Australian Feldenkrais Guild Inc.,
Francesca White

Austria - Feldenkrais Verband Oesterreich
Daniel Rosenfels
Werner Kraus

Feldenkrais Family
Michel Silice-Feldenkrais

France - Association Des Praticiens De La Méthod Feldenkrais (APMF)
Anne Candardjis

Germany - Feldenkrais Gilde e.V
Iris Urbassek
Christoph Görtz
Manfred Sylla
Sylvia Weise
Sebastian Mayer

Israel - Israeli Feldenkrais Qualified Practitioners
Miriam Shlesinger

Italy - Associazione Insegnanti del Metodo Feldenkrais
Irene Habib

Netherlands - Nederlandse Feldenkrais Vereniging

Monica Duynstee
Marlies Hanebrink

North America-The FELDENKRAIS GUILD®

Michael Purcell
Philippe Leblond
Susan Pinto

Norway - Norsk Forbund for Autoriserte Feldenkraispedagoger

Stina Njaastad

Sweden - Svenska Förbundet for Auktori-serade Feldenkraispedagoger (SFAF)

Helene Bachrach
Gunnel Ideberg

Sweden Svenska Feldenkraisföreningen (Associate)

Onya Dowling

Switzerland - Schweizerischer Feldenkrais Verband

Susanne Ruffli
Markus Riesen
Linda van Niekerk-Pheiffer

Switzerland - Berufsverband der Feldenkrais Lehrerinnen und Lehrer (Associate)

Daniel Clémin
Christine Erni Tank

United Kingdom-The Feldenkrais Guild U.K.

Leila Malcolm

AusTAB - Australian Training Accreditation Board

Chris Lambert

EuroTAB - European Training Accreditation Board

Patrice Auquier

NATAB - North American Training Accreditation Board

Olena Nitefor

Trainer/Assistant Trainer Forum

Edward Dwelle

Members of the IFF Board of Directors

Lea Wolgensinger, Switzerland
Gregor Risi, Switzerland
François Combean, France
Bonnie Rich Humiston, USA
Cliff Smyth, Australia
Shelagh O'Neill, England
Tanya Saxon, Australia

Guest

Donna Blank

Visitor

Garet Newell
Hanneloni Hagnauer

Secretary

Bryn Goates

Host

Linda van Niekerk-Pheiffer