

International Feldenkrais Federation Minutes of the Assembly

Kassel, Germany, May 2001.

Day 1. Thursday May 24, 2001

1. Introduction to the Assembly and the theme 'Emerging into the Professional Field'

President Cliff Smyth opened the Assembly with a speech on "Emerging into a Professional Field".

He also listed the achievements of the IFF in 2000-2001:

- improved Assembly planning
- the newsletter
- the Quality and Competence group
- improved financial planning
- a review of the IFF's mediation function
- a research list
- the IFF website

He gave thanks to Iris Urbassek for her unwavering support and practical assistance in putting this Assembly together. He also thanked the many voluntary helpers from the German guild and to Penny McCornack who streamlined the lead-up to the Assembly.

Werner Kraus, Markus Riesen, Stina Njaastad and Cliff Smyth presented their reports on the idea of the development of our professional field. They also presented a graph designed by Barbara Pieper showing the growth of the size and experience of the community. Stina presented her report on self-study, supervision and mentorship, and continuous learning. Werner presented his report on research, which is being done in an already professional field.

Cliff Smyth stated that we, as a profession, need professional materials in order they become more professional, ie. Alexander Yanai materials, and other materials being produced by other teachers for both practitioners and the general public.

2. Functions of the IFF

Cliff Smyth presented ideas from the Board on the functions of the IFF:

These are the IFF purposes written 10 years ago:

- to have an overall intention to co-operate
- to provide mediation

- to foster communication in the community
- public relations
- archiving
- ethics
- research and development
- support continuing education
- support Feldenkrais as an independent profession
- education, including status as practitioner, assistant trainer and trainer.

He traced the development of those areas that the IFF is still active in and those in which the IFF has not actually had a role.

3. Report on Internal Regulations and Status Review

A written report was circulated. Cliff Smyth presented a report on meetings with our association lawyer in Paris, M. Noel Raimon. He recommended that it is preferable for the IFF to remain registered in France. It was the opinion of the lawyer that our Status needed improvements. We need to have an accurate list of the ways we operate as an organisation and with our members ('means of action'). We would need to look at the two documents together in order to strengthen the precision of the Status. Under French law it is not usual to have a nominations committee, which should come from the floor – from the Board or member organisations. Candidates can also self-nominate. Rosalia Odessky, Argentina, suggested that some people may not be comfortable with self-nomination and it was clarified that Representatives and the Board can nominate. It was suggested that we could continue to have some kind of search committee. We are no longer legally required to have a French resident as the public officer. In response to a question from Francesco Ambrosio, Italy, at the 2000 Assembly it was recommended that the number of votes at an Assembly must be announced.

Janie Randerson, New Zealand, asked for clarification of section 1.6.3 of the Internal Regulations. Can students sit on a small Guild's committee? The view was that the Internal Regulations could be read that they could.

The Board put forward two proposals for the improvement of and interpretation of the Status and Internal Regulations. It was decided to vote on the proposal on Friday.

4. Emerging into a Professional Field: Reports from member organisations

Reports were made by member organisations on "What is the nature of the trends in entering the professional field?"

Reports were received from:

Frances Schorer, Holland, on the new health department regulations and their guild's responses, including developing certification for practitioners that includes training, experience and continuing education

Uta Ruge, Germany, on the multi-level response of the guild there to demands for professionalisation: legal protection, Berufsbild (vocational profile), licensing, ethics, regional groups, PR, German language journal

George Krutz, North America, reported on how the TABs and Guilds are dealing with results and implications from the Anat Baniel lawsuit. Bonnie Humiston and George Krutz were on the Litigation Steering team and reported on the costs of almost 3/4 of a million dollars with no guaranteed outcome after a difficult trial. In the settlement they identified the need to clarify educational principles underlying training policies, eg. a) having sufficient number of training hours required, b) the need for trainees to be exposed to a variety of teachers, c) having qualified and adequate staffing. Decisions still need to be made regarding whether revised training guidelines that apply to Ms. Baniel will also apply to other training programs or Educational Directors.

Zoran Kovic, reported to the TABs development of a competency profile. He noted that he was pleased to see that the IFF BOD presentation had more focus on the profession. He emphasised the TABs as a specialised group involved in

the accreditation of training of graduates, with “specialists” - Educational Directors, Trainers and Assistant Trainers involved. They have had four meetings so far to review changes to the current training accreditation guidelines. Pieter Mostert, a Dutch educational specialist was consulted by the TABs for the process of developing a competency profile for measuring training outcomes. A more extensive report will be made later in the Assembly in one of the information sharing groups.

Agneta Stenkula (Sweden) and Glenice Hall (Australia) gave reports on how their Guilds are responding to the issue of having the Feldenkrais profession recognised by local health authorities. In Australia state divisions of the guilds have been able to negotiate billing from workers compensation and other insurance authorities for Feldenkrais practitioners with other licenses and in conjunction with outcomes research – with the aim of reimbursement becoming available to all practitioners. In Sweden it has been a slow and on-going process to have Feldenkrais recognised as a separate profession. Three out of five practitioners are physical therapists and have compensable FI and ATM lessons.

Marianne Lacina (Switzerland) reflected on the practitioner’s internal need for a greater sense of professionalism.

Janie Randerson (New Zealand) reported on the demands from government for accountability, competence, etc. and their guild’s responses including certification.

5. Nominations Committee

The Committee is formed composed of George Krutz, Christoph Goertz and Glenice Hall. They outline the positions available for election this year.

6. Report on the Special Committee on Quality and Competence

Daniel Clenin then updated the Assembly on the work of the Special Committee on Q & C. He was assisted by Rob Black and Barbara Pieper.

Daniel reviewed the history of the development of the quality and competence process in the IFF and the relationship between the two streams. The main recommendations of this group were that we develop quality, in our professional culture using workshops of practitioners reflect on quality in their practice. Also, in parallel, to develop a competency profile. The idea is for both processes to inform each other and contribute to develop the quality culture. To integrate quality and competence into our community we need to find a language about the Method in order to present it to the general public, with a strong accent including the meta-level of what we do. Workshops on quality and competency development processes followed.

The Working Group on the review of the Status and Internal Regulations also met at this time.

Day 2, Friday 25 May, 2001

7. Welcome to TAB consultant

Cliff welcomed Pieter Mostert from The Netherlands who joined the Assembly as an observer. He is the TABs consultant for the competency development working group.

8. Yesterday’s quality and competence working groups continued

9. Status and Internal Regulations Working Group report

This group reported on the Internal Regulations revision. The first report on proposed changes will be formulated by Sept. 1st. By February 1st, 2002, the revisions will be ready. It was suggested that the roles and descriptions of Board officers’ responsibilities need to be listed and inserted into the Status. Nominations for the Board: it was felt that a

search committee could be formed, rather than a nominations committee, to find people who feel ready to fulfil Board positions.

10. Proposals from the IFF Board regarding Status and Internal Regulations and interpretation of membership criteria

Proposal:

“That a working group be formed to meet in this Assembly, and through the remainder of 2001 and the beginning of 2002 in order to prepare revised Status and Internal Regulations to be presented at a Special General Assembly and the Annual General Assembly of the IFF in May 2002.”

Moved: Cliff Smyth Seconded: Rob Black. No abstentions, no opposing votes, unanimously agreed.

Proposal:

“The IFF maintains its current interpretation of the Status and Internal Regulations that the membership criteria for member organisation is that which was in force at the time that organisation joined the IFF. That this interpretation remain in force until such time as new Status and Internal Regulations have been adopted at the 2002 IFF Assembly, or the end of the 2002 Assembly.”

Moved by Cliff Smyth, Seconded, Rob Black 1 abstention: M. Feldenkrais-Silice, no opposing votes. Agreed.

Further discussion:

A request was made by Francesco Ambrosio for the Status to be translated into Italian.

Clarification that the IFF does not need to have a French resident as the public officer, who does not have to sit on the Board. It may even be the IFF attorney in Paris.

It was proposed: “That the announcement of votes in IFF elections should be added to the Status.”

Moved: Rob Black, Seconded George Krutz. 1 abstention, no opposing votes. Agreed.

11. Financial Report for the IFF

Markus Riesen presented the financial report for the IFF Distribution Center.

It was Moved by Cliff Smyth that this financial report be accepted, Seconded by Christoph Goertz. Abstention from Bonnie Humiston, no opposing votes. Agreed.

12. Structure of the International Community

After lunch Cliff Smyth presented ideas about differences between the EuroTAB and the EuroTAB Council and how the function of training and accreditation came first internationally. He noted that members of the European and Israeli guilds are members of two federations – the IFF and the EuroTAB Council – which have different roles. Olena Nitefor further explained there are not just membership differences but differences in functions.

13. IFF Diplomas

The IFF Board informed the Assembly that it intended that it would stop issuing IFF diplomas as it presented legal risk to the IFF, but also that it did not reflect the IFF’s functions. The IFF has no role in training accreditation or ensuring the quality of training programs and their graduates. It was suggested that training organisations give graduation certificates in the future.

Carl Ginsburg suggested that TABs are an accrediting body, and that the Guilds are the parent bodies of the TABs, therefore the Guilds should issue the graduation certificates.

It was identified that because of existing agreements between Educational Directors and trainees, the diplomas would need to be phased out for new trainings starting. The IFF Board wished to give notice that the cessation of the IFF

diplomas was imminent.

14. Discussion and Information Sharing Groups

The following Discussion and Information Sharing groups met:

1. Roles and relationships in the international Feldenkrais community
2. Effects of legal issues on the community, including the Anat Baniel lawsuit
3. Presentation and discussion of TAB competency project and draft competency profile
4. Translation of educational materials into Spanish for South America, Central America and Spain.
5. A question about government concerns and guild experiences with “sects” and intra-Guild communication.
6. Contacts with the academic world

Day 3, Saturday 26 May, 2001

15. Report back from Discussion and Information Sharing groups, chaired by Markus Riesen

1. Legal issues and lawsuit group: Nadine Yasikoff reported: If Anat’s graduates want to join a guild the guild don’t have to accept these graduates. This is an agreement only between the FGNA and Anat Baniel.
2. TAB competency project. This was a large group with many ideas and perspectives. The TABs received much feedback on the profile. The competency profile was prepared quickly using documents already in existence such as the Berufsbild and Standards of Practice. It will be trailed in a couple of trainings as the next step in the project. Training policies need to be reviewed every 2 to 5 years. George Krutz thanked the TABs for doing all this work. This was supported by acclamation from the Assembly group.

16. Reports from the Board

16.1 Mediation

Eva Bleicher gave her report on the Mediation portfolio and Mediation Board. The Mediation Board has discussed ideas about how this role should be carried out – is there a role for the Mediation Board? Should all mediation be carried out by the Board or is there a role for others, for example the ‘good offices’ of the President, professional mediators?.

16.2 Educational Materials and IFF Distribution Center

A written report was circulated. Cliff Smyth gave the report on The Distribution Center and Educational Materials projects. He thanked Penny McCornack for revising, re-designing, doing cost analysis and cost reduction studies for marketing, packaging, and shipping. He thanked Markus Riesen for redesigning the financial system, developing the budget and a production plan. The Amherst tape sets will soon be able to be purchased by guilds for libraries, selling at the current price, and payment plans can be arranged with the Treasurer. There will be license agreements for these sales. Translation of educational materials: the IFF is working on the possibility of translating the Alexander Yanai materials. This may be organised by Guilds or professional services. Royalties will need to be made to the Estate and IFF. Proposals for this will need to come in from Guilds. A contract between Michel Silice Feldenkrais states that translations need to be from Hebrew into the language required. Translations can now come from English due to the excellent quality of the work done by Anat Baniel and Jeremy Kraus, but should be checked against the original

Hebrew. Michel Silice-Feldenkrais asked that translations should use the same paragraph and numbering format as the current English formats.

17. Presentation to Michél Silice-Feldenkrais

A presentation of a portrait photograph of Moshe Feldenkrais was made to Silice-Feldenkrais, to thank him for his generosity to the community over the years. Michel thanked Cliff and the Board for making his stay so comfortable, and thanked François Combeau for organising the publication of the educational material originally.

18. Presentations on possible new projects: Academy, Information Bureau and Conventions

1. Daniel Clenin presented the model for an IFF Academy. The idea involves local groups or Academy feet' involved in a range of quality workshop processes, linked by a content group and co-ordinator. In addition specialist Academy groups or 'hands' will continue with the development of competencies, promotion of supervision, continue the IFF Journal, etc. The heart of the process will be information exchange.

2. Stina Njaastad and Werner Kraus presented a report on the Newsletter and a model for an IFF Information Bureau (or Agence Feldenkrais Presse). It was proposed to cease production of the IFF Newsletter which was getting few contributions, took a long time to produce, was only in English (and therefore not read by at least 40% of our members) and cost a lot in paper, printing and postage. Instead a model for an Information Bureau was suggested that would make use of existing articles and information, guild publications and electronic means such as web sites. Funds would be used for translation to facilitate communication.

Cliff Smyth reported that Conventions (treaties), such as those used in the U.N., could be a possible model for the IFF. It was suggested that for some agreements in our community that need more preparation and deliberate agreement, such as the Standards of Practice, possible future competency based certification, etc. could be brought into formal agreements among guilds.

Members of the Assembly then circulated around the displays for the three models for projects and discussed the proposed models and projects.

19. Working Groups

Several working groups were formed:

- international relationships
- Mediation
- European Networking/exchange -topics
- translations
- the Academy model
- Information Bureau

20. Reports from Working Groups and Committees

20.1 European Communication Group

Christoph Goertz reported on the European Communication group. It was proposed and agreed that action be taken to improve communication between member organisations of the IFF.

20.2 Mediation Board

Eva Bleicher, Moti Nativ, Glenice Hall reported. Bonnie Humiston proposed to review the way that the Mediation Committee has been working for the last 12 months. Changes will be made, and a suggestion was put forth that the role of the Mediation Committee could become part of the Internal Regulation's working group. The Mediation Board that the IFF still had a function in this area, however the Mediation Pool was not working and should be dropped.

20.3 International Relations Group

Uta Ruge reported that National Guilds often do not have a clear understanding of what international bodies do. An assessment needs to be made of what kind of community people have in mind. What kind of work could they do? What do they want? What comes out of this work? What are our roles, responsibilities with each other? George Krutz recommended a presidential forum for easier communication with on-going discussion throughout the year. Francesco Ambrosio asked if there could be a working group formed to look at the ways that IFF reps report back to their guilds.

20.4 Translation Group

Markus Riesen, Rosalia Odessky: A tool for translations is very important and much needed. A request was made for a survey of costs of publications, editing, production, royalties and any other expenses with regard to translations. This will begin this year by: Switzerland, Germany, Italy and France.

20.5 Academy Working Group

Daniel further clarified the Academy model regarding the inclusion of pre-existing "feet" – such as existing study groups, etc. – in this project.

21. Discussion and Proposal re IFF Academy

There were discussions and questions about the proposed project. A list of first steps for the next year was presented by the Board.

George Krutz: Needs more information on what level of resources will be put into it, and the implementation.

Glenice Hall: Does the Special Committee have a time line for the first steps?

Danny Rosenfels: What does development mean? Research needed into implementation.

Rob Black: Would like to finish the job and go onto the implementation.

Olena Nitefor: We need to talk about actions, not about a principle, and a particular model needs to be used.

Uta Rouge: There is no research forum which is practitioner based, results from current research has nowhere to go.

Marianne Lacina-Senft: We need to give power and responsibility back to practitioners, and not rely so much on Guilds.

Agneta Stenkula: Wants to support our idea.

Christoph Goertz: Feels that responsibility is better than power.

George Krutz: Feels that the AFP is probably the way to begin. We have the AY manuals, the Continuous Learning Booklet. He queried how can we not overload the IFF Board with monitoring these pilot projects.

Nadine Yasikoff: It's up to IFF reps to take ideas back and "selling" them.

Markus Riesen gave the break-down of the setting up costs for the Academy. The primary expenses will be the journal, communication, face to face meetings, academy competency work, research, and he estimates this will come to FF163,000.

21.1

It was proposed, by the Special Committee on Quality and Competence, that:

"The IFF Academy model be developed as a tool for continuing to investigate and develop the concepts of Quality and Competence in the professional field."

Proposed: Rob Black, Seconded: Christoph Goertz, 1 abstention, Bonnie Humiston. Accepted.

The Special Committee on Quality and Competence now finished its mandated role. The ideas structurally we will carry by the Board. The Board announced that it would form an Academy Committee of the Board.

22. Nominations Committee Report

A report was made on nominations so far.

23. Financial Report on IFF non-profit part

23.1 Financial report.

Markus Riesen presented the financial report on the non-profit part of the IFF. Bonnie Humiston reminded the Assembly that the Status and Internal Regulations do not require a vote of acceptance of a financial report.

23.2 Fee Increase

Markus explained the need for a IFF fee increase. Discussion and questions followed. A proposal was made by Markus that the IFF fee be raised by 100 French Francs for a full member practitioner. This is an approximately 56% increase. It was also proposed to retain the per-practitioner cap on the fees for guilds with members over 400. Also that the annual update fee for members that join later in the year be the same for all members.

The revised fees in Euros are as follows:

- Full member per practitioner: 29,70
- Full member per practitioner, with over 400 guild members, for practitioners over 400: 15,25
- Associated member per practitioner: 17,85
- per Trainee: 7,60
- Update fee: 15,25

Moved: Christoph Goertz, Seconded, Danny Rosenfels, 37 votes for the proposal, 5 against, 7 abstentions. Agreed.

24. Membership of Status and Internal Regulations Working Group

A Status and I.R. drafting group was formed: Cliff Smyth, Bonnie Humiston, Glenice Hall , Guenther Franz, Francesca White. A reference group for feedback on drafts was formed: Ursula Sieler, Leila Malcolm, Răgi Zubler, Karin Engels-Mauer and Ilan Jacobson.

25. International Relations and IFF Purposes Working Group

A proposal was made: “To form an on-going working group to prepare ideas for IFF Purposes, including exploring and clarifying roles and relationships in the international Feldenkrais Community and to present a report at the next IFF Assembly.”

Moved: George Krutz, Seconded: Janie Randerson. Unanimously accepted. Volunteers for this working group: Danny Rosenfels, Francesco Ambrosio, George Krutz, Uta Ruge, Janie Randerson, Sylvia Weise, Werner Kraus, Cliff Smyth, Marianne Lacina.

26. IFF Diplomas

A proposal was made that: “The IFF continue to offer IFF Diplomas for one more year to allow guilds to review their needs and to make a proposal at the next Assembly”.

Moved: Ilan Jacobson, Seconded: Danny Rosenfels. 25 in favour, 5 against, 18 abstentions. Agreed.

The IFF BOD decided to abstain from voting for this proposal in order to not block the floor’s proposal. A working group was formed to study this proposal: Francesco Ambrosio, Ilan Jacobson and Danny Rosenfels, and they will come prepared to vote and to have a meaningful proposal. They will consult with the Board, who will look at ways of minimising liabilities.

27. Internal Regulations Change

A proposal was made that: “In section 34.4 of the Internal Regulations to delete the words “French Francs” and replace them with “Euros”. Moved: Markus Riesen, Seconded: Danny Rosenfels. No abstentions, unanimously in favour. Agreed.

28. Size of Board of Directors

A proposal was made that: “The IFF Board be reduced in size from 10 to 9 directors, eliminating one 3-year position this year.” Moved: Cliff Smyth, Seconded: Glenice Hall. 2 opposed, no abstentions. Agreed.

29. Elections

President, 3 year position: Candidate: Cliff Smyth. Bonnie Humiston proposed that this position be voted by acclamation. There being no objections, Cliff Smyth was elected by acclamation.

First Director position, 3 years: Candidates: Daniel Clenin and Janie Randerson - 3 year position. Daniel Clenin was elected with 20 votes, Janie Randerson received 4 votes.

Second Director position, 1 year: Candidate: Janie Randerson. There being one candidate and no objections, Janie Randerson was elected to this position by acclamation. Substitute, 1 year: Candidate: Jutta Kojalek. There being one candidate and no objections, Jutta Kojalek was elected to this position by acclamation.

30. Future Assembly Sites

Cliff Smyth reminded the Assembly that while the Assembly discusses and comments on proposed sites, it is the final responsibility of the Board to decide the location of Assemblies. The Board has prepared a list of requirements for final proposals for Assembly sites. These can be obtained from the Secretary.

Mette Ulsteen presented information on the proposed site for the next Assembly at Kristiansand in southern Norway. The Board is looking forward to their final proposal.

Other sites for future Assemblies for further IFF Assemblies were recommended 2003 - Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia. 2004 - Israel 2005 - Germany (parallel to a proposed German Conference in Berlin)

The 2001 IFF Assembly closed at 5 pm after an ATM with Eva Bleicher.

Respectfully submitted by Francesca White, IFF Board Secretary. August, 2001.

Appendix no. 1 Attendance:

Present	Representatives
ARGENTINA	Asociacion Feldenkrais Argentina: Nilsa Marquez, Rosalia Odessky
AUSTRALIA	The Australian Feldenkrais Guild: Glenice Hall
AUSTRIA	Feldenkrais Verband Oesterreich: Jutta Kojalek
FRANCE	Association Des Practiciens de la Méthode Feldenkrais: Silke-Maier Bonardi, Bertrand Baucard.
GERMANY	Feldenkrais Gilde e.V.: Uta Ruge, Sabina Graf-Pointner, Barbara Pieper, Christoph Goertz, Sylvia Weise
ISRAEL	Israeli Feldenkrais Qualified Practitioners Association: Ilan Jacobson, Moti Nativ
ITALY	Associazione Italiana Insegnanti Metodo Feldenkrais: Francesco Ambrosio, Sandra Sampietri
NETHERLANDS	Nederlandse Feldenkrais Vereniging (Associate): Frances Schorer, Rineke Brinkhof
NEW ZEALAND	New Zealand Feldenkrais Guild: Janie Randerson
NORWAY	Norsk Forbund for Autoriserte Feldenkraispedagoger: Mette Ulsteen
NORTH AMERICA	Feldenkrais Guild of North America: Bonnie Humiston, George Krutz
SWEDEN	Svenska Forbundet for Auktoriserade Feldenkraispedagoger: Agneta Stenkula
SWITZERLAND	Schweizerischer Feldenkrais Verband: Marianne Lacina-Senft, Nadine Yasikoff, Rägi Zubler
SWITZERLAND	Berufsverband der Feldenkrais-Lehrerinnen und Lehrer Schweiz (Associate): Ursula Seiler
UNITED KINGDOM	The Feldenkrais Guild UK: Leila Malcolm
AusTAB	Australian Training Accreditation Board: Zoran Kovich
EuroTAB	European Training Accreditation Board: Daniel Rosenfels. Carl Ginsburg
NATAB	North American Training Accreditation Board: Olena Nitefor
FELDENKRAIS FAMILY BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Michél Silice-Feldenkrais Rob Black, Eva Bleicher, Daniel Clénin, Werner Kraus, Stina Njaastad, Markus Riesen, Cliff Smyth, Francesca White
STAFF	IFF Project Manager: Penny McCornack
ASSEMBLY HOST	Iris Urbassek
GUESTS	Ned Dwelle, Trainer Roger Russell, Trainer Pieter Monstert, Consultant for the 3 TABs
OBSERVERS	Günther Franz (also volunteer) Heike Puttler (also volunteer) Johannes Preuss (also volunteer) Manon Gsoll Pointner (also volunteer) Ute Bargemann Angela Riecke Karin Engels-Maurer Bernd Jakob Elisabeth Urbutis

Apologies

BOARD MEMBERS	Susan Pinto, Vice President, and François Combeau, IFF Public Officer.
NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM Gilde Feldenkrais Belge
QUEBEC	Dutch Foundation for Qualified Feldenkrais Practitioners and Education
SWEDEN	Assoc. Quebecois des Professeur(e)s de la Methode Feldenkrais Svenska Feldenkraisforeningen (Associate).

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