

Final Draft Minutes IFF Assembly 2002, for approval 2003
INTERNATIONAL FELDENKRAIS FEDERATION
MINUTES FROM 11TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
23rd –26th May 2002, Skottevig, Norway

Participants: see Appendix#1

Day 1 May 23rd, 2002

1. Opening

The meeting opened with thanks to our host Guild for all their help, a welcome to new attendees and our guests and greetings from Michel Silice-Feldenkrais and Francois Combeau. This was followed by an ATM led by Francesca White and an ‘icebreaker in the fjords’ (i.e. sharing round in small groups).

2. President’s Address

Cliff Smyth presented his opening address to the theme ‘Implementing the Vision’

3. Reports from the Board

The achievements of the IFF in the past 12 months were circulated. See Appendix #2
The Board reviewed the role of the IFF in the context of this work and believes it to be

- facilitating the professional field of the Feldenkrais Method,
- building community through dialogue,
- enhancing communication and
- continuing to collect, protect and make available Moshe Feldenkrais’ legacy.

The implementation of this vision is beyond the available time resources, and in some cases the skill resources, of a small group of volunteers. We started to work with a consultant this year with the Competency profile project that highlighted the benefits to the organisation of recruiting particular expertise. Research has been started into the value of employing a part time Executive Officer to help increase the efficiency and distribute the effort in moving the vision forward. A job description will be developed and there has been consultation with other Feldenkrais groups that have an Executive Officer/Director.

We broke into small groups, in a ‘Meet the Board’, to discuss representatives needs and wishes for the IFF. The following plenary session reported a wide range of interesting feedback on activities, suggestions for improvements, enthusiasm to network more closely, desire and offers to contribute more concretely to processes, regional and individual needs and difficulties, querying of purposes and direction of IFF and the pace of the organisations development.

4. Academy Report

Daniel Clenin, Barbara Pieper and Cliff Smyth spoke to the goals and the processes of the Academy reported in Updates # 10 &12. The central idea is that it is an organic approach of quality enhancement for Feldenkrais practitioners. The model is a participatory one and vital to it’s future are teamwork and networking. Following a kind of model that Moshe Feldenkrais used developing the Alexander Yanai lessons, one example of workshops for practitioners has been trialed, tested, retrialed, retested and evaluated by Daniel and Barbara. The workshops have been started in a small way which has been manageable, and with a commitment to having the best model possible ready for wider participation in the community. Markus Riesen and Rob Black spoke to Update # 12 that outlined their progress with the competency profile project and plans to pilot the competency tool. A compilation of research was distributed.

A consultant will be required to create a user- friendly web based tool to coordinate the feedback and bring the many parts of the competency profile project into relationship. The possibility of more of an exchange between the components of the Academy will clarify as the role descriptions for the ‘hands’ and ‘feet’ become more specific. This exchange of skills, knowledge and abilities will support all in the professional field.

The Assembly heard again how the Academy fits into the professional field of the Feldenkrais Method. A graphic was presented showing and clarifying the different components of the professional field of the Feldenkrais Method. This graphic helps to understand what is meant by this broad term which is

larger and more open to change and evolution than the notion “profession”, however rather unknown in many of the members’ countries.

The Assembly formed working groups for the Academy and the IFF Purposes and Means. These groups concluded at 6pm.

5. Video Workshop

In the evening, a group of participants watched a video selected by the video review team from the Amherst FI tapes with Moshe. The videos were chosen for their quality and value as a learning resource for the community. A questionnaire gathered feedback on the physical qualities of the tape, how it might be used and the most useful learning for the viewer. In the evening of Day 2, three more videos were viewed and questionnaires collected. Eva Bleicher is collating these.

Day 2 Friday May 24th 2002

6. Feedback from Day 1’s Working Groups.

6.1 Academy foot.

This group split into 2 to experientially develop a role description for working as an Academy foot. The groups identified what could be offered to the Academy and what was needed in return.

6.2 IFF Purposes and Means

This group looked at the existing document and identified a need to narrow the scope of the previous working group, on international relationships, to focus on the IFF Purposes and Means. It is proposed to form a working group and prepare draft Purposes and Means to circulate for feedback prior to the 2003 Assembly.

A second round of ‘Meet the Board’ was held to gain feedback on the Assembly so far.

7. Working groups met and reported.

7.1 Competency Profile Project.

Markus reported collection of Day 1’s Questionnaires followed by Q’s and A’s from group. Identified need to clarify long term steps in the process.

7.2 IFF Workshop – an example of a Local Foot Activity.

Daniel and Barbara reported re-presenting the design of the 3 trials (Kassel, Munich and Switzerland) and the group trialed one aspect. The manual resulting from these trial workshops will be translated from German into English and then hopefully trialed throughout the community. Feedback and further development of this kind of workshop would come back to the Academy and the data collated.

7.3 IFF Purposes and Means

George Krutz reported the working group’s intention to circulate a draft document to Guilds and representatives by November (January at latest). Feedback would be collated and a final draft circulated with a Pre–Assembly Update for presentation, discussion and adoption at the Assembly. It was noted that members would appreciate adequate time for this process.

8. Educational Materials Report

Cliff Smyth reported on a productive year.

Highlights included:

- Successful agreement with Michel Silice-Feldenkrais to acquire much of the remaining materials from Moshe Feldenkrais’ estate. It includes a lot of materials on video, audiotapes, as well as photographs and articles. This will become the basis of an IFF Archive of Moshe Feldenkrais

materials. Most materials will be digitised. This archive will require a fundraising project to ensure the materials will be stored safely to prevent further deterioration. Some of the materials will become available as publications through the IFF Distribution Centre and possibly some for free, e.g. on web sites.

This is a major development for the international community. It reflects Michel Silice-Feldenkrais' continuing and great commitment to the professional community and the IFF is very much appreciative. This announcement was met with a standing ovation.

- Publication of the first two weeks of year 2 of the Amherst Training, edited by Bonnie Humiston.
- Progression of transcription of San Francisco Year 1- the first half has been edited by Alison Rapp and checked by Denis Leri. Decision to be made about publication date and format.
- Investigating feasibility of publishing material electronically, e.g. On CD ROM. The primary concern is security from copying. On the other hand there is concern about the degeneration of lessons taken from the Amherst Training, and as they are taught, recorded and re-taught in training programmes, they are getting further and further away from Moshe Feldenkrais' material.
- 50 lessons from Vols. #10 & #11 of Alexander Yanai have been translated.
- Ellen Soloway will continue with San Francisco Year 2 when she has finished Alexander Yanai.
- Pilot project for translation of Alexander Yanai lessons into German underway. Tenders close in June 2002.
- Amherst Video sets now available to Guild libraries.
- Bob Knighton has donated 1700 images from the San Francisco training and also donated back his artists' fee for the digitising of these materials that will become a part of the IFF Archive and be donated to Guild / Association libraries and available for publications.

9. Distribution Centre Financial report

Markus Riesen reported a successful year with this major IFF project area, showing a small surplus and ability to repay partly a loan from the non-profit part. The financial report and budget for 2002 were presented and discussed. A vote of thanks to Penny McCornack for finding ways to reduce costs. Markus also thanked the people who have continued their work for the D.C. this year. The prices of materials have been re-structured so that 3 Alexander Yanai volumes in any sequence can be purchased more cheaply.

Day 3 Saturday May 25th 2002

10. Information Bureau Report.

Highlights from this team reported by Rob Black and Janie Randerson:

- Continuous Learning booklet distributed
- Report from 2001 Assembly translated into 6 languages and distributed
- IFF Website updated and new Member area developed
- Working group drafted roles and purposes as described in Update #19
- Investigated possibility of member forum (see working group report).

11. Working Groups met and reported

11.1 Academy 'feet' and 'hands' roles and responsibilities

A working group has been formed to help develop a role description for the different functions within the Academy. Daniel and Barbara will compile the outcome of the working group. To start there will be distributed a draft of a role description for the Academy Foot, feedback will be collected and then the document finalised.

11.2 Diploma

Discussed proposals circulated with the agenda and statement from IFF. Also looked at rewording of certificates.

11.3 Information Bureau

Decided to form an ongoing working group to develop a member to member electronic tool. George Krutz will initially set up a Guild to Guild group with Yahoo. The group wishes to identify who communicates with whom. This group also wishes to start to gather a database of copyrighted articles.

11.4 Competency

The group discussed at length the merits of the current direction of the competency model. A strong need to communicate an increased understanding to the wider community was identified in order to ensure they are also comfortable with current direction and able to support it. It was clarified that feedback loops have been incorporated into the pilot that was developed in collaboration with a professional competency consultant. Feedback will be gathered before this project is taken towards its next approximations.

Motion 'That the Board and it's committees continue to provide education to member organisations and to be very transparent about and receptive to issues relating to competency; and that the Board establish a reflective group and invite member organisation participation to review and give feedback on projects relating to competency.'

Proposed George Krutz, seconded Jutta Kojalek
For 49, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

11.5 Logo

Much support for the Logo was identified in this group. They discussed how it may be administered in future and who will be permitted to use it. An ongoing working group will be formed.

12. Boat Trip

We took a longer lunch break and went by boat along the coast to an island for a picnic. This activity was enjoyed very much, contributing significantly to networking and cooperation.

Information sharing groups met – see Day 4 for reports.

A most enjoyable seafood feast and soiree was held on site in the evening.

Day 4 Sunday May 26th 2002

13. Information Sharing Groups

13.1 Relationship to the outside world

- Compensible Health Insurance – of the representatives attending this group, only the Swiss Guild reported it was possible for all Feldenkrais Practitioners to claim with insurers for lessons. Identified that public prefer to see a provider linked to insurance provider.
- Italian Guild reported successful negotiation to have non-accredited Feldenkrais 'training' at a University reworded to Introductory course
- Norway reported on finding ways to communicate and share information with other health professionals and user groups.

13.2 Europe

- European Conference for Berlin, 2005. Suggest IFF Assembly be held around same time.
- Reliable, quality translations of materials needed as some translations are already available on black market.
- Working group recommended strongly that the IFF gives help to national Guilds / Associations interested in purchasing the language rights of the Alexander Yanai lessons, for instance in the form of showing flexibility in respect to royalty payment.
- Fundraising was discussed as a possibility for the European Conference
- Support for the IFF through participation by the community was strongly identified – this group wanted concrete projects to get on with.

13.3 Internal Affairs

- Norway and Israel sought information about processes to include graduates from non-accredited training into their Guilds
- Israeli Guild has put videos into a library and opens it for two hours to watch a video and then do an ATM. Opportunity was taken to watch a video of Chava giving a lesson and then able to discuss the lesson with her. Members attend free of charge and non-members pay a fee.

14. Diplomas

A proposal from the Swiss Guild was discussed offering an alternative document. IFF will seek legal advice about continuing the new format and administration of certificates.

Motion: 'That the IFF continue to administer an International Diploma of the Feldenkrais Method for one year. The name of the IFF and the signature of the President will not be included. To be reviewed at the next Assembly. The logos of the TAB's could be added. During the year the IFF BOD and member organisations will discuss ways that diploma could be worded and administered.'

Moved Bonnie Humiston, seconded Ted Presland.
For 49, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

15. Swiss logo

Motion #1 'That the guilds discuss this year who can use the logo

- full members of IFF full member Guilds
- full members of all IFF member organisations (including Associate members)
- all practitioners from TAB accredited trainings
- all members of all IFF member organisations
- by licence with non IFF member organisations

and bring back recommendations to the next Assembly.'

Proposed Victoria Swann, seconded Jutta Kojalek
For 49, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

Motion #2 'That discussions take place during the year on all other issues to do with the logo and its international administration among the SFV, other Guilds and the IFF Board'

Proposed Ragi Zubler, Seconded Ted Presland
For 49, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

16. Internal Regulations

The proposed changes were circulated, discussed and amended.

Motion #1 'That we approve the proposed changes to the Internal Regulations as amended'

Proposed Cliff Smyth, seconded George Krutz
For 49, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

Motion #2 'That the new Internal Regulations adopted at this Assembly take effect at the end of this Assembly with the understanding that 1.5.4 (the signed declaration) is due at the beginning of the next Assembly.'

Proposed George Krutz, seconded Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler
For 49, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

17. Minutes from 2001 Assembly

Motion: 'That we accept the minutes from the last Annual General Assembly'

Proposed Rob Black, seconded Marianne Lacina
For 48, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

18. Elections

There being no objections to a vote by acclamation, the following nominated Directors were elected unanimously by acclamation:

Vice President	1yr	Daniel Clenin	Switzerland
Secretary	3yr	Janie Randerson	New Zealand
Treasurer	1yr	Rob Black	Canada
Public Officer	3yr	Francois Combeau	France

Nominations and successful election to the following positions were held:

Director	3yr	Markus Riesen	Switzerland	
First vote		Markus Riesen	Switzerland	9
		Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler	USA	7
		Barbara Pieper	Germany	6
Second vote		Markus Riesen	Switzerland	12
		Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler	USA	10
Director	3yr	Barbara Pieper	Germany	
First vote		Barbara Pieper	Germany	14
		Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler	USA	8
Director	2yr	Rineke Brinkhof	Netherlands	
First vote		Rineke Brinkhof	Netherlands	14
		Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler	USA	8
Director	1yr	Jutta Kojalek	Austria	
First vote		Jutta Kojalek	Austria	17
		Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler	USA	5
Substitute Directors	1yr	Marianne Lacina	Switzerland	First
		Uta Ruge	Germany	Second
		Paris Kern	USA	Third
First vote		Marianne Lacina	Switzerland	8
		Uta Ruge	Germany	8
		Paris Kern	USA	6
Second vote		Marianne Lacina	Switzerland	12
		Uta Ruge	Germany	9

There being no objections to a vote by acclamation, the following Committee members were elected unanimously by acclamation:

Finance	Ilan Jacobson	3yr	Israel
Mediation	Bonnie Humiston	3yr	USA

Motion: 'That because the Internal Regulations have been changed, it is moved to elect 2 substitutes to the mediation committee effective at the end of the Assembly.'

Proposed Bonnie Humiston, seconded George Krutz
For 49, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

There being no objections to a vote by acclamation, the following Mediation Substitutes were elected unanimously by acclamation:

RagiZubler
Leila Malcolm

Switzerland
United Kingdom

19. Research report

Articles for next IFF Journal have been selected and some articles will be translated into English as well as published in the original language (French and German). Dr. Werner Kraus is coordinating this project. In order to reduce costs, it is intended to publish the Journal electronically and then invite those wanting a hard copy to place an order. An updated IFF Research List compiled by Research portfolio holder Werner Kraus was distributed.

20. Website report

Rob Black reminded members of:

- **public** website address www.feldenkrais-method.org
which contains information about the organisation and members
- **member** site address www.feldenkrais-method.org/member
which contains Representative's manual, Assembly updates and minutes from previous two Assemblies and
- **practitioner** site address www.feldenkrais-method.org/practitioner
which contains ordering information for educational materials, samples of Alexander Yanai lessons, Newsletters

21. New and Forming Guilds Report.

Francesca White relayed greetings to the Assembly from:

21.1 Japanese Feldenkrais Association

They currently are a group of about 65 members willing to proceed with the development and promotion of the Method in Japan.

21.2 Mexico

Practitioners here, (32), are soon to complete formation of a professional organisation

21.3 Finnish Guild

They currently have 3 members.

22. Future Assembly Location and Format

With the increased interest and excitement around the Academy, it was proposed that an Academy open day be included within the Assembly to include other practitioners as well as Assembly participants. One suggestion was that the Assembly could also be extended to 5 days to incorporate the Academy day. Also put forward was the idea to add an optional day before or after the Assembly to allow for meetings of Presidents, Academy groups or other special interest groups. The Board will consider these in planning the coming Assemblies.

2003 A proposal has been received for consideration from the Netherlands.
Italy indicated it would like to also offer as host for the Assembly.

2004 Israel has previously indicated interest in hosting the Assembly in the year of Moshe Feldenkrais' centenary.
Vitznau, in Switzerland was also offered for consideration.

2005 Germany celebrates the 20th anniversary of the German Guild. It is suggested the Assembly is held in conjunction with the European Congress in Berlin.

23. Financial Report and Budget–Governing Part.

Markus Riesen presented supporting documentation that showed a loss of 161,580 FFR for 2001 which was lower than budgeted. The budget presented for 2002 proposes a loss of 5,870 FFR or 829 Euros.

Motion: 'That the IFF fees remain at the present level until the next Assembly.'
Proposed Glenice Hall, seconded George Krutz
For 49, Against 0, Abstentions 0. Passed unanimously.

24. Finance Committee Report.

They request earlier distribution of spreadsheets to representatives to allow for perusal and comment by the executive of their organisation.

25. Identification of Volunteers for Ongoing Working Groups and Academy Groups for coming year.

- 25.1 Information Bureau
George Krutz, Ragi Zubler, Silke Bonardi, Giovanna Dolcetti,
Lena Brannstrom
- 25.2 Internal Regulations and Status
Bonnie Humiston, Ragi Zubler, Glenice Hall, Leila Malcolm
- 25.3 IFF Purposes and Means
George Krutz, Uta Ruge, Ragi Zubler, Marianne Lacina
- 25.4 Competencies Reference Group
Andrea Wiener, Glenice Hall, Victoria Swann, Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler, Ilan Jacobsen,
Marianne Lacina, Nadine Yasikoff, Bonnie Humiston
- 25.5 Local Academy Foot (Workshops)
Marianne Lacina, Janie Randerson, Sandra Sampietri, Francesca White, Silke Bonardi, Lena
Brannstrom, Bonnie Humiston, Cliff Smyth, Frances Schorer Jutta Kojalek
- 25.6 Supervision
Sylvia Weise, Francesca White, Janie Randerson, Uta Ruge, Nadine Yasikoff, Marianne
Lacina, Silke Bonardi, Jutta Kojalek, Paris Kern
- 25.7 Research
Werner Kraus, Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler, Sophie Fraser

The 11th Assembly concluded at 6.00p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Janie Randerson, IFF Secretary
June 2002

Appendix #1

INTERNATIONAL FELDENKRAIS FEDERATION

23 - 26 May 2002 Assembly Participants

AUSTRALIA The Australian Feldenkrais Guild: Glenice Hall

AUSTRIA Feldenkrais Verband Oesterreich: Jutta Kojalek

FRANCE Feldenkrais France (new name): Silke Bonardi

GERMANY Feldenkrais Gilde e.V.: Uta Ruge, Barbara Pieper

ISRAEL Israeli Feldenkrais Qualified Practitioners Association: Ilan Jacobson

ITALY Associazione Italiana Insegnanti Metodo: Sandra Sampietri, Giovanna

Dolcetti

NETHERLANDS Nederlandse Feldenkrais Vereniging (Associate): Frances

Schorer

NORWAY Norsk Forbund for Autoriserte Feldenkraispedagoger: Mette Ulsteen

NORTH AMERICA Feldenkrais Guild of North America: George Krutz, Bonnie

Humiston, Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler

SWEDEN Svenska Forbundet for Auktoriserade Feldenkraispedagoger:

Lena Brannstrom

SWITZERLAND Schweizerischer Feldenkrais Verband: Marianne Lacina, Ragi Zubler,

Nadine Yasikoff

UNITED KINGDOM The Feldenkrais Guild U.K.: Leila Malcolm

AusTAB Australian Training Accreditation Board: Victoria Swann

EuroTAB European Training Accreditation Board: Ted Presland

NATAB North American Training Accreditation Board: Olena Nitefor,

IFF Board of Directors: Rob Black, Eva Bleicher, Daniel Cl  nin, Janie

Randerson, Markus Riesen, Cliff Smyth, Francesca White

IFF MEMBERS NOT SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE:

ARGENTINA Asociacion Feldenkrais Argentina

BELGIUM Gilde Feldenkrais Belge

NETHERLANDS Dutch Foundation for Qualified Feldenkrais Practitioners
and Education

NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Feldenkrais Guild

QUEBEC Assoc. Quebecois des Professeur(e)s de la Methode Feldenkrais

SWEDEN Svenska Feldenkraisforeningen (Associate)

FELDENKRAIS FAMILY Michel Silice-Feldenkrais

ASSEMBLY HOST Mette Ulsteen

GUESTS Joerg Cezanne- Feldenkrais Gilde e.V., Andrea Wiener - Feldenkrais Guild of North America

VOLUNTEERS Lise Lote Dullum, Randi Peerson

Appendix #2

Achievements of the IFF in 2001-2002

Information Bureau

- Translated Assembly and Academy reports sent out in six languages
- Continuous Learning booklet edited by Stina Njaastad published and sent to all Guild/Association members
- Extensive development of the IFF Member website
- Development of role description to bring to this Assembly
- Research into member-to-member communication tools

Educational Materials and Archives

- Began pilot project for Alexander Yanai translation: German language
- First volume of Amherst Year 2 Transcript published
- Review of next FI videos to publish
- New pricing and Catalogue sent to all Guild/Association members
- Amherst video sets now available to sell to Guilds/Associations for libraries
- Good sales; ended year with good cash flow

Academy

- Academy committee begun work: ideas to this Assembly
- Academy presentation to Trainer and Assistant Trainer Academy meetings
- First Academy workshop run in Munich
- Developed competency project plan with help of consultant
- Research list: Fully updated by Werner Kraus on web site
- Next IFF Journal of Research edited by Werner; some articles being translated
- Liaison with TABs on competency projects
- Francesca White and Sylvia Weise will continue with Supervision 'hand'

Maintenance

- Good feedback from the last Assembly
- Successful review of Internal Regulations: good support and input from working group
- Board web-site used as an important tool
- New Board member manuals on Board web-site
- Continued improvement of Assembly preparation process, including Updates
- Regular Board teleconferences used well
- Mini-meetings of Board members in Munich and Melbourne
- Board 'team' structure worked well
- Close to target with non-profit budget
- Project Manager Penny McCornack continued effective work for us; increased hours.