

Agenda
for the 26th Annual General Assembly
of the International Feldenkrais Federation
to be held in Paris, France, 25 - 28 May, 2017

Wednesday, April 24

Registration - available beginning in the afternoon
Opening social event – evening, exact time to be announced
Orientation for new representatives – after social event

Thursday April 25: Morning

Welcome to the 26th Annual General Assembly & 25th Anniversary of the IFF

Board Presentation: Purpose #2: *Provide forums for the international community to meet and develop through constructive dialogue, and facilitate and stimulate communication within the international community.*

Guild/Association Reports: Poster session

Break

Board Presentation on Purpose #1: *Develop visions for the future of the Feldenkrais Method and its practice, informed by diverse cultures and ways of thinking.*

Some Standard Business Items

Notifications of Absence, Proxies
Appointment of tellers
Minutes of the last Assembly

Membership

Agenda Item from Board: Vote on membership for Columbia Association
Item from previous assembly: review Associate Membership for ETC

Lunch

Thursday April 25: Afternoon

Agenda Item from FGNA

Discussion of agenda item & related ideas & concerns

Break

Committee Reports:

Mediation Committee
Search Committee (report on Board & other open positions)
Newsletter report

Finances:

Finance Committee report

Presentation of financial documents from 2016

Presentation of proposed budget for 2017 & 2018 (vote on budget will happen Sunday)

Agenda Item from Board: Travel Subsidy

Break

Continued discussion of finances and/or discussion groups on topics that arose in morning session

Time for break-out groups to meet in early evening

Friday, April 26: Morning

Board Presentation on Purpose #4: *Support research and development in the Feldenkrais Method, and collect and disseminate information about the development of the Feldenkrais Method and its practice*

Research:

Research Journal Report

Agenda Item from the Board: Research

Discussion of agenda item & related ideas & concerns

Break

Board Presentation on Purpose #6: *Look for places of interface and interchange of the Feldenkrais Method with neighbouring disciplines, international bodies and society*

Agenda Item from the Board: Neighboring Disciplines

Discussion

Friday, May 26: Afternoon

Board Presentation on Purpose #5: *Support programs for the development of the professional field of the Feldenkrais Method, and foster a culture of continuous learning among Feldenkrais teachers*

Competency:

Competency Working Group report

Agenda Item from Sweden

Discussion

Outing

Saturday, May 27: morning

Board Presentation on Purpose # 3: *Collect and archive the legacy of educational materials developed by Moshe Feldenkrais and make this heritage available to all teachers of the Method*

Materials:

Materials Manager Report

Agenda Item from the Board: Materials

Discussion

Break

Synergy of Training Policy

Synergy Working Group Report, questions & answers

Saturday, May 27: afternoon

Agenda Item from NATAB, questions & answers

Agenda Item from EuroTAB, questions & answers

Break

Discussion about synergy of training policy, related ideas and concerns

Late afternoon & early evening: continued discussion and/or time for break-out groups

Sunday, May 28: Morning & Afternoon (breaks as necessary)

Some Standard Business Items

Size of the Board of Directors

Elections for Boards and Committees. Approval of appointments as necessary

Review proposed budget (revised as necessary to respond to initiatives from Assembly)

Setting membership fees for 2017

Vote on any outstanding Agenda Items

Vote on Budget

Future Assemblies

Evening: Farewell Dinner

Agenda Items

Agenda Item from the IFF Board of Directors: Application of the Asociacion Colombiana Del Metodo Feldenkrais (ACOMEF) for membership

This Agenda Item is: A topic for discussion leading to a vote

Background: The Columbia Association of the Feldenkrais Method has applied for membership in the IFF. The criteria for membership are as follows (from IFF Internal Regulations):

- 1.5.1 The Guild or Association must represent at least seven teachers/practitioners.
 - 1.5.2 PURPOSES: the purposes of the Guild/Association must include: promoting the Feldenkrais Method and profession, and developing, supporting and monitoring the quality and consistency of its practice. The Guild/Association must have a Code of Ethics or similar, and a Standards of Practice or similar.
 - 1.5.3 Voting Rights in the Guild or Association: Full teacher/practitioner members of the Guild or Association shall have voting rights and be allowed to serve in the governing body of that Guild or Association.
 - 1.5.4 All members will annually sign a declaration of compliance with the current IFF membership criteria.
- 1.6 APPLICATION PROCESS: 1.6.1 An organisation applying for membership of the IFF, should supply a copy of its own Constitution, Bylaws/Internal Regulations, Code of Ethics or similar, Standards of Practice or similar or other evidence of its professional organisation. Its officers should sign the following declaration: - "The officers and members of the above named organisation meet the current membership criteria and have read the declared purposes of the IFF and its constitution and we declare that we agree to support and uphold these purposes and to abide by the Articles of the Status. We wish to support the essential principles and ideals of the Feldenkrais Method and to contribute positively to the development and work of the IFF".

Agenda Item from the Board

Topic: Information and discussion about Research

This Item is: A topic for discussion at the assembly (may or may not lead to a motion and a vote)

Background: One of the Purposes of IFF is as follows: *Support research and development in the Feldenkrais Method, and collect and disseminate information about the development of the Feldenkrais Method and its practice.* We propose a discussion about how to support and foster research – even as our budget is contracting. Some points for discussion:

- Update on Research Journal: <https://feldenkrais-method.org/news/feldenkrais-research-journal-revived/>
- Coordination of Projects, Journal Editor(s). Do we want to devote some resources for compensating volunteers and staff? Do we want to consider alternate sources of support or income (e.g.: crowdsourcing)
- Format and location of the Journal
- Search-ability (e.g. Google Scholar)
- Challenges
- Opportunities for individuals and Guilds to participate

See Appendix for more detailed information.

Agenda Item from the Board of Directors

Topic: IFF Materials Program

This Item is: A question or topic referred to some or all member organizations for their consideration and possible action.

The IFF Materials program exists to collect, preserve and publish the work of Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais. Since his death in 1984 his recordings and writings have provided the foundation for all professional training programs and the resources for Practitioners to continue the work. We propose a discussion about our Materials Program – needs, priorities, ideas and action.

- Please prepare for a discussion at Assembly by thinking about how the foundational materials are being used in your community. Are Training programs showing Moshe giving lessons or lectures? Do peer groups study the Amherst Materials or Alexander Yanai or Esalen lessons? Individual practitioners watch the Amherst evening FI videos as part of their continuing education or use the Alexander Yanai lessons for their classes and workshops. What else?
- Can you help us find even more material (see Appendix for requests & ideas)
- Are there materials that you would like to have access to that are not yet available?
- Do you have any suggestions as to how these might be translated / edited/ published?
- Do you have anyone in your community with translating or technical skills?
- Do you have ideas for ways to increase awareness of the value of these foundational materials?
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See Appendix for more detailed information

Agenda Item from Sweden

Topic: To upgrade the IFF Competency Profile workbook

This item is: A topic for discussion (may or may not lead to a vote)

Rationale: At the recent workshop in Utrecht, it was suggested that as many people find the word Competency a bit off-putting, we should consider changing the name. Various facilitators have experimented with other titles for workshops however the work book, which is the primary guide on using our professional profile has this word in it's title. The Profile itself does not assist individuals in knowing how to use it as a supportive tool for ongoing learning. What we are wanting is a toolkit for learning, or ideas for continuing professional development - essentially a workbook for utilising the reference points in the profile in a way that is satisfying and non-threatening.

We do already have an IFF Competency Profile workbook, but this was developed before the Cards and many of the other ideas for using the Profile. The Competency Profile working group would revise, rename, update and republish the workbook. Of course this will need translation into the various IFF languages, but if we are careful with noting changes and keeping as much as is useful of the existing workbook (which has some good stuff in it) then the budget required for translation should be small. This will give us something we can confidently direct practitioners towards that will hopefully increase the engagement with this important process. No budget allowance is required in 2017.

Agenda Item from the IFF Board of Directors

Topic: Neighboring Disciplines

This item is: A topic for discussion (may or may not lead to a vote)

One of the purposes of IFF is to: *Look for places of interface and interchange of the Feldenkrais Method with neighbouring disciplines, international bodies and society.*

We invite a discussion about interface with our closest neighboring disciplines such as Movement Intelligence, Bones for Life, Child'Space, Sounder Sleep, Anat Baniel Method and others. We invite Assembly reps to identify which of these neighboring disciplines they teach, and discuss whether and how IFF could facilitate friendly interchange with these methods. One option the Board has discussed is a symposium or conference with neighboring disciplines, but we are first interested in ideas and input from Assembly representatives.

Agenda Item from Feldenkrais Guild of North America (FGNA)

This Agenda Item is: Questions and topics referred to some or all member organizations for their consideration

1. Topic: Legal right to practice.

FGNA members come from the 50 states in the United States and 13 Canadian provinces. There are separate state laws and boards regulating the use of touch. In many cases, massage boards in the USA would like all ‘hands on’ practitioners to test and maintain a massage license in order to practice. Lawmakers are also increasingly concerned about criminals using massage therapy or bodywork as a front for human trafficking and slavery.

Since the 1990’s we’ve been very successful in separating ourselves from this licensing by getting exemption status as a somatic education practice. At this time we have exemptions in 25 states. This year we have 11 states under legislative review.

In your experience, what has been helpful and harmful for your organizations when working through governmental regulations?

2. Topic: Membership renewals and building.

FGNA notes we have a number of people who have trained that practice uncertified.

How are you maintaining your membership? What is your process for people who do not people that have trained and practice uncertified? How do you attract new trainees?

3. Topic: Building the Legacy of the Feldenkrais Method.

We are working with an aging population of trainers, at the same time wanting to develop the transition into the future. What are the issues you see in this process? What are the solid yet graceful ways to bring in the new models of competency and assessment for the future generations who will not have studied with the Master Moshe Feldenkrais?

What is your individual and collective contribution to the Legacy of the Feldenkrais Method?

We are asking ourselves and our population this question.

Agenda Item from North American Training Accreditation Board (NATAB)

Topic: Information on proposed changes to training policy

This Agenda Item is: topic for discussion at the assembly (without a vote)

1. NATAB would like to present for discussion our recent proposals for policy changes for changing the Trainer Candidate process to Associate Trainer as a stand alone position, and the revised way to become a Trainer from Associate Trainer. These proposals entail slight changes in the International Training Policy (TAGs) which are included in the package of proposals. We expect to have the final drafts prepared for distribution by April 1.
2. We would also like to present and discuss the idea of recertification/decertification of training staff and continuing education and practice requirements. We also have a proposal to add a section to the Guild's Code of Professional Conduct related to training staff that we would like to share with other Guilds.

Agenda Item from European Training Accreditation Board (EuroTAB)

Topic: ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY to become a TRAINER

This Agenda Item is: A topic for discussion at the assembly (without a vote)

The initial idea and rationale for an Alternative Pathway to become a trainer was presented by EuroTAB at the 2014 IFF Assembly in Sweden. Our first presentation focused on understanding the current pathway and the limitations it imposes. There is currently only a rather narrow pathway available, whereby only Assistant Trainers, currently in FPTPs, who are supported by a guidance committee of three trainers can apply to be a trainer themselves. While respecting and valuing the current policy, EuroTAB suggested adding a new way to become a trainer, which would open the door to highly proficient practitioners, who have achieved a high level of proficiency within the Feldenkrais method, have abundant experience, and whose work shows creative pedagogical approaches. In essence we were proposing to open the doors to a larger base of applicants for the position of trainer. The Assembly of 2014 was enthusiastic about our presentation and this spurred us on to developing the basic idea of "proving quality by equivalence" into a workable policy proposal.

EuroTAB came back to the Assembly a year later at the 2015 Berlin IFF meeting and presented a follow up of the work they had been doing over the year. They also explained how the idea of "proving equivalence" could be implemented into a workable policy for the international TAB system. The drafts of the policy were incomplete but they were sufficiently formed to present the idea of equivalence to the Assembly. Once again, the IFF Assembly was supportive, not to say enthusiastic, about EuroTAB actualizing this possibility into an official proposal for a new policy.

Since then, more than a year has passed. EuroTAB was not able to be present at the 2016 Vienna Assembly. Developing a new policy proposal is a dynamic process. The draft proposal documents of the policy are now ready and have been presented to the community.

<http://www.eurotab.org/en/eurotab/eurotab-projects>.

EuroTAB Council together with EuroTAB have launched a new up-dated website. A newsletter announcing this was sent out on the 28th Feb 2017. The website contains information about the Alternative Pathway project in the form of a general description, PowerPoint presentation and associated draft documents that will constitute the actual policy and procedure for becoming a trainer via the proposed Alternative Pathway policy once it is approved by the Governing Bodies.

We are now at the stage of collecting feedback for our proposal from the training community, as well as the community at large. We are asking for the opportunity to share the advances we have made and explain the follow up steps that have been taken since our 2015 presentation. By May 2017, the feedback stage from the community will be complete and we will be able to tell the Assembly about the process. We will be able to share insights on the issue and we will be happy to discuss our ideas with you then.

Agenda Item from the IFF Board of Directors

Topic: Travel Subsidy

This Agenda Item is: A topic for discussion leading to a vote

Proposal: That IFF do away with the “Travel Pool” + “Assembly Subsidy” system as it exists, and replace it with a different way of helping guilds with travel and assembly expenses.

Why? The current Travel Pool + Travel Subsidy system is confusing. Guilds must wait until after they arrive at the Assembly to find out what their share of the Travel Pool will be. Some small guilds which don't have far to travel are expected to pay into the travel pool, which is a challenge for their budgets. As we add more members from Latin America (expensive airfare), it increases the travel pool burden for small European Guilds. If those small guilds choose not to participate in the pool because of hardship, then the cost goes up for medium-sized guilds.

What would we do instead? Create a new two-part Travel Subsidy: Airfare Expenses and Assembly Expenses. All reimbursement would come from IFF general budget, guilds would not “pay in” to a pool.

Part 1: Airfare Expenses: (Proposed 2018 budget of 5000 Euros). Guilds would apply for Airfare portion by sending in their airfare estimates from an online site like Travelocity. Board would determine each guild's share of the total by considering the cost of the airfare and “how big a percentage of the guild's income is that airfare?” The intention is to help small and medium-sized associations who have very expensive airfare.

Part 2: Assembly Expenses, (Proposed 2018 budget of 2000 Euros). Guilds apply simply by sending an email. The Board totals Assembly Expenses (including room, per diem and/or Assembly Fee), and figures what percentage of the guild's income that is. Guilds over a certain percentage (determined by the board on a year-to-year basis) would be eligible for this help. We can do an adjustment giving guilds from the most economically-disadvantaged countries proportionally more help. The intention is to help the very smallest guilds and guilds from economically disadvantaged countries who may struggle with assembly expenses (whether or not they travel far).

Budget considerations: Currently North America (FGNA) & Germany (FVD) contribute 1000 Euros each to the Travel Pool. The Board is proposing we do away with this contribution, but raise FGNA and FVD fees by the same amount. In 2016, in addition to the 2000 from FVD & FGNA, medium-sized & small guilds paid in to the Travel Pool 566.61 Euros. So, if we made this change, IFF expenses would increase by approximately 600 euros over last year.

See Appendix for more detailed explanation