

Appendix to Agenda Items for the 26th Annual General Assembly (2017) of the International Feldenkrais Federation

Topic: Information and discussion about Research.

Appendix: Research

Progress

- Journal 5 is complete: <http://iffresearchjournal.org/volume/5/index>
- Journal 6 is in process: more detailed information on will be presented in Research Report at Assembly
- Journal 7 & 8 are in planning stages

Format & Location of Journal

- We need to ensure that the Journal articles can be found on GoogleScholar and other search engines and obtain the status for the Journal as a peer reviewed publication.
- We are investigating moving the Journal to Open Journal Systems software from the Public Knowledge Project, which has built-in tools to help “robots” of Google Scholar find it). It offers tools for formatting, archiving, indexing (which would solve the GoogleScholar, etc issue), and promotion (e.g. RSS feeds). Cliff is investigating this: with our website consultant (Jessica Taylor).
- This move would solve a couple challenges: the current journal website must be maintained with Drupal software, which is difficult and expensive to use. If we moved the Journal to the IFF website, it would be easier to maintain, but it would have less academic credibility (a separate, independent website is seen as more credible). So Open Journal Systems seems like a good solution.

The Journal still faces significant challenges.

- Co-ordination: a large proportion of the co-ordination is going through Cliff, with a lot of assistance from one or two Editors for Vol 5 and Vol 6. This was a major contributor to the slowness of the revived Journal in its first 3 years. Long term it will not be sustainable for Cliff to continue at this level.
- Cliff set the Journal up with the idea of having a team of Editors. For the early development of the policies for the Journal and with volume 5, and with Thomas Kampe for volume 6, this has worked very well. However, for all the usual very good reasons it is also true that these volunteers are not always available, come in and out, and find it hard to sustain participation.
- Some options could include: (a) creating a core team of 3 or 4 people (perhaps Editors, Board Liaison, paid admin assistant) to do this co-ordination work, and/or in the long run, (b) a paid Editor position.
- We need more volunteers for (a) reviewing papers, and (b) contributing to the editorial committee role of giving feedback on policies, processes, etc. One option would be to recruit some additional volunteers as reviewers without them being Editors. Because some Editors have also not been able to be so active, it would be great to recruit a few more Editors as well.

Appendix: IFF Materials Program: background prepared by Jenni Evans, Materials Committee (and former Materials Manager)

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.

In 2002 a large number of historical items were given to the IFF in trust for the community by Moshe's nephew Michel Silice-Feldenkrais. These have almost all been digitised for preservation now and are stored in a form that allows them to be reviewed and studied and then if suitable prepared for publication. This work is largely done by volunteers with a few tasks being done by people with particular skills and technical expertise.

The IFF Distribution Center was established to manage the process of publication and distribution of these materials. It has been set up as a separate company owned by the IFF. This means that it has its own board of directors who take responsibility for its management. Two part time staff are employed to look after the actual business of production, bookkeeping and the mailing out of parcels. Although the products only have a small margin of profit, this income stream allows for their employment and small office, the development of new materials and the translation of existing ones.

Now some 33 years after Moshe's passing and twice that many years since some recordings were made, it is time to go on a Treasure hunt. This year we are asking all Guild and associations to think about who they know who may have attended the early trainings and workshops.

There are three things to do.

- First talk to them about their memories of dates, places, events and stories about Moshe. Take a smart phone or video camera and record these conversations. It may be that some of their memories help us to date or place certain recordings or photographs or to seek items that we may not know exist.
- Second please ask if they have any materials that are rotting in their attic, or basement or garden shed. For cassette tapes it may already be too late to save the contents but other things may be preserved. The IFF would like to digitise any recordings, articles, or photos and would of course give a digital copy back to the owner.
- Third 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?
- 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 any ideas for ways to increase awareness of the value of these foundational materials?

Appendix: Travel Subsidy

Here are current Regulations:

From IFF Internal Regulations: Regulation 13 Travel Pool

One representative from each Full and Associate member group will participate in the shared travel pool for attendance at IFF Annual General Assemblies. Every representative in the pool contributes an equal share. Small Guilds/Associations may apply to the Treasurer for special consideration in cases of hardship. If the Guild/Association, in whose country the Annual General Assembly is being held, has taken on substantial responsibility for the arrangements, it will be exempt from participating in the travel pool.

How this has been done: Each year, Treasurer collects airfare receipts from Guilds & Associations and averages them. FGNA and FVD each contribute 1000 Euros. Guilds (except FGNA and FVD) whose cost is above the average get money back. Those guilds below the average should contribute more money. The “money back” or “money in” is subtracted from or added to the next year’s fees.

Then there is ALSO the “Travel Subsidy” which is not in the Internal Regulations, but is described in the IFF Financial Protocol:

5. Travel Subsidy.

An amount may be allocated annually in the budget to subsidize the attendance of member organizations, which, due to limited member revenues, extremely unfavorable currency conditions, distance or cost, have difficulty sending a representative. Member organizations may apply for the subsidy and the available funds will be divided between the member organizations that apply. These funds can be paid as a credit against dues, or as a direct payment.

How this has been done: Member guilds apply for the Travel Subsidy, and the Board allocates this money (currently budgeted at 5000 Euros, but Assembly can change it from year-to-year like any budget item). The board decides who gets money after considering applications, Guild income, and the guilds’ expenses in attending the assembly. This is in addition to any funds received from the Travel Pool.

Two options for the proposed change

If the Assembly agrees to the Board’s proposal to do away with the Travel Pool + Travel Subsidy system, we could remove the “Travel Pool” language from the Internal Regulations. We could replace it with the “Travel Subsidy” language (above) from the current Financial Protocol. This would be a good option if the Assembly wants to commit to subsidizing travel in the future (to “put it in writing”). The exact amount could be changed year-to-year when the Assembly approves the budget.

Or, we could simply do away with the Travel Pool, and leave the Travel Subsidy language in the Financial Protocol. This would be a good option if the Assembly thinks we may not always want to reimburse Travel. (Assembly could decide whether to reimburse & how much to reimburse year-by-year when we approve the budget.)