

FfL General Assembly 15th of Mai 2024, 5 pm to 6 pm Room KAB-G-01, University of Zurich

Participants:

Michael Hottiger, Markus Affolter, Gerhard Christofori, Ueli Grossniklaus, Valerio Mante, Manfred Kopf, Christian Hardke, Aimee Zuniga, Christoph Schneider, Gregor Rainer, Lorenz Schmid, Beat Keller, Marie Barberon, Christian Münz, Wilhelm Gruissem
Brigitte von Rechenberg, Heinz Weder, Klaus Grätz, Stephan Neuhauss

Management office: Iana Buch (Protocol)

Excused: Thomas Lutz, Bettina Balmer, Felix Ehrensperger, Maries van den Broek, Alexander Borbély, Felix Gutzwiller, Andreas Pospischil, Bernhard Lämmle, Michael Hässig, Alexander von Graevenitz, Markus Schmid, Hans Sigg, Peter Gehr

1. Welcome

Michael Hottiger welcomes the participants to the 2024 General Assembly.

As usual, the FfL Board held a meeting prior to this General Assembly.

The invitation with the agenda was sent out on time.

Decision: The agenda is approved.

2. Protocol of the General assembly of 19th of June 2023

The protocol was posted online. There were no comments or objections.

Decision: The protocol is approved.

3. Information

➤ New Ffl president

As already discussed at the last year's General Assembly, Michael Hottiger will now resign as president of FfL. Markus Affolter (current vice-president) will take over ad-interim until autumn 2025, when he will give the presidency over to Christian Münz.

Michael Hottiger confirms his resignation to the General Assembly. The FfL members thank him for his long-term engagement. They then welcome Markus Affolter as president ad interim.

➤ New FfL Board members: Aimee Zuniga and Christoph Schneider have already been taken into the FfL Board but still have to be presented to the General Assembly. We have two further new members who will also present themselves today, Marie Barberon and Christian Münz.

Michael Hottiger suggest that all four new Board members are voted in as a group. The FfL members agree. The proposed new FfL Board members are unanimously approved and welcome into the Board.

4. Approval of the 2023 Annual Report (in German)

The annual report was published online.

Michael Hottiger briefly summarizes the activities of FfL in 2023 (in German).

Highlights: National Information Day of the Experimental Animal (#NIDEA), Flyer “Laboratory animals– Is there overproduction?”, BioFokus

From this year on the annual report will also be translated in English.

Decision: The annual report is unanimously approved.

5. Acknowledgement of the 2023 financial statements

The General Assembly is responsible for taking note of the financial statements. The FfL Board has already unanimously approved the annual financial statements and discharged the Management office of duty.

The financial situation of FfL is stable. However, we are still almost entirely dependent on one single sponsor (who cut our funding in half some years ago). We still need new sources of funding.

Michael Hottiger reads the annual financial statement:

Income statement (Erfolgsrechnung) 1. January – 31. December 2023

Revenue (Einnahmen): CHF 109'150.12

Expenses (Ausgaben): CHF 107'230.61

Profit/ Loss (Gewinn/ Verlust): CHF 1'919.51

Balance sheet as of (Bilanz) 31. December 2023

Assets (Aktiven): CHF 156'940.54, of which bank account balance (Bankguthaben): CHF 145'582.04

Liabilities (Passiven): CHF 156'940.54, of which Liabilities (Fremdkapital): CHF 101'600.00, and

Equity (Eigenkapital): CHF 55'340.54

Statement of changes in equity (Entwicklung des Eigenkapitals):

Equity as of (Eigenkapital) 31.12.2023: CHF 53'421.03

Equity as of (Eigenkapital) 31.12.2022: CHF 55'340.54

Decision: The financial statements are acknowledged.

6. Proposal of the FfL Board: size of the 2024 membership fees.

The membership fee is CHF 50 per year for individual members, students are free. Institutional members, e.g. companies, institutes, etc. pay CHF 500 per year. The Board proposes that the fees should stay unchanged.

Decision: The proposal of the Board is approved unanimously.

7. Proposal of the FfL Board: honorary membership of Michael O. Hottiger

Michael Hottiger has served as President of FfL for the last 11 years. Already last year he announced his wish to resign but stayed in office to facilitate the search for a suitable candidate for the presidency of the association. He has officially resigned at this General Assembly. To honour his commitment the FfL Board proposes Michael Hottiger for honorary membership.

Decision: The proposal of the Board is approved unanimously.

8. Activities 2024

- NIDEA: Stands on the 15th of June 2024 in various cities (Basel, Bern, Zurich) to inform the public about the importance of animal experiments.
- Campaign "Animal experiments with high severity level" and "Importance of basic research".
- Campaign „Plants are patients too".
- FfL experts: short videos
- *Ad hoc* information for parliamentarians before relevant votes
- Publications: BioFokus
- Matura Award
- Round table STS, BLV, if required

9. Miscellaneous

None.

Markus Affolter closes the General Assembly and invites everyone for an apero outside.

Iana Buch, 15th of May 2024