



FREUNDE DES INTERNATIONAL HOUSE E.V.

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting in Edinburgh

22.09.2018

1. Introduction

Pooja Merchant (PM) opens the meeting and welcomes everyone to Edinburgh. She thanks the organizing individuals, specifically Alyson King and her husband Ayman Jarjour as well as Patricia Hamzahhee from the UK alumni association.

Following an overview of the agenda for the Annual Meeting, with no requests for amendments, PM holds a general round of introduction, whereby every attendee is given a chance to introduce her- or himself and recount their favourite Ihouse memory.

2. Activity Report from International House, New York

PM asks Julie Page (JP, Alumni Relations) and Emily Wakeling (EW, Vice President) from the current Ihouse staff to present the Ihouse today and the recent developments. EW provides a breakdown of the number of current residents (about 700) and where they come from— need to increase representation from Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. Both JP and EM explain the strategic shift which includes a new logo and new values. They also gave an update on the new development project to extend the Ihouse building. It will include a public space connecting all parts of Ihouse while also providing for additional rooms (>100). Ihouse is working on an Archive project where they are seeking additional funds.

EW and JP show pictures from the life of the current residents and add that there are also a number of new initiatives that have been launched where Alumni can get involved such as the innovation lab for which a current resident has been selected as the lead and an alumni with the relevant experience has offered to support.

Alumni Hasna Moudud would like to know what is done to make sure that underrepresented nationalities are included. EW and JP explain that Ihouse undertakes various efforts to ensure that diversity is maintained. One way to achieve this is by way of alumni engagement. Ihouse has contact info of about 50,000 Alumni. There are more but need help to get in touch with them.

Various Alumni raise their concern and dismay that alumni have apparently not been involved in the strategic realignment and decision-making processes. EW add that by way of the global board of alumni, certain alumni such as Patricia have been contacted and asked for their opinion. However, it is acknowledged that a wider consultation was not performed.

Various Alumni also would like to know how the current Ihouse administration intends to change the communication strategy towards alumni. Despite various calls over the last

decade for representation on the Ihouse Board, nothing has happened. Another communication gap is visible in the alumni activation, with a lot of active alumni in a few countries such as Germany while countries such as India have a sizable alumni group but are not organized or represented on the global stage. Thirdly, the activation of recent alumni of the house is not sufficient.

PM adds that that board representation has already been discussed in the global alumni meeting in New York where Calvin Sims had agreed to look into it further. EW answers that the Ihouse board representation and the new communication strategy is part of the new strategic plan that is currently being finalized. JP add that her role is all about closing the communications gap and to make sure that the information flow is not just one-sided and alumni are activated and able to give back and contribute. EW emphasized again that both JP and EW are new in their roles and it is in their core interest to make sure that the slack is picked up and the alumni are properly involved.

EW moves to the next topic on the agenda, the passing on Don Cuneo. There will be the chance to attend the memorial (Oct 12th) but it will also be possible to acknowledge his passing and remember online via a web page. Alumni were urged to submit any photos or memories related to Don to Ihouse. On Nov 18th there will be a 5K run organized by Ihouse. Alumni were invited to organize similar fund raising runs in their own cities.

3. Scholarships 2018/2019

Martin Schneider (MS) as the treasurer takes over. This year Freunde installed a sub-committee (Mita, Gabi, Martin and Arne) to review the applications and make proposals for the giving. Everyone felt this was a good and effective move and support having a similar approach in the future. MS proposes the following distribution of the Scholarship funds:

USD 3000: Thuy Hang Tran

USD 2.500 each: Julian Pflugmann and Jantsankhorol Damdinsuren

USD 1.000 each: Arunwan Ketusiri, Ravina Pattniand Ria Pinjani

All voting alumni vote in favour of the proposed distribution.

4. Report of the Treasurer

MS gives an overview of the financial situation.

5. Report of the Auditor

The audit check was done by Christian Trillhaas, who was not able to attend the Annual Meeting. Therefore Klaus Moessle (KM) reads the auditors opinion and confirms that there were no complaints and the books are correct.

6. Discharge of the Board

Frauke Thieleke announces her decision to step down from the deputy chairman post after many years. She thanks everyone for the support and the great time. KM asks for

the current board to be discharged. All voting Alumni vote in favour of the board to be discharged.

7. Election of the Board

Arne Grob (AG) is proposed as the new deputy chairman. No other candidates would like to be considered. AG introduces himself in more detail and underscores his motivation for the position. All voting Alumni vote in favour of AG to be the new deputy chairman. PM and MS were re-elected in their positions as president and treasurer, respectively.

8. Upcoming Activities

Nov 23rd: Ihouse day in Frankfurt organized by Goetz Mauser

Nov 23rd: Ihouse day in Hamburg organized by Mita Mitra

Nov 30th: Ihouse day in Stuttgart organized by Birgit Suski and Stephan Vohringer

Nov 10th: Ihouse day and 5k Run in Berlin organized by Katrin Schomaker

Finally, the next year's 2019 annual meeting was discussed with the current plan to have the meeting in Essen. In 2020, we would like to organize one grand meeting for all alumni including the World Council of Alumni, Freunde, FIHUK and others. Details to be further discussed.

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Pooja Merchant
(President)

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Martin Schneider
(Treasurer)